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If "Cal" Were "Al"?

What a great difference the elimination of a single letter could make is pointed out by "Extension" in the following article in the December issue:—

"Wonderful what a difference one letter will make in a word or a name! At the recent Congregational Convention in Washington the old practice of putting the pastor for the night was recalled. Even President Coolidge put up seven of the ministers in the White House. We believe that Mr. Coolidge has a right to invite to the White House anyone whom he chooses, and we heartily compliment him for giving hospitality to his former pastors and other ministers of his denomination. Suppose, however, that the name of the President was "Al" instead of "Cal"? Suppose that Al were the occupant of the White House and at the recent meeting of the bishops in Washington he put up seven of them? Would not the weikin ring, the toasting and the night be filled with the clamor of the patriotic partisans of Liberty pulling down their sheets over their heads while galloping on to the defense of Washington? Would not the press of the country volley forth in the largest headlines upon the Romanizing of the capital and the prostitution of the White House to the purposes of the Pope? Please don't take us too seriously. We know that we're out of order and we shouldn't be so un-ethical as to mention it, but it does make a difference whether it is Cal or Al."

White Collar Jobs

Are young persons flocking to the "white collar job" because of the customary two weeks' vacation with pay?

An affirmative answer may be read into a recent report of Industrial Commissioner James A. Hamilton dealing with the vacation policy in this state as applied to office workers and factory workers. In a statement issued a few days ago Commissioner Hamilton points out that a study of 1,500 factories disclosed that 90 per cent of the number gave vacations with pay to their office workers, while only 18 per cent of the number gave vacations with pay to their production workers. Among other things the survey of these 1,500 factories for vacation data showed:

That the larger establishments lead in giving vacations to their factory workers, 39 per cent of the plants with more than 2,000 employees have such vacation policy.

That only 9 per cent of plants with less than 50 employees provide vacations for factory workers.

That the average vacation for office workers was two weeks, for factory workers one week.

That the food and chemical industries rank first among industries which have a "vacation with pay" policy for their factory workers.

That only 6 per cent of the factories had abandoned previously established vacation policies for their workers.

That employers who provide vacations for their factory workers favor the plan. These employers said that the vacation policy resulted in "increased loyalty to the firm," "reduced turnover," and "contented workers."

Even after giving away a large stock of new dimes, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is still able to dodge the question.

There is a slender echo to the following editorial paragraph in an esteemed non-Catholic secular paper: "Mussolini suggests the transformation of the Italian Chamber of Deputies into a sort of 'Academy of Immortals.' Why could we not imitate our own precious Senate in a similar innocuous and decorous manner?"

Big Subject

In an editorial on "Pure and Mixed Races" the "Times Union" of Rochester tries to cover a big field, in fact far too big to cover in many times the space allotted even to a leading daily editorial. Here is "how our contemporary handled the topic as far as space permitted:—

America, "the polyglot boarding house," has two inmates whose racial strain is pure, and whose history may be studied with profit by those who fear the deteriorating effects of mixed bloods.

One is the American Indian whose failure to make a place for himself in the sun is not due altogether to the high-handed methods of the white invader.

The other is mountain type, say of Kentucky, whose archaic culture in the modern world has earned for him the sobriquet, "our contemporary ancestor!"

The lesson of this comparative study is that, left to themselves, people of pure racial strain either stand still or actually go backwards! America, the most progressive nation in the world, and with the greatest zest for pioneering, is a nation of mixed bloods, races and creeds.

Apparently the polyglot boarding house is not all loss.

So thinks Professor Frank Boas of Columbia University in an illuminating article in a current monthly. Professor Boas points to the aristocracy of Europe as an example of what comes of in-breeding. He believes the selection of immigrants on the basis of racial type is both unscientific and impossible.

What, however, is both scientific and possible is the filtering out of the mentally defective and of the physically diseased who bob up in the stream of immigration. And filter them out at the point of embarkation.

This country had the opportunity 30 or 40 years ago to restrict immigration to the racial strains already dominant in the United States. It is too late to do that today, and too cruel. And maybe the outcome will not be so dire as some have pictured it as being. The ethnologist who says that pure races are not the best races, has a great deal of evidence on his side.

Changes

Announcement of a testimonial dinner to William C. Page upon his 70th birthday, January 25, 1926, implies the reflection that there have been many changes during the comparatively brief period of Mr. Page's personal recollection.

