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The RECORD-UNION and WEEKLY UNION are the only papers on the Coast, outside of San Francisco, that receive the full Associated Press Dispatches from all parts of the world.

Weather Forecast. Official forecast for the twenty-four hours ending at midnight January 6th: Northern California—Fair weather, followed Sunday by probable rain in the northern portion; continued cold, followed Saturday night by slightly warmer weather; light to fresh northerly winds.

REGULATING THE PAVN BUSINESS. New York papers are advocating official control of the pawnshops which levy such an exorbitant tax upon the necessities of the poor.

These facts are commented upon indignantly, and the demand is made for legislation reducing the rates. But we fail to see how this is going to remedy the evil, so long as the valuation of the pledge is fixed by the lender.

Let us hope that the board, which is an industrious one, and disposed to be progressive and make an enviable record for itself, will not hesitate to-morrow to reply to the petitioners.

But the pawnbroking business may be said to stand outside of the lines of such argument when usury is debated. It is an exceptional business that falls under license classes and always has been recognized as a calling to be kept under surveillance by the law.

In Paris probably is found the best pawnbroking system. Its Mont de Piete—there are several in France—is so managed that it is practically free from scandal.

It is under the supervision of officials, who are kept within bounds by an elaborate system of reports and examinations. Only a low rate of interest is exacted, and very nearly the market price value of the pledge offered forms the basis of the loan.

But the reason for the success of Mont de Piete, and why it is so helpful to the poor, is that it is not conducted with a view to great gains to private capital, but rather to accommodate the needs of those whose needs demand of them temporary sacrifices and the payment of reasonable reward to the capital.

Denmark has something such a system, and in our own country Boston has set up a system free from most of the abuse of the pawn-shop. An administrative council has charge of the French Mont de Piete, and is subject to a select legislative committee, while all valuation for loan basis is fixed by a Board of Appraisers, which is required to ascertain the market value of the pledge and then lend upon four-fifths of that price, if the goods are of gold or silver; if they are of other character the loan must be based upon three-fourths of the market value.

Under this system the forfeited pledges, when sold, must be disposed of publicly, and if there is a surplus earned in excess of the loan and its interest, it is placed to the credit of the pledgor, to be drawn whenever he or she chooses. If it remains, however, with the Mont de Piete it earns interest for its owner for three years. If it is not then claimed, the whole sum escheats to the capital of the institution.

It is not alone the poor who avail of the Mont de Piete in France and Italy, but the rich and well-to-do also. It will be remembered that in 1871, when France was in such distress, the Commune by decree restored to all owners articles of clothing, linen and bedding, and all books and tools pledged at Mont de Piete for sums not exceeding twenty francs without any payment of interest or principle. Though this drew 8,000,000 francs from these institutions, they were equal to the demand.

There are now in France over sixty of these Mont de Piete, and it is recorded that never yet has there been scandal or complaint about them. Belgium, Russia, Holland and Germany have to some extent copied after the French model, but nowhere is the system so complete, helpful and free from cause for complaint as in France. It is said that China has had such a system for ages, but it is there wholly charitable and makes no gain for the capital invested, but only sufficient to meet expenses of maintenance.

There would seem to be no reason why New York should not inaugurate some such a system as that of France, as an example for this country. There is no State that could better afford to make the experiment. It might be more difficult under our political system to keep such institutions under surveillance, but we do successfully control and supervise the administration of savings banks and insurance companies, and we could probably do just as well or even better in the supervision of capital invested in Mont de Piete in America.

THE APPEAL TO THE SUPERVISORS. The County Board Convention has presented its petition to the Board of Supervisors, through the Executive Committee. At both sessions of the convention, in October and December, strong respectful resolutions were passed in the nature of petitions, and the subject matter of which the Executive Committee has now presented to the board. They ask the Supervisors to submit the permanent trunk road question to the vote of the people.

That this is a general representative petition is not questioned. That the Supervisors ought to grant it is clear. That they will do so we do not doubt. But it is suggested the election could be more economically held next fall. This is error. The advertising of the call will be the same, no matter when the election is held; the election officers' expenses have been guaranteed by the petitioners for the election this winter.

If the election is postponed until next winter a whole year will be lost, and probably more, because permanent road-building cannot go on in the rainy season, and after November, 1894, the work could not be entered upon before the setting in of winter. But if the election is called now and held in February, by April work can begin and the county will have eight months of the present year in which to go on with the work. Under the other proposition nothing would be undertaken before April, 1895, at the earliest.

But another strong reason is that this purely economic question should not be decided in a political contest, nor mixed up with the election of State and county officers and legislators, and possibly the Capital-removal question. It ought to be kept from all other issues and be passed upon by the people without any other question entangling it.

The Board of Supervisors ought to grant the petition whether they are fully advised as to legal propositions or not, because there will be ample time before the details of the official call can be prepared for the board to receive from its counsel full advice as to the law. If that advice shall be adverse—which we have no fear—then the board will simply decline to publish the official call, and that will end the matter.

may, it is said, pass muster, together with a few old master pictures that are offered. In the amateur list there is, however, some very creditable work, but it is not amateur work that is bid for by the fair authorities. What is the matter with our artists? There are enough of them and they have notable works at command sufficient in number. They made, we are assured, an exhibition of one hundred pictures in the California building at the Columbian Exposition that was highly creditable; why is it, then, that upon their own ground they do not do still better? In the list of contributors thus far published we do not discover more than two names of artists of any considerable coast reputation. Either the artists are indifferent regarding the success of the art department of the fair or else there has been some mismanagement that has offended the leading artists. The art department should not sink to a level of mediocrity; it will be a shame if it is not rescued from the commonplace. If the artists refuse to come forward with good works the management should turn its attention to securing exhibits of high merit that are now in private collections. Local pride may, we think, be safely appealed to in this matter. There are in the State many notably fine canvases from Pacific Coast studios that the general public has seen very little of, and that probably can be had on proper application and assurance.

THE HAWAIIAN MATTER. It need not be assumed that in communicating to the Hawaiian Provisional Government a request and demand, for it to reinstate the Queen, that Minister Willis has intended to convey the threat that President Cleveland will use force to accomplish the end had in view by the demand.

The President has already explicitly declared that he will not use force, since he cannot do so without the consent of Congress. But the request and demand made by Minister Willis very evidently are parts of the original plan to set the United States right in this Hawaiian matter, on the basis of the policy of the Administration, which is to confess that in the dethronement of the Queen this Government gave unwarranted aid, and therefore committed a great wrong which it is its duty to right, so far as can be done by the Chief Magistrate, and after him by Congress.

FRANCE is actively engaged in driving the anarchists out of that republic. France does not care where they go so long as they depart from that realm. We ought to see to it that this scum and froth of political crankdom does not drift to our shores.

The best opals are obtained from Hungary and Honduras.

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