

NEWPORT'S IMPENDING SOCIAL



Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Who May Assume Leadership

The "Old Set" Preparing to Assert Itself for Dignity and Decorum

What is this we hear? Newport about to reform? Newport, the gay, the mad, the eccentric and frivolous capital of fads and fashion, to wear the mask of dignity and decorum?

According to what are regarded as well-authenticated reports from the inmost circles a war to the knife, metaphorically speaking, which, once and for all, will decide the disputed question as to who shall hold the reins of social leadership.

In the coming contest for premier honors Mrs. John Jacob Astor and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish are said to be leading the opposing forces, which are known as the "old set" and the "new set." Society awaits the contest with much more than its usual languid interest. For the success of the "old set" will mean the passing of the extravagant and spectacular doings of the past which left a trail of pyrotechnic notoriety through the days and weeks of the Newport season; it will mean a ban on monkey dinners, "race suicide" luncheons, "pig" games, notorious high gambling at bridge and other features that have become connected in the public mind with that ultra-fashionable resort of the very rich and the truly frivolous.

Among the old families which will be represented in the contest are the Vanderbilts, Astors, Dyers, Taylors, Pearsons, Stewarts, Brookes, Gerys, Baldwins, Winthrop, Kernochan, Robinsons, Wetmores, Shermans, Browns, Wysons, Twomblyes, Van Alens, Goelets, Thompsons, Kings, Clews, Warrens and Blights.

One has not heard of some of these so much lately as of the Fishes, the Orlinths, the Joneses, the Belmonts, the Lehrs, yet some of the less familiar names represent the bluest blood and the most ancient social traditions of New England and the rest of the land. When the attention of the average American is called to the doings of Newport society, the celebrated monkey dinner is promptly recalled to memory. What a sensation it caused, to be sure! The Newporters were invited to Crossways, the splendid residence of Mrs. Fish, for a Sunday luncheon. Imagine their amazement when, on entering the dining room, they saw sitting at the head of the table, as an honored guest, a grinning, jabbering chimpanzee. The creature was fed and petted and had a really lovely time. So did the other guests; the affair was voted a great success, a brilliant, splendid, daring idea. Mrs. Fish was radiant.

Following the entertainment of "Consolet," the chimpanzee, Henry Walters secured a tame ape, which acted as host on his yacht Nadarra. Then the Lehrs got a white cockatoo, which they took with them to the Casino and other places of amusement. Mrs. Fish had given society the cue.

Shortly after this occurred the "lady and the pig" incident. It was on the last day of the Newport Horse Show. The scene was colorfully brilliant.

Suddenly, a woman uttered an exclamation and raised her forefinger. Others did likewise. There was a murmur of amazement—and then of cooing, delighted admiration. Walking along the promenade was a woman in lace, carrying in her arms a squealing pig, washed white as milk and tied with blue ribbons.

Then the pig became the pet of society.

It was followed by others, more or less fantastic. One might continue ad infinitum reciting such incidents. When Mrs. Fish assumed a greater social prominence upon the retirement of Mrs. William Astor, in 1906, she stated as her platform, "Society wishes to be amused. It is like a spoiled child. It thinks it has everything it wants, and cries for something it knows not what. It wants something novel; it needs a flip, and I try to give it flipps."

And she did. One of these flipps was the erection of a theatre on her own lawn, and the importation from New York of the entire company of "The Chinese Honeymoon."

Another notable success was her "Harvest Home" success at the close of the season. The guests came in costumes representing vegetables; one was



Mrs. Robert Goetz, (Dress by Phillips)



Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr.

carrot, another a cabbage, another a turnip and so on. As they parted they sang Tosti's "Good-bye, Summer," and were showered with autumn leaves.

One Fourth of July was given a dinner to sixty persons. In the centre of the table was a lake where miniature yachts, modeled after those which took part in the international races, were propelled at great speed. Firecrackers rent the air with spluttering noise while champagne corks popped.

These entertainments set a mad pace; other hostesses tried to equal them. Entertainment was no longer the hospitable and good-natured, free and easy caring for guests; it was a dizzy, eye-racking, brain-burning, heart-aching contest for novelty, excitement and features surpassing each other in spectacular display. Money was spent in enormous sums; the cost of single entertainments amounted to \$15,000 and \$20,000.

It can head first into a woman, who scanned; passed through the legs of a young clubman and sent him sprawling to the ground, upset the composure of a fat dowager who made a frantic dive after it. And following the pig was a motley crowd of laughing, noisy, excited men and women.

People rushed into one another, fell head over heels in a wild scramble after the porker. Finally, one young woman, with a swoop of the arms, fell upon the pig, and grabbing it tightly, kicking and squealing, carried it back to the mistress and got her prize. For many weeks the pig race was the topic of conversation.

Another matron was not to be outdone; however, and a few weeks later sent invitations for a dog party—for prize-winning barkers, owned by the members of the set.

