

took over and started dewatering operations of their own under a supplementary contract to their contract No. 20, which latter included the main 2nd step cofferdam. The biggest thing that happened in the Walla Walla District during 1951 was the award of a \$58,416,459.50 contract for construction of the remaining portions of McNary Lock and Dam. Bids for this job were opened on April 12. There were two offerers. Guy F. Atkinson Company and Ostrander and Jones, known as the McNary Dam Contractors, bid the above sum and subsequently were awarded the contract. The second bidder was Columbia Constructors, Boise, and the offer was \$61,972,032.00. This too, was a joint venture, and there were 11 venturers. The list looked like a Who's Who in the construction business.

The so-called completion contract consists of substructure for 12 main units and superstructure for all 14 units of the 960,000 kw powerhouse; 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  spillway bays and ogee sections for 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  already completed spillway bays, which last were constructed as part of the first main step cofferdam contract. There will be also a non-overflow section; fishway and fishway collection system; a temporary fish ladder; a portion of abutments; upstream sill of navigation lock; railroad spurs and access roads; and miscellaneous appurtenances.

The above contract has been referred to as the largest of its kind in the United States. A sidelight on its magnitude is reflected in the following: previous to this job, the successful bidders had not used more than 3 Whirly cranes on any one project. On the present job under Contract No. 1111, they are now using 11 Whirllys.

Other contracts outstanding include procurement of turbines, generators, electrical equipment and appurtenant fixtures; and construction of levees, pumping plants, and relocations in the reservoir area. The project is about 45% complete.

Test pumping of the main 2nd step cofferdam was begun on January 19, 1951, and testing was completed by February 26, at which time the McNary Dam Contractors



took over and started unwatering operations of their own under a supplementary contract to their contract No. 20, which latter included the main 2nd step cofferdam. The latter part of April this operation was continued under terms of the big 58 million dollar completion contract No. 1111 on which they bid successfully, and excavation was commenced preparatory to construction of substructures for those 12 units of the powerhouse which would come within the unwatered area. The first 2 units were already under construction on the Oregon shore behind the junior cofferdam. It had been anticipated that the Columbia River would rise in the late spring and overtop the main 2nd step cofferdam, which would necessitate removal of all equipment from the approximately 43 acre inclosed area. The upstream wing was overtopped on May 10, but even though this was a little earlier than had been anticipated, all equipment was out in time. A month later, Cell No. 52, which was in excess of 60 feet in diameter and ballasted with rock, collapsed during the flood-flow, due to the great pressure of high water and undercutting of the cell's foundation. It was necessary to throw a mud dam across the gap created by the washed-out cell, and this was done as soon as the river flow over the upstream wing stopped. In mid-summer the space within the cofferdam was unwatered again, and excavation and substructure construction are well under way.

The McNary Dam Contractors have been successful bidders on the three main contracts offered for construction of McNary Lock & Dam. On July 30, 1948, they were awarded a contract covering the construction of the navigation lock, abutment embankment, fishways, and appurtenant structures on the Washington shore. This contract was awarded on their bid of \$21,850,000. On August 5, 1949, they were awarded a second contract for construction of Oregon shore cofferdams, embankment abutment, and excavation and construction of substructure for 2 units of the 1422-ft. long powerhouse. This second contract was for \$15,835,539.50



Appropriation for McNary Dam for fiscal year 1952 was \$42,900,000.

River traffic through McNary Navigation Lock last November, 1951, amounted to 51 commercial towboats and 51 barges upstream and 51 towboats and 53 commercial barges downstream. They hauled a total of 29,359 short tons of gasoline, stove oil, and Diesel oil upstream and brought down 1,545 tons of wheat.

The number of contractors' personnel at the dam has increased from 1680 to some 3500. This peak will be maintained for the next year, and then will taper off gradually. Increase of Corps of Engineers personnel will amount, at peak, to some 350, from a former total of around 283.

During 1952, the completion contract will be advanced to 90% completion, cofferdams will be removed and preparations made for raising the pool behind McNary Dam in April 1953. Work on equipment and reservoir construction will continue during 1952.