When his "family were living in Devonshire, England, the Valley of the Genesee was but an Indian trail and even Rochesterville—the precursor of the present city—was years in the future. The Pages and MacDonalps saw the Genesee Valley develop. In fact they set up and operated most of the grist mills that were planted along the water rights and power of the Genesee river between Rochester and Portage—and beyond. The 70 year old birthday celebrator ranked in his day as one of the best millers in the country.

That was while Rochester held the title "Flour City" and before the Minneapolis-St. Paul combine and machinery forced out the old turbine operated mill with its individual owner-proprietor.

Telephones, automobiles, motorcycles, motorboats, radio, wireless all have come into general use within the last few years of Mr. Page's life.

Politics, too, have changes. Roosevelt P. Flower, Edward Murphy, Jr., David B. Hill, Hugh McLaughlin and Richard Croker and other state leaders who were intimate with Page are gone. So are the local leaders like Frederick Cook, Judge W. E. Werner, William H. Tracy, John Miller Kelly, James Malley, Louis M. Antisdale, George W. Aldridge, George Warner, Hiram Edgerton, Cornelius R. Parsons, Thomas Brown Martin J. Callahan and Valentine Fleckenstein. John D. Lynn and John Pallace are almost the only contemporaries of Page's who survive and are in active life.

Irrespective of politics, or nationality or other consideration, thousands of "Bill" Page's admirers congratulate him and hope he enjoys many more birthdays.

LIKE OTHER people typesetters occasionally make errors. These mistakes make trouble but there is a Kansan who is thanking his lucky star for a typesetter made.

The Kansan owned a lot in Florida for which he paid \$250. He had been in Kansas only two years when he heard of the Florida boom and wishing to cash in on it he advertised his lot for sale in one of the Florida papers. He asked \$400, thinking that a tidy percentage to clean up in two years. The linotype operator knowing the price at which lots were selling in that section decided the figure was an error and added two ciphers, quoting the lot for \$40,000.

The man was surprised at the number of replies received and the quick arrival of a prospective buyer in person. The prospect said: "I see where you're advertising your lot for \$40,000. I think that's a bit high but I'll offer you \$35,000." The Kansan breathed a faint "all right" and was dazed when the buyer handed him a check for that amount.

Drifting?

Perhaps, the Democrat & Chronicle is right in its diagnosis of the moral and financial illness of France:—

An American financial expert who travels much to see things for himself and whose conclusions are informing is C. W. Barron of the Boston News Bureau and other publications devoted to finance. Just home after six weeks in France, he does not hesitate to say that the need of that country is a strong government by dictatorship; and he inclines to think that such a government would be welcomed in France and internationally in Europe. Owing to lack of honesty and courage in her political leaders, France is drifting into a slough from which, apparently, only the strong arm of a dictator can pull her out. The most prosperous sections of the Continent have such governments, and from a material point of view a coup d'etat would seem to be a desirable thing for France. But her military chieftains are busy in Africa and Syria, and Europe is looking for a civil leader like Mussolini to arise.

France is very rich and should be highly prosperous. Her crops have been abundant, she produces substantially all her own food and draws tribute from all the rest of the world. American tourists and merchants paid her about two hundred million dollars last year. The farmers of France were never before so prosperous. Her export trade is extensive owing to the depreciated franc, but her position is like that of a merchant conducting a fire sale whose prosperity cannot last long. Her fiscal troubles are due to deliberate tax dodging and to her incompetent and dishonest politicians who will promise anything, while never intending to carry their promises out.

The rise in prices in France has not kept pace with the depreciation of the franc. Five tourists rode in a taxicab three quarters of a mile at a cost of about one cent apiece. London has the highest taxicab rates in the world owing to her heavy taxation; but her cabs are cleaner and better handled than anywhere else. England, with only 40 per cent of our population, collects more taxes than we do and is getting on her financial feet, but France, with 73 per cent of her people on farms, does not like to pay taxes. She drifts along refusing to face the situation. Capital is going out of the country so rapidly as to threaten a capital famine. Her politicians seem unwilling or incapable of saving her; and the only alternative appears to be a ruler strong enough to control the situation and brush the feeble, selfish politicians aside.

The Balkans

Press despatches telling how Prince Carol of Roumania had renounced regal succession to his infant brother brings to mind that in the Balkans at least, the war did not see the end of monarchy and nobility. This picturesque part of Europe is always on the verge of a revolution—not to establish a Republic—but over which of royal blood shall be the temporary custodian of the crown and throne.