Wine was held to their noses and the right paw of each bow-wow was placed on the table. As they sipped the wine, a string was manipulated and the kennel of roses fell to pieces, revealing a stuffed cat, in which was a mechanical device which worked the tail with life-like motion.

There was a howl from dogs and women, and in an instant the canines were upon the cat. The women screamed and laughed; the dogs growled and tore the kitten to shreds. Servants rushed into the room and separated the tangled mass of dogless before they got at one another's throats. That dinner was a great social event.

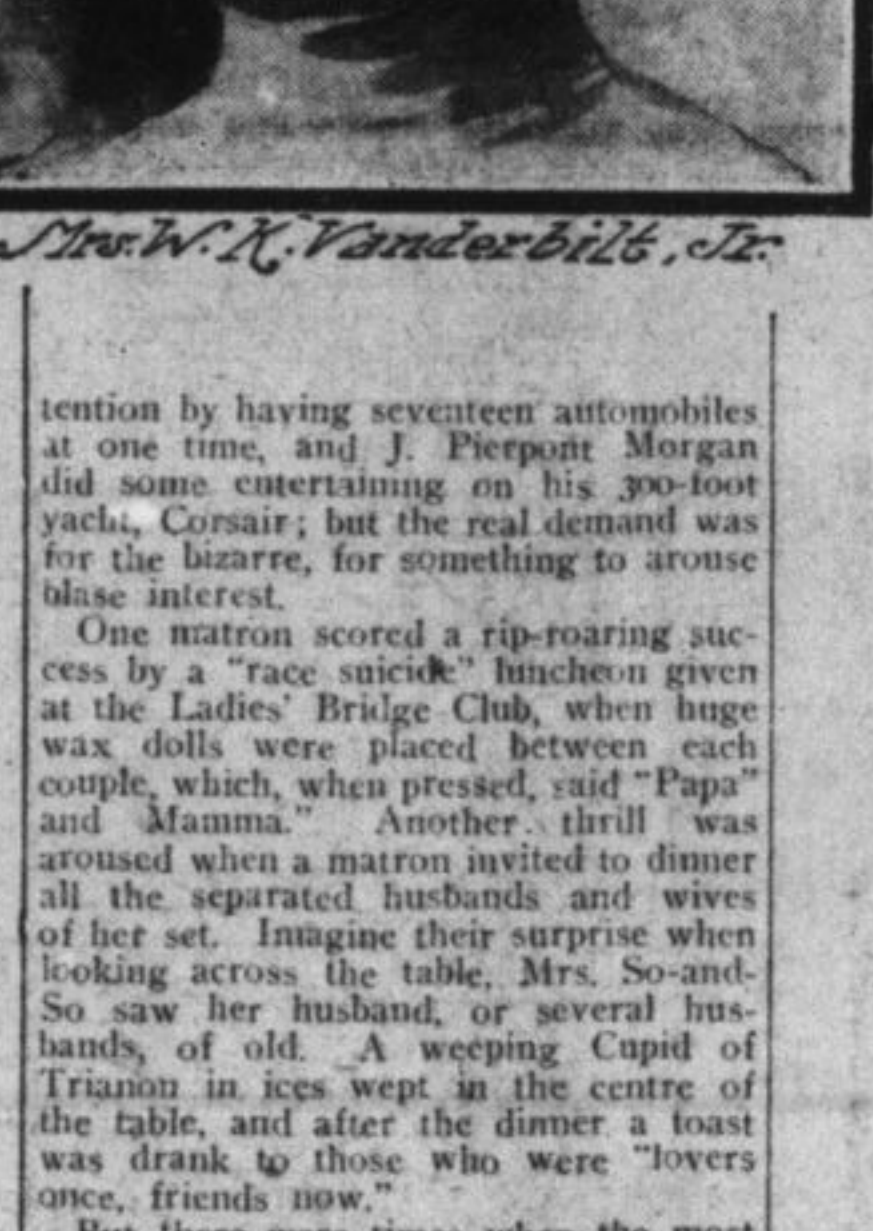
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Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, One Faction.



Mrs. Philip Lydig, One of the Younger Matrons.

attention by having seventeen automobiles at one time, and J. Pierpont Morgan did some entertaining on his 300-foot yacht, Corsair; but the real demand was for the bizarre, for something to arouse blasé interest.

One matron scored a rip-roaring success by a "race suicide" luncheon given at the Ladies' Bridge Club, when huge wax dolls were placed between each couple, which, when pressed, said "Papa" and "Mamma." Another thrill was aroused when a matron invited to dinner all the separated husbands and wives of her set. Imagine their surprise when looking across the table, Mrs. So-and-So saw her husband, or several husbands, of old. A weeping Cupid of Trianon in ices wept in the centre of the table, and after the dinner a toast was drunk to those who were "lovers once, friends now."

