

WHITE AND BLACKS

HAVE SOCIAL EQUALITY DINNER IN NEW YORK.

White Women Sandwiched in Between Negro Men and White Men Between Negro Women.

Nothing in recent years has so stirred the white people of this country as the "social equality" dinner given in New York on Monday night week under the auspices of the Cosmopolitan club.

The purpose of the dinner, and of the movement of which it is a part, was, frankly and confessedly, to break down the social barriers between the two races, and the advocacy of intermarriage, expressed by whites and blacks alike at this remarkable dinner, was greeted with the loudest enthusiasm of the evening.

There were ninety-three people at the dinner, the proportion of negroes being about two to one, while among the whites were a large number of white women, affiliated with "settlement" work and socialism.

The seating arrangements were so devised that a white woman invariably sat between negro men.

A DESERVED PROMOTION.

Col. R. W. Hunt Made Superintendent of Train Collectors.

The announcement contained in a Washington dispatch that Col. Robt. W. Hunt had been promoted by the Southern railway, being appointed superintendent of train collectors, was welcome news to his friends in South Carolina, who feel that any promotion given him is deserved. Col. Hunt was for many years division passenger agent of the Southern, with headquarters at Charleston, and last year was promoted to the position of assistant general passenger agent with headquarters at Atlanta.

The train collectors of the Southern railway have heretofore been under the direct personal supervision of the auditor at Washington, but in order to facilitate and improve their work it has been decided to enlarge the force and to have them report direct to a superintendent in charge.

Col. Hunt has had long experience in the passenger service of the Southern and when it was decided to create the new office of superintendent of collectors he was decided upon as

and he began his new Friday, Col. Hunt's assistant.

STATE PAWN SHOPS

Lending Money Upon Property As Old As Society.

PIUS II. OPENED THE FIRST

The Mont de Piete a Great Success in Paris—It's Run in the Interest of the Poor Under Direct Government Control, and Is a Boon to Humble Folk.

Lending money upon property, great and small is probably as old as human society itself. But it was not until Middle Ages that authority stepped in to prevent abuses in this connection and protect the masses of the people from usurers.

In the middle of the fifteenth century there was between the church and the monarchs a third power, which, although it worked in secret, nevertheless dictated terms to the proudest nobles. This power was the purse of the Jew.

In 1464 Pius II. opened the first State Pawnshop in beautiful old Perugia—that ancient cradle of art on the quiet Umbrian Hills. The idea was to relieve the peasants and humble laborers who unquestionably often passed their lives in utter servitude to the money-lenders.

The necessary capital was obtained by pious appeals to the rich and noble, and in a few years branches were founded in every city in Italy. For generations thereafter these establishments were under church control, but gradually they became a part of the public service.

The system took three centuries to cross the Alps into France. It was in 1778 that M. Necker, the famous minister of Louis XVI. caused the first lantern of the Mont de Piete to be hung out in Paris. Twelve years later, however, the revolution broke out and the constituent assembly decided to close up the short-lived institution.

Naturally enough the old pawn brokers and usurers at once resumed their business and were more extortionate than ever, the game being now entirely in their hands under peculiarly advantageous conditions. Their oppression indeed became so great an evil that the provisional government had sense enough to restore the now famous Mont de Piete, as the State Pawnbroking Department of France is called.

This vast national concern is run

and it lends money at nine per cent. A private person is allowed to lend money on goods in Paris or in any part of France. This monopoly is conducted as wisely and with machine-like precision, with no usury, no nagging, no hurry, no discourtesy and no unkindness. The Mont de Piete is dealt with its auxiliary offices in every quarter of the great city of Paris and "succursales" or branches throughout the provincial cities is beyond doubt a very real boon to millions of humble folk. It will take into safe-keeping and store the stove of the street chafin' seller at the approach of spring and takes charge of the "mountain" of the food drink peddler when chill October warns him his trade is at an end. It will lend the out-of-work laborer sixty cents on his tools that he may go here and there in search of employment.

The headquarters of the institution are in the Rue des Blanc-Manteaux and there are two great branches, one in the Rue Roquette, and the other in the Rue de la Harpe. The latter is the more important and is somewhat inconspicuously placed near that noble institution the Ecole des Beaux Arts. One enters through a passage leading to an open court surrounded on all sides by the various buildings of the Mont de Piete. On the left, as you enter, is the department of "Engagements," where the prosperous receive their pledges. Next comes the hall of "Engagements," where articles are received and beyond that the immense auction room where unredeemed pledges are sold.