The Rochester "Herald" paints this picture of the Balkans and those who live in them:—

Since 1912, there has not been a year of undisturbed tranquillity in Greece, scarcely more than that in Bulgaria and no rest whatever from nervous tension in Albania, Jugoslavia or Roumania. The Balkans are chronically impatient with peace and ready for war. In spite of the industry and frugality of the inhabitants, they cannot lay up any considerable national wealth because of their readiness to squander their entire possessions on ammunition and firearms.

Having achieved a republic, Greece has had to face the machinations of plotters who have sought not only a restoration of monarchy, but the establishment of a dictatorship. Thrown out by a popular revolt, the dictator has returned to power through military force. For the time being the people seem helpless, but there is no doubt the present phase of politics is temporary. Greece will not be content to remain under military rule for long. Inasmuch as the present master of the country, General Pangalos, promises to arm Greece for war on land and sea, it is certain the powers adjacent to Hellas will have something to say shortly with regard to the new militarism at Athens. Thus the Balkan pot makes ready to boil over again.

The League of Nations will be called on for another squelching expedition.

In Roumania, home of grand opera royalty, the crown prince refuses to remain married to a princess and elopes to Italy with the daughter of a merchant. The abandoned princess appeals to the dazzy church. The first time he scoffed at religion was really his formal introduction to his future pal—crime. If little religion is gained at home, and still less at school, one can hardly expect to have the deficit made up out on the highway of life where evil companions troop down four abreast. The child that is born in a hospital, fed on a bottle, pampered with a money and whose religion is picked up on the street has been given a good start toward penitentiary walls.

You'll find too, that the man who contributes liberally for the walls of his new church will never break rocks for it.

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Sunday, January 17.—St. Anthony, Patriarch of Monks, a Saint of the third century, gave away vast wealth and went into the desert where he practiced the perfect life of the spirit. Many flocked around him seeking advice and after twenty years of solitude he consented to be their spiritual guide. Thus was established the first monastery. He died peaceful at an advanced age.

Monday, January 18.—St. Peter's Chair at Rome. Among the ancient Christians it was the custom to celebrate the anniversary of the consecration of their Bishops as an annual feast. In the ancient martyrologies is found the feast of the Chair of St. Peter. It is appropriate for all Christians to celebrate the founding of this mother church, the center of Catholic communion in thanksgiving to God for His Mercies to the Church and to implore His future blessings.

Tuesday, January 19.—St. Cananus, King and Martyr, was a King of Denmark, noted for his devotion to the cause of Christ and for his solicitude for the welfare of his subjects. When a rebellion sprang up among the people, the King was surprised at Church by the rebels. When he realized his danger he confessed his sins at the foot of the altar and received Communion. Then stretching out his arms before the altar, the Saint recommended his soul to his Creator and in this posture he was struck by a javelin thrown through the window and fell a victim for Christ's sake.

Wednesday, January 20.—St. Sebastian, martyr, an officer in the Roman army, who led multitudes to the Faith, among his converts being the Prefect of Rome. A false disciple betrayed Sebastian and he was led before the Emperor who ordered him shot to death with arrows. He was left for dead but God raised him up again and, of his own accord he went before the Emperor and urged him to stay the persecution of the Church. This time he was beaten to death with clubs.

Thursday, January 21.—St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr, at the age of twelve years was led before the pagan altar of Minerva and ordered to offer incense to the goddess. While the idolatrous rites were proceeding she raised her hands and made the sign of the cross. The pagans seized her and after the most cruel tortures she was beheaded.

Friday, January 22.—St. Vincent, martyr, was Archdeacon of the Church at Saragossa. Together with the Bishop Valerian, he was brought before the tyrant Diocletian and sentenced to die. The Bishop was sent into exile. Vincent was tortured and then sent to prison to recover so that he might be tortured anew. His wounds did not heal, however, and he died in prison.

Saturday, January 23.—St. Raymond of Pennafort, was a member of the Spanish nobility and was distinguished as a teacher. He renounced high honors to enter the Dominican order and labored throughout his life for the redemption of Christian captives and for the conversion of infidels. Several miracles were credited to his intercession during his life time. He died in 1275.

THE WIDE HORIZON

The Catholic Herald, Sacramento, Cal:

"Twenty years ago when Gerald Chapman left school he scorned religion."

