

INDIANS TO BUILD ROADS

SUBSTITUTION MADE FOR CONVICT LABOR ON OLYMPIC HIGHWAY.

Free Right-of-Way Through Reservation Promised to State as Part of Agreement.

OLYMPIA, Wash., June 12.—(Special.)—Replacing the convict labor that last year did much of the construction work on the Olympic Highway from Hoodspoint north, Indian labor will be used for the first time by the state on the new section from Hoodspoint south.

Superintendent David Govan yesterday was instructed by the state to open a force account camp at Potlatch, on the north edge of the Skokomish reservation, and to give the Indians equal opportunity with white men in employment. Chief Engineer James Allen says that the Indians are good roadbuilders, and that some of the best roads in the section are those in the reservation. There is more than sentiment behind the order to give the Indians work, however, for they have promised the state free right-of-way through the reservation. This section of the road will shorten the route four miles and will eliminate the dangerous Webb hill.

Bids also were called yesterday, to be opened July 12, for another section of the Olympic Highway, 15 miles between Mud Bay and McCleary, Thurston and Chehalis County. This work is estimated to cost \$38,000. Three pieces of right-of-way yet are to be secured, condemnation suits being set for hearing early in July.

The highway department has issued a call for bids to be opened on June 25 for the construction and gravel surfacing of one mile of Pacific Highway from La Center, Clarke County. The highway was held up at this point last year by difficulty in securing a right-of-way. This trouble is settled. The work is estimated to cost about \$9000.