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The publishers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN have just prepared with much care, a pamphlet of information about Patents and the Patent Laws, which ought to be in the hands of every inventor and patentee, and also of manufacturers who use patented inventions.

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It has been the design of the publishers to not only furnish, in convenient form for preservation, a synopsis of the PATENT LAW and PRACTICE, but to answer a great variety of questions which have been put to them from time to time during their practice of upwards of twenty years, which replies are not accessible in any other form. The publishers will promptly forward the pamphlet by mail, on receipt of six cents in postage stamps.

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PROPOSALS FOR BLANKETS.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington, January 12, 1864.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this office until 4 o'clock P.M., on the 30th January, 1864, for the delivery at the New York Agency, No. 45 Worth street, of the following Blankets, viz: 30,000 Regulation Cavalry Blankets, Prussia blue or Gentian dyed. 20,000 Regulation Artillery Blankets.

Blue, with an orange border three inches wide, and three inches from the edge, and the letters "U. S." six inches high, orange color, in the center of the blanket.

FOR THE ARTILLERY.

Red, with a black border three inches wide, and three inches from the edge, and the letters "U. S." six inches high, black color, in the center of the blanket.

All the Blankets are to be 75 inches long by 67 inches wide, and of the weight of 3,175 lbs., or say 3-1/2 lbs., on which a variation of 0.175, or 3-1/2 lbs. may be allowed. They must be single and not in pairs, and packed in cases of one hundred each. The value of the cases to be paid for at a price to be determined by the Inspector.

The Blankets are to be inspected at the factory where made, and none will be accepted or paid for but such as are approved on inspection.

Deliveries must be made as follows: One-tenth of the amount contracted for, per week, commencing within one month from the date of the contract.

Failure to deliver at a specified time will subject the contractor to a forfeiture of the quantity due at that time.

No bid will be considered which does not come from a manufacturer of blankets or regular dealer in such goods.

Bids will be considered for the delivery of the blankets at the factory, as well as at the agency above mentioned.

Each bid is to be accompanied by the names of the sureties of the proposal.

Each party obtaining a contract will be required to enter into bonds with approved sureties for the faithful execution of the same.

Upon the award being made, successful bidders will be notified and furnished with forms of contract and bond.

The Department reserves the right to reject any, or all the bids, if deemed unsatisfactory on any account.

Proposals will be addressed to "Brigadier-General George D. Ramsay, Chief of Ordnance, Washington City," and will be endorsed "Proposals for Blankets."

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15, 1863. To the Growers and Manufacturers of Flax and Hemp: THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED BY THIS DEPARTMENT, consisting of Hon. J. K. Morehead, of Pennsylvania, William M. Bailey, of Rhode Island, and John A. Warder, of Ohio, to consider the following appropriation made by the last Congress, viz: "For investigations to test the practical utility of substituting and preparing flax and hemp as a substitute for cotton, twenty thousand dollars."

Having met, and after several days' investigation, believing that a further and fuller notice of their investigations might produce valuable results, adjourned to meet again on Wednesday the 24th day of February next, at 10 o'clock A. M. They request all interested in the distribution of this appropriation, or anxious to develop the subject for the public good, to send to this Department, on or before that day, samples of the hemp and flax in the different stages of preparation; of the fibers and fabrics prepared by them, accompanied by statements of the various processes used, and the cost of production in each case; also, descriptions of the kind and cost of machinery used, where made, &c., together with any and all information that may be useful to the Commission.

This information is necessary before an intelligent distribution of the appropriation can be made. ISAAC NEWTON, Commissioner. 1 9

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