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Where Do They Start? Persons often wonder how misleading information creeps into the public press.

Persons often wonder how misleading information creeps into the public press. They know that things which are published as incorrect so it does not affect them to any great extent beyond a passing shrug of the shoulders.

But it not infrequently happens that published misinformation leads to serious consequences and misunderstanding. A case in point:—A Rochester newspaper, one that is generally accurate in its statements of Catholic information and news, a few days ago stated editorially and without the qualifying "it is reported", that Pope Benedict had changed the Lenten fast days in mid-week from Wednesdays to Saturdays for the period of the war.

We have read the Lenten regulations issued by a number of the American Bishops and fail to find even a reference to the papal decree quoted by our contemporary. Surely, if such were the case, the decree would have been communicated to the American bishops and they, in turn, would have included it in their Lenten instruction to their priests and flocks?

Maybe this supposed decree was sent abroad by the same sinister means that misled the gentleman who recently was impelled to issue the following abject retraction: U. S. Food Administration, Washington, D. C.

New York, Jan. 29, 1918. Dear Mr. Iselin: I desire to confirm what I at once wrote to Msgr. Lavelle on the 18th inst., namely, that I much regret a statement I recently made in this city at a conference to consider food conservation. My statement attributed to the Pope a measure of responsibility for the Italian disaster and for the disruptive propaganda which had brought it about. I repeated thoughtlessly and without previous reflection a rumor I had heard which I had not verified and which I am now convinced and believe was untrue. I have since read the categorical denial of Cardinal Gasparri, the Pope's Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the denial of Cardinal Bourne in London, and I have also read the statement recently made by Signor Orlando the prime minister of Italy, in the Italian chamber of deputies, as follows: "I deplore the accusations of a general character made by the Hon. Signor Pirolini against high ecclesiastical personages—accusations that tend to hurt the supreme spiritual authority—against priests and against the Catholic party. Such accusations

are unjust and offensive, because as the public are aware, the Italian clergy, both high and low, have given noble and beautiful proofs of Italian sentiments, and the great mass of the Catholics have shown how to reconcile the dictates of faith with their duties towards their country."

I, therefore, feel that it is my duty to retract the statement I made in regard to the Pope, which I do without reserve, and I would like to correct the unfortunate and erroneous impression my remarks tended to create.

You may give this letter such publicity as your committee deems advisable to counteract the effect of my statement and its repetition by those who heard my remarks.

May I take this opportunity to express the appreciation of my colleagues and myself of the uniform and effective co-operation which the National Food Administration has received from our Catholic fellow-citizens and the Catholic clergy?

I am very sincerely yours, E. J. WALCOTT, Chairman Catholic Laymen's Committee, No 36 Wall Street, New York.

"Way Over the Top."

Rochester certainly did itself proud in its record in raising the quota for the Catholic war relief fund. When our article was written last week the full figures were not available but the total is given as \$128,000 with probably several thousand dollars yet to come. That is fine nevertheless. It is only what might be expected as Rochester has acquired a way of beating even its own record.

To the Catholics themselves considerable credit attaches but we owe a debt of gratitude to many of our non-Catholic friends. They were with us from start to finish and they will be better friends with us than ever before. Let us hope this call will be the last needed. But if another comes it will be responded to just as readily and generously.

Lent.

We are again in the season of Lent. It is not a new experience for us Catholics as we observe this forty days fast every year. But some of our non-Catholic friends are coming to realize, because of the war, something of what self-denial means—whether they accepted the condition voluntarily or because of Mr. Hoover's regulations. They have had the experience because of purely human conditions and not as a testimony to their faith in Almighty God.

Now comes the Lenten season. Our non-Catholic friends will continue to have their meatless days when they will put aside beef and mutton but eat their fill of game and poultry—when they can get it—while the Catholics will observe two real meatless days every week, for conscience sake, while they will also keep clear of beef and mutton on the Tuesdays as requested by Mr. Hoover as well as the abstinence from sweets and other luxuries. Surely the Catholics of the United States must be credited with doing their share in food conservation.

But it is not only our bodies we shall look after during Lent. We will increase our devotions in prayer and supplication that ere long peace will come to a world that is weary of struggle and strife and the great unrest. In so doing we shall, at least, bring peace to our own souls and prepare ourselves for that world beyond the grave. After all, that is the chief end in life because what happens in this world matters little if we save our immortal souls.

