

LARGE MEMBERSHIP ESSENTIAL FOR GREATEST SUCCESS

By E. J. SKALA

La Grande Chapter No. 4 issues special mimeographed bulletins which are mailed to each member of the chapter. As an outgrowth of the February meeting of No. 4 a special bulletin was written about membership. Following are some of the very fine things the chapter writer had to say.

"Let us analyze this situation. First, what would be the natural reaction of a legislator who had not given much thought or study to problems of state employees when he learns that 3000 of them want salary increases, improved working conditions or other concessions and that 5000 of them who don't want changes are perfectly satisfied with things as they are? His reaction to this would probably be that since the majority were satisfied he would vote against any change and dismiss the minority as the "lunatic fringe." We can only conclude that if we do not attain the things for which we are seeking at this session of the legislature we can lay the failure at the feet of those who refuse to join and put their shoulders to the wheel.

"We must start now to build up our membership to such proportions that our number in itself will bear weight, and it should be the responsibility of every member to secure new members from among his fellow workers. You will find various types of men and women among state employees as elsewhere. Some don't believe in any organization nor in themselves. Some are self satisfied and selfish . . . And then also we have those who think the organization should operate like a grocery store. You walk in, lay a dollar on the counter and ask for a dollar's worth of something. Then you wait for it to be wrapped up so you can carry it out, secretly hoping that by some miracle the groceryman will put in two dollars worth instead of one. If he doesn't maybe you won't buy any more groceries.

"These chookieboppers, or free riders,

are vastly in the minority. We feel that most of the state employees would join if they were approached and the objectives of the OSEA explained to them. We want members who can contribute ideas, moral support and understanding, realizing that no social gains, such as the eight hour day, have been obtained for just the asking. It has taken years of unified action to secure them. To obtain any objective united action is imperative. Imagine placing in the field a baseball team consisting of only three men and then expecting a victory!"

GEORGE PERKINS SETS ATTENDANCE RECORD

George N. Perkins of Jewell deserves a perfect attendance certificate from the Astoria Chapter. He has attended every meeting of that chapter since its organization in November, 1942. Even when weather was bad and working hours long, Mr. Perkins made the 70 mile round trip drive between Jewell and Astoria. In appreciation of his interest in the Association, chapter members have elected him delegate to represent them at all General Council meetings.

Mr. Perkins has worked for the Highway Commission for twelve years, first as helper for John Thomas and now as section foerman at Jewell. He is married and has two grandchildren. "His hobby," says George Bambrick, who supplied us with this information, "is trying to make a small check cover the high cost of living."

The success of our Association is dependent upon all members who have, like Mr. Perkins, devoted their constant time and interest to the objectives of our organization. Can you top this record? It might be interesting to know how many perfect attenders each chapter can boast.

Material for magazine received by May 21 will appear in May-June issue. Send contributions to OSEA, 141 Pacific Bldg., Salem.