

NEWS FROM OTHER STATES

From the Secretary's Desk

WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

A retirement plan for all Wayne county, Mich., employees, prepared by a special committee of the Wayne county board of supervisors, has been referred to the ways and means committee for special consideration.

Main features of the plan are as follows:

All employees are to contribute 5 per cent of pay up to \$3600 per year. Any employee may retire at his own option after he has attained the age of 65 and completed 10 years of service, or after he has completed 30 years of service regardless of age. The amount of pension provided by the county is limited to \$1800 per year or one-half pay, whichever is the lesser.

Upon retirement, the following benefits will be provided: (1) the amount of pension provided by the employee's contribution plus (2) a basic pension of \$120 per year plus (3) a membership service pension equal to $1/135$ of average yearly pay for 5 years before retirement times years of service after the plan is adopted plus (4) a prior service pension of $2/135$ of average yearly pay for 5 years before retirement times years of service before adoption of the plan.

A minimum provision provides that no employee shall receive less than \$3 per month for each year of service, up to 20 years.

Seattle Votes Veterans Preference Amendment

Veterans' preference was voted recently through a charter amendment by the citizens of Seattle. In order to receive preference, the veteran must have

served in the armed forces while the United States was actually engaged in war and must have been a resident of the state at the time of entry into military service.

Merit System for Idaho

A draft of a proposed merit system law has been filed in Idaho and will be voted on at the general election in November, provided that approval of 14,000 qualified voters is secured by July 6. The proposed measure would establish a state personnel department administered by a director and personnel board which would be empowered to make rules and regulations governing classification of positions, pay schedules and merit system examinations. Employees of the Idaho departments of Public Assistance, Public Health and Unemployment Compensation, who are paid partially from federal funds, are at present employed on a merit basis as in Oregon.

Colorado Civil Service Upheld

The Colorado State Civil Service has been greatly strengthened in a decision by District Judge Joseph J. Walsh.

In a written opinion, as clean-cut and decisive as it is sweeping, Judge Walsh declared that "the fundamental object of the civil service amendment was to see that governmental positions were filled upon a basis of merit and fitness to serve, and in furtherance thereof, the civil service commission was authorized and empowered to pass and enforce rules for the attainment of that end."

On the rules clause, which curtails political activity and which had been sharply criticized, Judge Walsh said: "The Court can find nothing unreasonable with respect to the rule on politi-

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