

dismal picture of conditions is desired, the employees could easily and truthfully call attention to errors in administration and policy. They are also well informed in some practical solutions. However, they still hope that the state's leaders will act in a proper fashion and, therefore have exercised rare patience.

Faith and Action Can Solve Problem

One thing this state can use is a better understanding of its resources and a more optimistic faith in its future! If the press reports are correct, our leaders are licked, or at least confused. Where is the vision, the faith and the leadership that will lift Oregon to its rightful position among the states of the union?

When has a miserly, niggardly attitude resulted in advancement? Can a continuation of policies which have heretofore retarded Oregon's progress be expected to do otherwise than ruin her chances of future prosperity? Even in pony express days, fresh horses were found useful in making progress!

The OSEA strives to improve the service which the public rightfully expects from its public services. It has met with many rebuffs and has experienced a wearisome and reluctant reaction to

many of its meritorious recommendations. We ask for fair and impartial treatment for state employees. We believe the employees are capable of reacting favorably to such treatment. We do not relish mistreatment. We intend to serve the public with the whole of our intelligence and to the best of our ability. We want to live decently, as good citizens, with our families at home where they belong (not forced to seek outside work). We want praise and commendation for faithfulness to our employer (the public) and we want decent treatment and adequate pay for our services. Can the expanding state of Oregon meet that challenge?

We maintain that Oregon is financially able to do what *needs* doing. The growth of our industry and population evidences the potential strength of our finances. Only by grasping opportunity when it is present can we utilize its advantages for the future. The right way to plan for the inevitably increasing demands being placed on our governmental services is to *now* staff the service with well paid employees, and to make state service attractive to the capable and promising young people who are needed to keep public service apace with the growth of the state.

Wage Earners of '48 Again Enact Uncle Tom's Cabin, or (Uncle Tom's Cabin a la '48)

By Betty Dotson

The characters have changed but the plot is universal. The villain, High Cost Living, pursues the Wage Earner across the thin ice of security. The baying of the blood hounds is loud. Close in his hands, the Wage Earner clutches his little bag of savings. One mis-step and he crashes thru the thin ice into the deep water of debt. The bag slips from his hands and HCL

feeds his currency like hamburger to the blood hounds. ("He" is used for Wage Earner in the general sense of man as men and women.) Maybe if he's lucky and has no misfortunes and casts aside all but essentials, maybe then he'll reach the other side of river Inflation, still on his feet.

The February issue of *The Public Employee* printed the figures used by