It is curious to observe that although crowds are present in the various departments, pledging, redeeming or buying at auction, there is no noise or excitement and certainly no confusion. It is an anxious crowd but a silent one which passes about the counters of the receiving department. Here is an artisan on a day's work, a dry goods clerk, an elegantly dressed lady "pawning" her fables instead of putting them in cold storage for the summer. The whole transaction is looked upon as most matter-of-fact. Parcels handed across the counter are taken to an inner room to be valued by the appraiser who never so much as sees the applicant. The first parcel is perhaps a christening set of silver cup, fork and spoon. The value turns to his little weighing machine weighs the silver, tests it and he passionately calls out "Twenty-five."

A malacca cane follows with a top alleged to be gold. It is rubbed on a test stone, flicked with acid and promptly denounced as an imposter. Diamond rings and brooches go through most searching examinations. There is no sentiment.

DESPERATE BATTLE.

One Man Kills Another After Being Shot Down.

Dr. J. E. Garrison, shot and killed J. D. Williams, an electrician for the Consolidated Coal Company, at Flat Creek, Ala., in a duel in the public road. Previous trouble had existed between the men about family affairs and when Williams saw Garrison he asked him to wait a few minutes, and securing a pistol, shot Garrison down. While on the ground, the latter shot Williams to death. Garrison is dangerously wounded.

Now Mr. Hearst no longer holds communion with Democrats, is it not time he was called upon by the Democratic National Committee to resign as President of the League of Democratic Clubs.

If a "reasonable number" of Republican members request it, Speaker Cannon agrees that the bill for free wood pulp and print paper will be discussed at the caucus. That is quite a concession from Uncle Joe.

MAN-EATERS OF THE DEEP.

Ocean Tigers That Are Both Feared and Hated by Seamen.

Imagine a whole school of 4,000 pound monsters swimming at railroad speed. And with vast jaws armed with 12 rows of triangular teeth that spring erect like snake fangs when prey is struck in a lightning dart! Such, says the New York Press, are the voracious and dreaded ocean tigers, the largest of the man-eating sharks, feared and hated by every seaman afloat.

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Pell knew he was in frightful peril. With sudden resolution he shot up, and as he did the terrified monster—sharks are notoriously timid—swung its huge tail and swept away in a perfect cyclone of mud and sand.

Once on the surface the man beheld as he knew he would a little flotilla of the fateful triangular fins. He was perhaps 30 feet from the cruiser and saw it ed. Slowly and steadily he splashed and ate splashing he now and then he behind, and saw the shadow of located him first creature. Now spring level with the dorsal fin of one creature.

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Can This Be True.

We saw it stated in a letter from Washington the other day that the figures of the internal revenue bureau for the fiscal year 1907 show that in the State of Virginia, where saloons are licensed in different communities, there were granted 2,357 licenses to retail liquor dealers. In the State of Kansas, where the sale of liquor is forbidden altogether, but where drug stores do a rushing business, a total of 2,583 licenses were granted to dispense liquor at retail.

The population of Virginia is nearly one-fourth greater than Kansas. Licenses to retail dealers in malt drinks like beer were issued in Kansas to the extent of 637, while in Virginia the total was only 172. There were 101 licenses to wholesale dealers of malt drinks in Kansas and only 82 in Virginia.

The letter goes on to state that in the State of Maine, where prohibition has been upon the books for fifty years licenses to retail malt liquors were granted to the extent of 468 against 172 for Virginia. The population of Maine is less than half that of Virginia. In the State of North Dakota, where prohibition is State wide, retail liquor dealers were granted licenses to the number of 1,055 and yet North Dakota does not have one-fourth the population of Virginia. In the same State were 850 men holding licenses to sell malt drinks.

According to population there is one retail liquor license in Kansas for every 428 population, while in Virginia there is one license for every 794 people. In Maine there is one license for every 661 people while North Dakota makes a worse showing than any the others, by having one license to every 241 people.

According to the census figure in 1900 the deaths from drunkenness furnish almost as startling figures. For every 100,000 people in Maine there were 2.16 deaths from drunkenness, while in Alabama where saloons were then licensed, the figures are 1.10. Kentucky, where booze was as free as water in 1900, made a worse showing than Maine, the figures being 1.42.

Can these figures be true? Can this be true?

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