

WEEKLY INDUSTRIAL RECORD.

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LEASE OF STATE CONVICTS.

Schedule of Requirements Which Will Interest All Who Contemplate Filing Bids For The Hire of State Prisoners.

Tallahassee, Feb. 12.—The commissioner of agriculture has prepared the following schedule of specifications to be furnished, on application, to anyone desiring same for the purpose of procuring information relative to the requirements to be assumed by those who may lease the state prisoners for the next four years, beginning January 1, 1910. This being the schedule referred to in the published notice for bids for the hire of state convicts, authorized by the board on the 28th day of January, 1909.

General Requirements.

The following schedule is supplementary to the notice promulgated by order of the board of commissioners of state institutions, for bids for the hire of state prisoners, indicated in said notice.

It must be distinctly understood that the published notice and following schedule are not intended to limit further requirements, rules and regulations that the commissioner of agriculture, with the approval of the board of commissioners of state institutions, shall deem proper to embody in the contract for the lease of state prisoners, or that may be deemed proper to promulgate, from time to time, during the existence of the lease of state prisoners, for their proper and humane care and keeping.

First—Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check for \$12,000, being an estimate of \$10 for each prisoner, made payable to the state treasurer; the proceeds of which to become forfeited in the event that the successful bidder or bidders fail, for twenty days after receiving notice that the board of commissioners of state institutions has accepted his or their bid to enter into a contract with the commissioner of agriculture and the board of commissioners of state institutions, when said failure has not resulted from any fault of the said board.

Second—Not later than twenty days after the acceptance of a bid for state prisoners by said board, the successful bidder will be required to execute a contract for a period of four years, beginning January 1, 1910, said contract or franchise to be non-transferable or assignable in whole or in part. This provision, however will not debar the original lessee from subleasing to parties, firms or corporations who will employ such prisoners so subleased from the original contractors, at labor on industries, owned, controlled and operated by said sub-lessees. No other sublease, or form of sublease, will be permitted by the commissioner of agriculture or board of commissioners of state institutions. The successful bidder will be required to make all payments for the hire of state prisoners contracted

for, quarterly in advance, except the first quarterly payment, which shall be made, one-half July 1, 1909, and the other half October 1, 1909. The basis of said quarterly payment to be made upon the whole number of prisoners incarcerated in the state penitentiary on July 1, 1909, which shall be one-fourth of the amount bid per capita per annum of the accepted bid, said amount to be paid, on the date above-named, to the state treasurer of the state of Florida. The successful bidder or bidders will be required to furnish a good and sufficient bond in such sum as the board of commissioners of state institutions may deem proper.

Third—The services of the entire number of prisoners contracted for must be used in the development of the resources of the state of Florida and within the confines of the state. No prisoner will be allowed transportation beyond the borders of the state.

Fourth—The successful bidder will be required to take, maintain, safeguard and keep every state prisoner, whether male or female, who may, on the 1st day of January, 1910, be under sentence of imprisonment in the state of Florida; and every prisoner who may be, by any court of competent jurisdiction, sentenced to the state prison during the four years beginning January 1, 1910. The contractor will be required to bear the expense attending each and every prisoner so sentenced from the date of said sentence, covering the cost of confinement in the county jail until removed by the contractor to the headquarters prison or camp.

Fifth—The contractor shall receive all state prisoners in the custody of the state of Florida on January 1, 1910, at any point or place that may be designated by the commissioner of agriculture of the state of Florida.

Sixth—All rights and powers of the successful bidder, under a contract to be entered into, shall be subject, in all things, to the direction, supervision and control of the commissioner of agriculture, with the approval of the board of commissioners of state institutions and to every and all of the statutes relative to the hire or lease of state prisoners, as are recorded in the statute laws of the state of Florida.

Seventh—The commissioner of agriculture reserves the right to name the place or places the state prison or prisons shall be located, and further reserves the right to change the location of said state prison or prisons at any time he may, in his judgment, deem it for the best interest of the prisoners and the state of Florida, without any recourse whatsoever by the contractor.

