

## Contractors Hill Project Nears End After Year's Work

The Contractors Hill project on which work was started a year ago this month is now in its final phase, with only about 325,000 cubic yards of material still to be removed.

The latest excavation figures show that 1,600,000 cubic yards of rock and 550,000 cubic yards of the Cucaracha formation had been removed up to the end of June. These figures included all material above the 230-foot elevation and the Cucaracha formation excavated from Project 13 by Tecon Corporation, con- (See page 2)

## Contractors Hill Work Nears End



CONTRACTORS HILL, less than a year ago a towering mass of rock and earth, is now a series of great terraces. From Gold Hill, on the opposite side of narrow Gaillard Cut, the hill looks like a staircase for Paul Bunyan.

(Continued from page 1) tractors for the work.

According to J. L. Phillips, Project Manager for Tecon, the work will have progressed to the point within another month that a curtailment in the volume of activity will be necessary. By that time the various benches or steps being cut into the hill will be completed to a point so low and so near the Canal channel that there will be insufficient room for efficient operation of all the equipment, now in use.

When this stage of the work is reached, sometime early in August, the contracting firm plans to withdraw all surplus equipment for overhaul, following which it will be stored in some suitable area at the job site until final disposition or for use as replacement of equipment in use, if required.

Because of the nature of the work and the limited area of the project, a comparatively small number of employees has been engaged on the Contractors Hill job. A top force of about 150 employees has been engaged by the Tecon Corpor-

ation, while nine Panama Canal engineers, inspectors, and office personnel, have been assigned to Project 13-A.

The head of the Canal force since late April has been Charles McG. Brandl, Project Engineer. He succeeded Lt. Col. E. B. Jennings when the latter was transferred to the Electrical Conversion Project.

### Machine Task

As announced at the beginning of the work, the removal of the bulk of Contractors Hill has been primarily a machine task. The principal heavy equipment used by the contracting firm has been three shovels of two-and-a-half cubic yards capacity each; 15 large Euclid trucks for hauling; four bulldozers; and three rotary and three wagon drills.

When project is completed a total of 1,800,000 cubic yards of rock, and 625,000 cubic yards of Cucaracha, or shale, will have been removed. For this yardage, an estimated 800,000 pounds of explosives will have been used in the 130 miles of holes drilled into the hill.