

Gonzales Gardens Business Goes Largely To Columbians

Nov. 22, '39.

Besides furnishing better living conditions for many Columbians, the building of Gonzales Gardens, low-rent housing project, will be of direct benefit to Columbia merchants and labor, according to V. P. Loftis of Charlotte, N. C., general contractor for the project. In an interview yesterday, Mr. Loftis declared that it was his intention to hire local help on all work which he will do directly.

Mr. Loftis added that wherever possible local material would also be used. It is estimated that during the construction of Gonzales Gardens there will be a payroll of \$250,000, the most part of which will be spent with Columbia firms and individuals for clothing, groceries, etc.

The Housing Authority of the City of Columbia, in opening the bids for Gonzales Gardens, expressed the wish that as much Columbia labor and material as possible be used in construction and Mr. Loftis said yesterday that he was anxious to co-operate with the local authority in this matter.

Mr. Loftis announced that a number of Columbia firms had been awarded sub-contracts. They are as follows:

1. Outside Paving and Gutters-Con-

crete Construction and Supply company.

2. Readymix Concrete-Concrete Construction and Supply company.

3. Electric Work-Seastrunk Electric company.

4. Plumbing and Heating-Cashion Electric, Plumbing and Heating company.

5. Roofing and Metal Work-G. A. Shillito company.

6. Structural Steel and Reinforcing Steel Accessories-Columbia Steel company.

7. Masonry Back Up Tile-Wallace Concrete Pipe company.

8. Brick-Guignard and Richland Shale companies.

9. Finish Hardware-Ruff Hardware company.

10. Landscaping-Carolina Floral company. (Columbia and Charleston.

11. Bond written by Thomas B. Boyle of Columbia.

The houses on the site of Gonzales Gardens, across from the Providence hospital, are now in the process of demolition and foundation work on the new dwelling will begin next week, Mr. Loftis said yesterday. The contractor has established an office on the northern (Forest Drive) section of the project.

Bids for Gonzales Gardens were opened by the Housing Authority of Columbia October 18 and Mr. Loftis was low bidder with a base bid of \$689,000. Eleven bids were received.