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McGEE ON MERRIAM.

Our good friend, Rev. W. V. McGee, had a letter in these columns last week.

Before endeavoring to set him right on some of what we believe to be faulty thinking, let us say that we would be happy if all persons were as inherently honest as Mr. McGee, were as well intentioned, gave as much consideration to the welfare of others and gave as much in service as Rev. McGee has during a long and useful life. It is the hope of this newspaper that all persons such as Mr. McGee and his good wife may have the comforts of life in their declining years and few worries.

Now to take Rev. McGee's letter to pieces.

In the first place he is not as assiduous a reader of The Sentinel as we thought he was or he would know that year in and year out The Sentinel has found fault with the lack of interest of voters who fail to go to the polls. Criticism of the light vote in the recall election—a comparatively heavy vote for a special election—was the same criticism this newspaper has spoken after various elections, and in many public addresses the editor of The Sentinel has called attention to this dereliction on the part of the electorate.

In the opinion of this newspaper, Rev. McGee is woefully in error in his attitude that there is no need to go to the polls, that those elected will forget their promises and do as they please anyway. In the opinion of this newspaper, Rev. McGee has things reversed. It is because the electorate have shown so little interest that so many elected to office have forgotten their promises. If officeholders thought they were being watched by the voters and that at every election there would be something like an 80 or 90 per cent vote to send home those who made promises that they failed to keep, promises made by office-seekers would mean something.

In practically every election of recent years The Sentinel has pointed out impossible promises made by candidates who had no intention of keeping such promises. Some of those were elected to office and in every case in which The Sentinel said promises would not be kept they were not kept.

The Sentinel believes campaign promises should be kept to the letter, and that any person elected to office, finding that he made promises he finds it impossible to keep should frankly tell the voters so and explain why he can't keep them. The Sentinel believes that persons who fail to keep their promises, without being able to give voters a satisfactory reason, are unfit for public office. It also believes that persons who make advance promises that are impossible of fulfillment are totally unfit for the favor of the electorate, and we have had many such candidates in Oregon, pointed out to the voters at the time by such newspapers as The Sentinel.

The Sentinel's opposition to the recall of Merriam was based on the belief he did not make the promise he was charged with making. No evidence that he had made such a promise was seen by The Sentinel until an eleventh-hour poster appeared. If Merriam made the promises that the poster related, he was rightfully recalled.

The Sentinel regrets that a person of Rev. McGee's standing should make the blanket charge he did in his letter that "most legislators go to Salem and fill their pockets." He has here made a charge which he can't even attempt to prove. He can't name a single legislator that has ever taken a penny from anyone. He knows there are many honest legislators, yet he casts reflection upon the character of every person who has ever filled a legislative seat by his blanket charge that nearly all go there to fill their pockets. When Rev. McGee stops to think of this seriously he will realize that it is blanket charges such as this that have brought the legislature into disrepute and that it is because such respectable, upstanding persons as Rev. McGee make such charges without serious thought that many upstanding citizens refuse to be candidates for office.

Does Rev. McGee believe that Senator Halvor C. Wheeler filled his pockets at Salem? His blanket charge against "most of them" infers that Senator Wheeler may be among the crooks and grafters.

Does Rev. McGee believe that Senator E. A. McCornack filled his

pockets at Salem? His blanket charge against "most of them" infers that McCornack may be among the crooks and grafters.

Does Rev. McGee believe that Representative Earl Hill filled his pockets at Salem? His blanket charge against "most of them" infers that Representative Hill may be among the crooks and grafters.

Does Rev. McGee believe that Representative Clarence Hyde filled his pockets at Salem? His blanket charge against "most of them" infers that Representative Hyde may be among the crooks and grafters.

Does Rev. McGee believe that even Howard Merriam filled his pockets at Salem? His blanket charge against "most of them" infers that Representative Merriam may be among the crooks and grafters.

Is Rev. McGee willing to say that any member of the senate or house from Lane county filled his pockets at Salem, if he doesn't believe that any member from this county filled his pockets at Salem, how can he say that any member did? If he believes "most of them" filled their pockets at Salem, surely he can't eliminate the five members from Lane county, so The Sentinel challenges Rev. McGee to name any member from Lane county who should be classed with the "most of them" that filled their pockets at Salem.

If he isn't willing to say that any member from Lane county filled his pockets at Salem, he has no grounds whatever to say that about any member, for those from other parts of the state are the same kind of men as those sent from Lane county.

Let us put this over: Legislators are average men from average communities of the state, and they do at Salem what average men of the average communities do at home. To say that legislators, or the "most of them," are crooks and grafters is to say that the average men of all the average communities of the state are crooks and grafters.

We can't clean up politics until we get the habit of making charges against officeholders that we can't attempt to prove. We can't get better men to seek office until we are willing to give them decent treatment.

If we can get 80 per cent of the electorate to the polls, we can keep out of office the dishonest few that get into office, and if we give honest officials fair treatment we can get better and bigger men to seek office.

The Sentinel would be pleased to help the Townsends, or anyone else, in revamping our political system that favors the powerful and oppresses the weak. The first step is to get the electorate to feel their duty as electors. Those who do not vote have no right to complain about the kind of officials they get.

A child at Toledo, O., is normal while carrying a bullet at the base of the brain. Medical science records this as a marvel. We don't see what's so unusual about this when so many seem perfectly normal without any brains.

The secret service has sent out instructions how to detect counterfeit bills of the larger denominations. Another useless government activity.

Crooner Vallee says he's not afraid to try matrimony again. It's the alimony that makes him hesitate, no doubt.

The big dipper is breaking up, scientists tell us. Must have got too hard usage during prohibition days.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES.
 To the Editor: Some time the last of January The Sentinel announced that the U. S. government was sending Mrs. Mary E. Cox of Eu-

gene to conduct adult education classes, provided a sufficient number were interested.

At the appointed time 20 or 25 met at the high school and decided to take up current events, public speaking and psychology. Class periods are from 7:30 to 9:30 each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Mrs. Cox is an entertaining teacher and enthusiasm was running high until colds, influenza, bad weather, lost energy and other causes caused attendance to drop to the danger point before the first quarter was completed.

Those of us who completed the quarter feel that our time was well spent and for the knowledge gained we have Mrs. Cox to thank. She made us realize our deficiencies and now some of the dead brain cells are back at work. We are now thinking instead of drifting. We are going on another quarter and we hope others will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

MRS. EDNA BURLSON.

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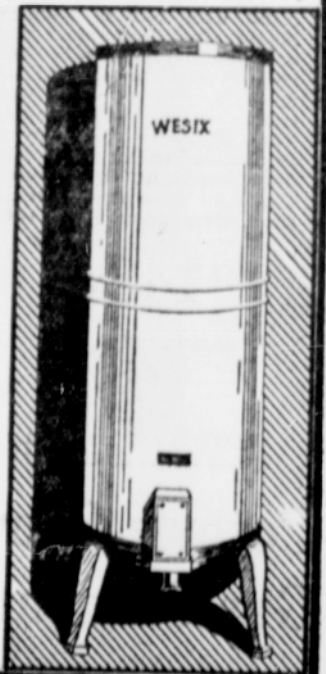
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