

## Over the Secretary's Desk

Governor Thomas E. Dewey addressed a meeting of representatives of public employees in Albany, May 28 to 30. In his message, Governor Dewey said, "I promised last year, as one of my objectives, to do everything possible to promote the merit system. We have made, I think, substantial progress, thanks to the cooperation of civil service employees themselves."

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Representatives of Wisconsin state employees, at their annual meeting held at Wausau, June 11th, voted to sponsor an amendment to the municipal employees retirement pension system, providing for a county employees pension system. The proposed county employee system would be patterned on the municipal system which provides for compulsory retirement at age 65 with pensions of \$60-\$100 per month for 20 years of service. Employees with less than 20 years of service would be eligible for \$3 a month for every year of service.

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The city council of Kaukauna, Wis., is considering a pension plan for city employees which would provide a pension of \$10 per month minimum and a maximum of 50% of final earnings. The maximum pension would be for employees 65 years of age with 35 years of service. The plan includes death benefit and total disability benefits.

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The city of Alhambra, Calif., has voted to place city employees under the state retirement system as provided by the California legislature. The proposal was adopted by a vote of 2 to 1 in the election June 6.

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Vice President Raimist of a technical engineers, architects and draftsmen's as-

sociation spoke as follows in a recent radio address:

"It is strange how technical and white collared employees are blinded by the dignity of professional titles attached to their jobs, and forget the economic necessities that make for a decent standard of living.

"It took the depression of the 30's and the present kicking around to make the technical and white collar employee "union" conscious. For the first time he has realized that the banker has a "union"—the Bankers' association; the manufacturer has a "union"—the National Association of Manufacturers. Yes, even profession physicians and attorneys have very strong "unions"—the Medical association and the Bar association. The technical employee certainly has as much brains, intelligence, common sense and ingenuity as the banker, the manufacturer and the physician. The technical employee even has perception—only he has permitted it to lie dormant while the bankers, the manufacturers, physicians and lawyers have organized themselves into their respective "unions." Through these organizations the banker, the manufacturers, the physicians and lawyers are able to receive the highest possible price for their services or products.

"Too many technical men have sold, and continue to sell their services for professional titles. Unfortunately, you cannot pay off the landlord, the grocer, or the butcher with these professional titles."

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