

ONLY 29 ACRES IN LAND-TAKING AS A STARTER

Section in Cooley Brook Watershed Is First for Building Job

Chicopee, May 25—Only a 29-acre section in the northeast corner of the Cooley Brook watershed is to be included in the initial land-taking proceedings by the New England Division of the Corps of Army Engineers in both this city and Ludlow. Most of the 300 acres to be acquired is in the neighboring town.

The land will be used in the \$23,000,000 building program now underway to equip the base with facilities to handle bombing planes of the Strategic Air Command.

According to a letter from Col. L. H. Hewitt, division engineer, received by Mayor Trybulski today: this 300-acre section adjacent to and southeast of Westover Air Force Base is to be used for ammunition storage and as a safety zone.

"It is expected the added mission of the base will require further land-takings for runway extensions, communication sites and further ammunition and safety zones," Col. Hewitt wrote. He added that another directive calling for taking off about 140 acres in Cooley Brook watershed can be expected by the city soon.

The city will lose direct ownership of 80 acres and by easement, 60 acres, when the second phase of land-taking proceedings is completed.

