

New Ideas and Improved Methods

BY FLOYD QUERY

MYRON C. WOOD, blue print machine operator in the State Office Building suggested that certain reports which had previously been blue printed be mimeographed. He showed that faster service could be obtained at a smaller cost. The saving on one job alone amounted to \$20. Myron has made several such suggestions and has had the full cooperation of the department heads to whom the suggestions were offered. This is one instance in which an alert employee turned his knowledge of his job into a material saving.

IVAN DAKIN, veteran paving plant foreman was hard pressed this last fall to get all the patches flushcoated. Conventional methods were too slow to get the work done in time, so he borrowed a section maintenance kettle equipped with a motor, pump, flexible hose and spray nozzle and applied the asphalt flushcoat with power equipment. Operating in this manner his crew was able to do more than twice the normal amount of flushcoating at no increase in cost of operation. The saving in money amounted to at least \$20 per day of operation. This is a minimum figure and does not take into account the cost of later repairs to the road if the flushcoating had not been done. Ivan and his crew are to be commended for successfully meeting a difficult situation.

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE, which was composed of Representatives Leo Smith, Earl Hill and W. W. Chadwick, and Senators J. N. Jones and Lew Wallace, was appointed by the 42nd Legislative Assembly to study and make a report concerning a merit system of employment for state employees. Their report to Governor Earl Snell included a recommendation that the four separate merit systems now operated in Ore-

gon be consolidated. It is estimated that the cost of operation will be reduced \$7200 the first year, and further reduced in succeeding years. Partial consolidation was made in July of 1944 and the committee asked the Attorney General to prepare the necessary bills to be presented to the 43rd Legislative Assembly so that the consolidation can be completed.

These men, as Senators and Representatives, are employees of the State of Oregon. Their recommendation in this matter and its adoption constituted a positive contribution to good government.

Employees were paid \$4,000,000 during the last year for ideas submitted to suggestion systems operating in industrial organizations, according to the President of the National Association of Suggestion Systems. More than 5,000,000 persons at present are working in plants which have employee suggestion systems.—*Civil Service Assembly News Letter.*

Efficiency is only another name for doing the right thing at the right time.

—*Ten Test News*

It has been wisely pointed out that a man's age can be measured by the degree of pain he feels as he comes in contact with a new idea.

—*The Ambassador*

State employees are invited to send in the dope on their accomplishments to the New Ideas Editor, 1615 Nebraska Avenue, Salem, Oregon. Send your own data, or write up what a friend has done. We want this information from all state departments.