

Reflections and Reflexes

We hear that many of those eligible to retire January 1st are being urged to remain in service. Seems too bad that these employees are willing to stay! The pension is too little and the State is still short of help!

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I met an elderly employee recently who wanted to retire a year ago for the sake of his own health. He has stayed on at the urgent request to help the poor State and in my opinion is lucky to be still alive. An employer should have some regard for his employee's welfare.

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The papers tell us that the costs of public service are increasing—the next State budgets are going to be bigger—more money is needed. It will be interesting to see if employees' wages are considered in their proper relation to these new budgets. Will a parity pay scale be recognized as a necessity, or is "budget slashing" to be at the expense of lowered efficiency (too low a pay scale) as in the past?

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Some departments who allow exchange time off for overtime worked find themselves hard pressed for help when their overworked employees are able to take their earned time off. As usual, a better pay scale to get more employees and to hold them on the job would help them deliver the service they are supposed to render the public.

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They tell us we need a lot of highway improvement to catch Oregon up to other State standards. They say our State growth is outstripping our usual rate of progress along this line. Trips to our neighboring States shows us to be far behind! We could do better if we could just get enough of the right kind of engineers. The neighbor States do

better than we do. They pay engineers a higher pay scale. Our loss is their gain.

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Oregon advertises to get the tourist trade. The purse strings tighten up, however, when it comes to giving them roads to travel on. Road improvements take planning and engineering. Road costs mount as a lack of well-paid inspectors and engineers increases. The answer is well-known to every employee and to some administrators.

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In this age of pressure groups, why not some public clamor for more efficiency in public service? Those who put on the pressure need the facts. Are the public well-advised of the reasons for the short-comings of their governmental agencies? High time!

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The next legislature will appropriate huge sums of public money for spending in the interests of Oregon's welfare. Will those interested in the real welfare of the State be on hand as powerfully as those with selfish axes to grind?

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Ben Franklin once said, "The sting of a reproach is the truth of it."

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Much ado about the old-age pension and its effect on State finances. Another growing-pain in Oregon's slow progress in getting in step with the times!

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If California's sunshine gave that State its financial success, perhaps Oregon can spare some of its water in exchange. Would the Oregon taxpayer swap his own property and income taxes for a California Sales Tax?

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It has been said, "Oregon's tax structure is sound." Better say, "Oregon's tax structure has been sounded and found wanting."

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National elections show the way to win votes and influence people. The OSEA might go to the public with similar successful methods!