Of seventy-five children arraigned in juvenile court in Salt Lake city not one was a Catholic.

BORN OF DESIRE FOR SPEED

From Earliest Ages Man Has Sought Methods of Transportation Other Than His Feet.

Doubtless the first form of constructive transportation was by the boat in the form of a float and our earliest and simplest conception is a man astride a log, propelling it by hand and foot. The idea of propulsion stimulated to activity the inventive genius of man's mind, and we find him developing various modes of land conveyances. The camel was drafted into service with the elephant, the horse and other animals. Then came the sledge, the first of nature's own construction, simply a log of tree limb.

This gradually developed into a more perfect mode of conveyance, being mounted on rollers or logs, and here began the development of the axle and the wheel. The most primitive form of wheel was the simple roller made from a tree trunk, afterward differentiated into a pair of fixed wheels by trunnions down the middle portion of the cylinder in such a manner as to leave the center of the trunk as a rotating axle.

The next step was the substitution of two shorter sections of tree trunks attached to a rotating axle; that, round cylinders of stone doubtless were used as well, and later a considerable advancement was marked by the substitution of the fixed axle on which the cylinders rotated.

The cart wheel similar to that which may today be seen in the remote districts of Mexico, is doubtless the next noteworthy advance, and from these primitive steps we find Aristotle and other Greek philosophers interesting themselves in these important advancements and earnestly agitating the minds of the mechanics of that period, in the effort to stimulate even greater improvements.

USE MOVIES TO TEST EYES

If Pictures That Are Properly Focused Hurt, It is Always Well to Consult an Oculist.

You can use the movies to test your eyes. If your optical organs are correct and normal you can go to the shadow theaters as much as you want without fear of harming the delicate mechanism of your eyes.

But if you see well-operated pictures where the focusing is properly done, and find that your eyes hurt and an oculist; don't blame the movies, says Dr. C. A. Balm, writing on the annals of ophthalmology.

There is no surer way to inform yourself of optical defects. The normal eye accommodates itself readily to the fitting films of high grade, while the subnormal eye makes its complaint very apparent after a steady focusing upon pictures.

"Persons with no defect of sight mechanism should be able to enjoy at the very least four sittings of from one and one-half to two hours' duration each per week without discomfort," says Doctor Balm. "No permanent harm has come or can come to eyes from well-focused motion pictures."

Barrier to Sight of Stars.

A theory gaining scientific acceptance is that in the void of interstellar space there is a substance which veils from our view the stars beyond a certain limit of distance. Consisting presumably of microscopic and widely scattered particles, it nevertheless makes a barrier to vision when distances are sufficiently great.

In other words, if we were far enough away from the sun there would be enough of these particles between ourselves and that luminary to render it invisible to us.

Dr. C. G. Abbott of the Smithsonian Institution, said that the estimated density of this "substance" is one trillionth of that of the air we breathe. Pretty thin, one might say. And yet a sphere (in space) whose radius was the distance from the earth to the star nearest to our solar system would contain a quantity of the substance equal to 1,000 times the mass of the sun!

Varieties of Pearls.

Among the varieties of so-called pearls there are at times small dark gray or "blackish" pearls, which are more or less flattened and lack the jet black luster and perfect shape of the so-called black pearls. These are true pearls, probably secured from pinna shells, and possess some small value. They may be easily distinguished from the false pearls by their color and shape. Very small round pearls of a golden luster are secured from a small avicula that has a beautiful golden luster on the inside. The avicula shell is usually less than six centimeters in diameter, and I have never seen a pearl produced by this shell that was larger than a No. 6 shot. The big, perfectly round yellow pearls offered for sale are usually frauds.

Possible to Be Too Abrupt.

It is said that W. S. Gilbert, the English dramatist, when he called on his friends, always made a quick exit. His alert temperament was evidently opposed to dawdling. He knew how tedious lingering farewells could be.

Now and then one meets some one of his kind, alert, definite, considerate of others and of himself as well.

But, of course, in this regard it is possible to overdo. There are those who leave so quickly that they create a sense of abruptness and possibly of concern as well. Their departure may be followed by such remarks as "Why did he leave in that way?" or "Could he have been hurt about anything?"

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