

NEW GEORGIA CONSTITUTION INCLUDES MERIT SYSTEM FOR STATE SERVICE

The foundation for a merit system covering employees in the Georgia state service was established when voters approved the adoption of a new state constitution on August 7. The new constitution, approved by a margin of approximately two to one, includes provision for a merit system in the state service and authorizes the establishment of a retirement system for state employees.

The new Georgia constitution calls for appointment by the Governor of a non-salaried State Personnel Board composed of three members. Terms of those

first appointed are to be for three, five, and seven years, respectively and subsequent appointments are to be for terms of seven years. Neither the Governor nor any other state employee may be a member of the personnel board. The powers and duties of the board are to be fixed by legislative enactment, and the legislature is required under provisions of the new constitution to appropriate adequate funds for the establishment and maintenance of the merit system program.

The legislature is also authorized under the new constitution to establish an actuarially sound retirement system covering employees holding positions under the merit system.

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VOLUME I

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1945

NUMBER 11

The Oregon State Employee is the official publication of the Oregon State Employees Association and is published bi-monthly at Salem, Oregon; E. H. Clymer, Editor and Manager; R. B. Sipprell, Advertising Manager. Subscription price 25 cents per copy, \$1.25 per year. Membership dues include the magazine. Advertising rates on application. Address inquiries to 141 New Bligh Building, Salem, Oregon. Opinions or statements expressed are not necessarily those of the Association. Printed by the Statesman Publishing Company, Salem, Oregon.