San Diego Union
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...ROAD BUILDING FOR ECONOMY

Highway Contractors to Be Assisted to Raise Efficiency Standard.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Although investigations made by the bureau of public roads indicate that the average highway contractor does not operate above 60 percent efficiency, Thomas H. MacDonald, chief of the bureau, declared today that the highway builders are no less efficient than contractors on railroad work and other construction operations.

One hundred percent efficiency according to MacDonald, is not obtainable on work of this character, detailed observations indicating from 45 to 90 percent to be the best practicable performance.

STOP-WATCH STUDY

The difference between the maximum obtainable efficiency and the average performance results largely from numerous small time losses, the importance of which is not sufficiently appreciated by the foremen and superintendents who direct the labor employed on large construction projects.

By stop-watch studies of operations on actual highway projects the bureau is seeking to discover the common time losses and bring them to the attention of contractors generally. In this way it hopes to develop a higher average level of efficiency in the conduct of the country's billion-dollar program of road construction and maintenance.

In spite of the low average level of efficiency, MacDonald added, highway contracting has long been looked upon by contractors as an uncertain business, and this belief has been reflected in the rising rates charged by bonding companies.

LESSONS FOR BIDDERS

One reason is found in the irresponsible bidding of contractors who have neither the plant, equipment nor financial ability to carry on the work, but who, in order to get the contract, underbid the really responsible bidders.

The bureau's studies have been made with the intention of showing the responsible contractors how costs may be reduced, and of assisting them in that way to meet the competition of those who have nothing to lose.

FARM ACREAGE PROVES MAGNET

Subdivider Reports Keen Interest in Santa Fe Valley Tract Recently Opened



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INSTALMENT GARDEN NEW CITY FEATURE

For the first time in San Diego landscaping has been placed on an instalment credit basis, according to the San Diego Nursery which employs a special crew of experts for this work.

A growing need on the part of home builders and home buyers for an arrangement whereby the planting of lawns and shrubbery and installation of sprinkling systems could be obtained on easy payments has existed for a long

Synthetic Beefsteak Promise... Of Chemists Who Plan to Use... Cotton Seed to Work Mir...

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