

BIDS TO FURNISH CHINESE LABOR

ITS MERIT IS PROVED RECORD OF A GREAT MEDICINE

A Prominent Cincinnati Woman Tells How Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Completely Cured Her.

The Panama Canal Commission Issues Specifications for The Same.

WANT TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED

Extra Precaution Taken to Provide Against Liability for Damages or Indemnity for Death.

Washington, Aug. 20.—Specifications for bids to furnish Chinese labor for the construction of the Panama canal were issued today by the isthmian canal commission. The basis for bidding is for 2,500 coolies, although it is made clear that the commission may call for such additional numbers of Chinese laborers as it may need, should the experiment be successful. But the number shall not exceed 2,000 per month. All proposals must be received not later than 10 a.m., Sept. 20, at which time they will be opened. The usual conditions regulating the competitive bidding for government supplies is prescribed by the specifications.

Individuals, co-partnerships or corporations competent to fulfill the terms of the proposal will be permitted to bid but the proposals must be accompanied by a certified check by a bond for \$50,000. The bond of the successful bidder will be advanced to \$100,000, which will be forfeited if he should fail to enter into a contract. Proposals are to be expressed in terms of hourly wages, payable in gold currency of the United States or its equivalent, for the labor of not less than 2,500 Chinese for a period of not less than two years, which may be extended. Chinese laborers will be required to work 16 hours each day. Overtime will be paid in excess of 10 hours, and for all the work upon Sundays or holidays at the rate of time and a half. The holidays recognized are Jan. 1, Feb. 22, July 4, Nov. 3, Thanksgiving day, Dec. 25 and the first and last days of the Chinese new year.

Extra precaution has been taken by the commission in its specifications to provide against liability for damages or indemnity on account of the death or disability of any laborer or employee by accident or disease. The contractor must accept the responsibility for any such damages maintained by legal claims.

Laborers coming under this contract will be provided free of charge with bedding, fuel for cooking purposes and medical treatment when sick. No wages shall be paid to any laborer, however, during illness or absence from work, either in quarters or in hospitals.

Contractors must deliver the Chinese coolies at either Cristobal, on the Atlantic, or La Boca, on the Pacific coast. The full number of laborers to be furnished under this initial proposal must arrive within the isthmian canal zone on or before Jan. 7, 1907, or within three and one-half months from the time the award is made. Any individual laborer may be discharged at any time for cause by the chief engineer of the canal work, and when discharged must be deported by the contractor.

Proposals to furnish coolie labor must include the transportation of laborers to either of the ports in the canal zone.

In addition to the bids to supply 2,500 laborers, the bidders are required to submit proposals for each additional 1,000 laborers that may be required by the contractor.

Laborers are desired from the southern provinces of China and such persons only will be accepted as have been accustomed to climatic and physical conditions as nearly similar as may be experienced on the isthmus of Panama. No laborers will be accepted who have been brought from any part of the Hawaiian Islands.

Exacting regulations will be made as to the personal identification of each Chinaman coming within the zone. The contractor is required to give security to the republic of Panama that Chinese laborers and families shall be promptly exported upon completion of their term of service.

COST OF RUNNING GOVERNMENT TREMENDOUS.

Washington, Aug. 20.—According to a statement issued today by Thomas P. Cleaves and James C. Courts, chief clerks respectively of the senate and house committees on appropriations, Congress at its last session appropriated for the fiscal years 1906, nearly a billion dollars. The exact amount is \$57,589,161.45, representing an increase of \$9,464,530.29 over the sum appropriated at the last session of the Fifty-eighth Congress for 1906. The largest item is contained in the appropriation for the post office department, the amount allotted being \$191,635,599.

The demand for money in denominations less than \$5 can be supplied other than notes of the denomination of \$5, probably only \$500,000, five millions have been ordered and nearly nine millions have been delivered. Most of the remainder will go out in the next 30 days.

The secretary of the treasury has instructed the treasurer, when unable to meet all demands for small bills, to send ones and twos in preference to fives. The secretary takes the position that when the department is unable to meet all demands upon it, it may exercise discretion as to the demands to which it will give preference.

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