
CHRISTMAS EVE IN OREGON

By J. W. Rhodes, Salem Chapter No. 1
(With apologies to Dr. Clement Moore)

'Twas the night before Christmas, and
all through the State
Not a dollar was showing, not even
a steak!

The employers were tucked all safe in
their beds,

Whilst dreams of retirement stirred
in their heads.

We sat by the fireside, no coal in the
grate,

And had with ourselves a silent de-
bate

Of ways and means of bringing to bear
On the proper authorities, a method
so fair

That wages on parity soon would appear
To bring joy and pleasure to all of
us here.

When out on the highway, there rose
such a clatter,

We jumped to the window to see
what's the matter!

'Twas only a snow plow, bent on its
way

To clear for the public a road all the
way

Clear through the mountains and fields
far away.

We returned to our fireside, to sit and
to ponder

On the vagaries of nature, and then
'gan to wonder

Why, in a State fair as ours, we cannot
maintain

A high standard of "loving" on the
wages we gain!

We then heard the voice of the OSEA,
As it girds for the battle and rises
to say,

"Take heart, State employees, we are
working for you!

A merry, merry Christmas! And a
Happy New Year, too!"

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