

New Ideas and Improved Methods

FLOYD QUERY, *Editor*

It is the purpose of this column to make better known the new ideas and improved methods devised by State employees. Industry and government have found in their employees a fertile source of new ideas. They have found too, that by encouraging employees to make known their ideas, that material savings and improvements can be made.

Employees suggestions adopted by the Northwest Airlines have saved more than \$300,000 in two years. Nearly 6000 suggestions have been received. The Southern Pacific has devoted considerable advertising space to savings and improvements devised by its employees. General Motors has a plan for utilizing and rewarding employees for good ideas. The huge shipyards in Portland also make good use of ideas and methods submitted by employees. Some branches of the federal government have had unusual success with the use of the "Idea Box" for governmental employees.

It has been recognized by all of these agencies that the executive head, competent though he is, cannot think of everything. He cannot be expected to devise all the details of a project. Here is where the door has been opened to admit the ideas of the employee who works with the details.

State employees and department heads are invited to send in their ideas for better ways of doing things, or examples of new methods that have been adopted. We want data from all state departments. Be sure to mention the name or names of the persons devising it; where he or she works; what the ideas or improvement is, and the saving in time or money possible by its use. Mail all suggestions to The New

Ideas Editor, 1615 Nebraska Avenue, Salem, Oregon.

An Improved Method

A. M. Burt of Woodburn, a section crew forman for the State Highway Department, devised a method for applying fine crushed rock to icy road surfaces. That was the original purpose of the device. Since then it has been used for many other purposes. Mr. Burt and his Superintendent, F. W. Farrar, took the idea to E. F. Halik, Master Mechanic, who turned the making of the device over to John Harnsberger, Blacksmith Foreman. John added some ideas and refinements with the result that a very satisfactory tail-gate shutoff was made. It will open and close on either or both sides without lowering the truck bed or stopping the truck. Operations can be conducted by one man on a truck at least five times faster than was possible before. With the old method it was necessary to have two men on each truck, one of whom had to shovel by hand out of the truck bed. This method was painfully slow, cold, and oft times dangerous.

Mr. Burt's idea and its use has saved many dollars for the taxpayers, besides providing protection for the traveling public when it is most needed. Incidentally, the cost to build one of these tail-gate arrangements is only \$14.

All Oregon State Employees are invited to join The Oregon State Employees Association. If you desire more information please write to Forrest V. Stewart, Executive Secretary, 141 New Bligh Building, Salem, Oregon or call Salem 7998.

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