The Chapters of crime written by Chapman are almost identical with those enacted by less picturesque criminals. At some point in life a criminal comes to the spot when he pitches religion into a lonely spot and takes the road to the left. To some this decision comes late in life but to most criminals it comes early. Crime chaperones a man to jail while religion leads him on to happiness both in this life and the next. The man with the crime-bent in his makeup let it get in only by usurping religion place. From then on he is continually battling to free himself altogether from religion. He is like a kite that tugs at its cord, not realizing that it is the only tie that is holding him aloft. The kite falls when the cord snaps and likewise the man when he cuts himself away from religion.

It's a simple matter to trace back the history of all criminals and find the point where they first left the church. The first time he scoffed at religion was really his formal introduction to his future pal—crime. If little religion is gained at home, and still less at school, one can hardly expect to have the deficit made up out on the highway of life where evil companions troop down four abreast. The child that is born in a hospital, fed on a bottle, pampered with a money and whose religion is picked up on the street has been given a good start toward penitentiary walls. You'll find too, that the man who contributes liberally for the walls of his new church will never break rocks for it.

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Vow of Venetians To Build Church Being Fulfilled

Venice, Jan. 2.—Cardinal La Fontaine, Patriarch of Venice, has blessed the foundations of the church to be erected at the Lido in fulfillment of the vow made by the Venetians in 1917 when their city was threatened by the enemy. The enemy advance was later checked on the famous battle line of the Piave. The king was represented at the ceremony by the Duke of Aosta. The government was represented by a cabinet minister and among other notables present were General San, commandant of the Bologna army corps, Admiral Tanca, in command of the naval department and naval base of Venice, the Prefect, the Armenian Patriarch, several ladies-in-waiting to the queen, representatives of civic and religious organizations, and hundreds of citizens.

After formal addresses and messages had been delivered, a priest read the Latin document which is to be placed in the cornerstone. The duke and other officials signed this document. A fragment of stone from the Holy Door of Saint Peter's, in Rome, and a fragment of rock from the Grotto of Lourdes were also placed in the cornerstone.

When the foundations had been blessed, the great crowd joined in singing the "Veni Creator."

No Joy Riders in Africa With Gas \$2.00 per gal.

Thousands of tourists look with dismay at a sign that notifies them that the price of gasoline has arisen to 25 cents per gallon. In fact, quite a few of them will tell one unhesitatingly that such a price is preposterous. These signs, however, serve to give missionaries from Africa a good laugh, as at the present time gas, benzine, petrol, or what would you, is selling at a flat rate of \$2.00 per gallon subject to delivery, perhaps sixty days after ordering or perhaps six months.

Father Van Aken, African missionary of the White Fathers, stationed at Tabora, East Africa, informed the National Office of the Society of the above fact, adding that although the fuel was very costly, was nevertheless convenient and, in fact, downright necessary in cases where long quick trips were contemplated, as the motorcycle is perhaps the fastest and most appropriate mode of traveling in this country.

The missionary explains that the high cost is due to a one-man monopoly on gasoline on the East Coast, that man being one Smith McKenzie, native of the heather and thistle fanned land. This added to the delivery which is slow and expensive transportation, chiefly by native carriers, brings the product to an almost exorbitant price and gives the delivery of same an uncertainty that makes it all the more welcome when it does arrive.

Jugoslavia Hierarchy Applauds Faithful For Holy Year Works

Zagreb, Dec. 30.—A joint pastoral has been issued by the hierarchy of Jugoslavia to the clergy and faithful expressing their appreciation of the worthy and dignified manner in which they have aided in the celebration of the Jubilee year. Particular mention is made of the numerous pilgrimages to Rome of the chalice presented to the Holy Father, the large donation made by the faithful toward the construction of a commemorative church at Duono and for the restoration of the church of Saint Francis Xavier here.

The letter recommends Catholic social action as outlined by the Holy Father and, referring to the school problems of the country, urges the people to insist that their representatives work for the preservation of laws safeguarding religious instruction.

The lack of a Catholic daily paper is sadly felt in Jugoslavia, and the pastoral suggests that the attacks of a hostile press make the foundation of a Catholic daily a necessity for the five million Yugoslav Catholics.

Lastly, the letter refers to the centennial of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi and urges the faithful to become associated with the Third Order which already has 80,000 members in Jugoslavia.