Eighth—No prisoner shall be required to

labor more than ten hours in any day, provided that a prisoner, if he so desires, may make satisfactory terms between himself and the lessee and work overtime, the prisoner to receive compensation therefor.

The commissioner of agriculture reserves the right to designate in person or by the state prison physician or any supervisor, appointed by the governor, or any person the commissioner of agriculture may designate to represent him, such prisoners as are required to labor, and all such not so designated will not be required to labor, and also to designate the amount and character of work prisoners shall perform, who are not physically able to perform the full manual labor of an able-bodied man, but said prisoners must be paid for and maintained as if they were able to perform full labor. The commissioner of agriculture also reserves the right to regulate the nature of the employment of prisoners without recourse by the contractor, except by appeal to the board of commissioners of state institutions.

Ninth—It is required that the state of Florida shall be at no expense whatever, from the date of delivering said prisoners at the beginning of this lease contract, until their release by competent authority; and further, that the state of Florida shall be at no expense whatever on any or all prisoners after the date of their conviction during the term of four years.

Tenth—The contractor will be required to segregate the white and colored prisoners, that is to say, no white person will be allowed to be housed, maintained or placed at work where they will in any way come in personal contact with colored prisoners, and vice versa, except at the central prison hospital or hospitals and the headquarters camp, where the prisoners are collected from the different jails, to be distributed to the different camps or prisons for labor, and at said hospitals and headquarters camp there shall be such separation of the two races and the sexes as will be approved by the commissioner of agriculture. For certain specific duties the commissioner of agriculture may be authorized to assign persons of the opposite color, upon application to him and with the approval of the board.

Buildings and Equipment, Etc.

1. The contractor will be required to have ready for occupancy, not later than January 1, 1910, modern, substantial prison or prisons, with comfortable housing capacity for not less than 1,200 prisoners, said prison or prisons to be built on plans and specifications approved by the commissioner of agriculture, and to consist of three separate buildings for male and female sick prisoners; the entire to be en-

closed with a board stockade wall fence. Said prison or prisons to be equipped: First, with sleeping cells, furnished with substantial single iron beds not less than three and a half feet in width and not less than six and one-half feet in length, and placed in the sleeping cell with not less than two feet space between each bed, and where two rows of beds are in one hall, there must not be less than four feet hallway between each row of beds. Each bed to have a good clean mattress and pillow, also three pillow cases, four sheets and two pairs of blankets. There shall be kept in stock at each prison or camp, at all times, for the use of the prisoners, not less than three suits of stripes, three suits of underclothing, including socks, two pairs of shoes, one hat, two night shirts for each and every prisoner located at any prison or camp.

2. The dining room or hall to be adjoining to, but separated from the sleeping hall, must have good substantial tables, covered with neat oilcloth or other suitable material, and benches or chairs with equipment for each prisoner, consisting of plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons and mess or dinner buckets.

3. The kitchen to be a separate building or detached room of ample size, for convenience; to be equipped with a first-class range for cooking purposes, with complete kitchen furniture, said kitchen to be equipped fully for all kinds of cooking, and where there are as many as fifty prisoners at any one prison or camp, there must be a well-built bake-oven or furnace, together with a large pot or pots in a well-built furnace for boiling purposes. At all camps where there are as many as twenty-five prisoners, there must be, in addition to the range, at least the furnace for boiling purposes, well built, properly closed in and covered.

4. Suitable, comfortable guard houses, within easy call of the prison or prisons, fully equipped to comfortably maintain and lodge the number of guards and employes for the proper safeguarding and maintenance of the whole number of prisoners located at any prison. All buildings to be thoroughly equipped with running water, and proper sanitary arrangements, to be approved by the commissioner of agriculture. All buildings where prisoners or guards are required to sleep, shall be thoroughly screened with wire netting.

The contractor will also be required to have ready for occupancy, not later than January 1, 1910, one or more substantial hospital buildings, with a comfortable housing capacity, for not less than one hundred prisoners, fully equipped as indicated above, for other prisoners, except that the beds are to be not less than forty