But there were times when the most fantastic failed to amuse—and then Newporters had recourse to bridge. In many delicate bonhomies women gambled thousands. On Bellevue avenue is a pretty two-story, stone banding surmounted by a tower and flanked by terraces covered with roses. This is the home of the Bennett Club, the pet of Mrs. Fish, Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs, Mrs. Edward R. Thomas, Mrs. James W. Gerard and Mrs. Elisha Dyer.

Here on a summer afternoon one can see eight or ten tables going. Men and women with smiling faces bend over cards. There is intense, subdued, excitement. Then the winnings are estimated, from gold relics small check books are drawn; checks are cashed by the cashier. Of course, there is a good deal of gossip about winnings and losses.

Now, it is said, there is to be a change. It is said that one young woman won enough in a season to buy a splendid French automobile; and it is whispered, sub rosa, that not a few will enough to pay their expenses during the season.

Mean while the "older" set looked on with disfavor. While the "younger set" entertained the king and scored success after success, her friends regard her as the logical successor of Mrs. William Astor.

On July 4 the Newport Clambake Club will give the first bake of the season. Mrs. Fish and Mrs. Astor will be there. Mrs. Astor will occupy Beechwood, the home of her mother-in-law and the scene of many state affairs during past seasons. On July 4 the war for supremacy is expected to begin. Society is on tiptoe with expectancy. At the Clambake the scales will begin to tremble, the factions to divide. Then it will be seen whether dignity and decorum are to be once more characteristic of the Newport season.

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THE FIRST ELECTION

Ever Held in Canada Was in June 1792.

By a coincidence with a purpose the people of the two great central provinces will on the same day, June 8th, elect their representatives in their Houses of Assembly. It was in June, 1792, that the first election was held in Canada. Then, as now, the people of these two sister provinces, were called upon to vote, only names have been changed, for then they were known as Upper and Lower Canada.

In 1791 Canada, consisting of the Valley of the St. Lawrence and the western region bordering on the Great Lakes, was divided into two provinces and given representative institutions—responsible government did not come for half a century later. The bill providing for this division was prepared by Lord Grenville, Colonial Secretary, and after being submitted to Lord Dorchester, Governor of Canada, was introduced into the British House of Commons by William Pitt. The days of the great Prime Minister seem far distant now, and yet it was his eloquent tongue that called upon the British Colonies to plant in Canada the seed of parliamentary institutions. Then measures were criticized and resisted with great vehemence, and with greater eloquence than is the practice to-day either at Westminster or at Ottawa. The record of this debate is studded with great names—and there were giants in those days. Pitt introduced the bill, and one of its principal opponents was Charles Fox, perhaps the ablest debater that ever raised voice in a deliberative assembly.

Fox contended that the two races occupying Canada, should not be separated into two provinces, but be drawn together. He also contended that the Legislative Council should be elected, and not appointed by the Crown. His views prevailed for a time, but long after he had passed away. In 1855, when there was only one Legislature for Upper and Lower Canada, the Legislative Council was made elective. Sir John Macdonald approved of the change and George Brown opposed it. Ten years later when the constitution of Confederated Canada was drafted, the elective principle as applied to an upper chamber was abandoned, and the members of the Senate were made appointees of the Crown. Pitt's views have not been prevailed.

It was during the debate on that first of Canadian constitutions that the dramatic quarrel broke out between the two great colonizers, Fox and Edmund Burke. The friendship of twenty-two years came to an end in tears. Burke

never thought highly of Canada, and referred to this country as "the bleak and barren region." He thought he saw in the bill an attempt to incorporate into the Canadian measure some of the principles of the French Revolution, and perhaps a step in the direction of introducing republicanism into Great Britain. Burke persisted in discussing the Revolution and was repeatedly called in order. Fox, threatening to withdraw from the House until they were ready to proceed with the Canadian bill. The bill passed, going into force on December 26, 1791. In the following June the first general election took place.

The Legislature of Upper Canada met at Newark on the Niagara in 1793. Its Assembly contained only seventeen members and in the person of John Macdonell, the County of Glengarry furnished the first speaker. It was a business-like House, for it transacted all its affairs, which included eight bills, within five weeks. Among acts passed was one fixing the tolls allowed millers for grinding grain at the rate of one-twentieth. The election of one member was annulled, that of Philip Dorland, returned for the County of Prince Edward, He was a Quaker, and not being able to take the oath of office he was not seated, and another election was held. Perhaps the despatch with which this Legislature was able to transact its business was due to the fact that many of its members were "plain people," for Governor Simcoe favored the election of men of that order.

A Jolly Tipping Story.

Washington Star.
Senator Fuiten at his annual Oregon salmon dinner in Washington told a tipping story.
"In Astoria," he said, "there used to be an old fisherman who brought me the first of every month a present of a splendid salmon from his mother; I always gave the old fisherman a tip."
"But one morning I was very busy, and when the old man brought the fish I thanked him hurriedly, and forgetting his tip, went over my desk again. He hesitated a moment, then cleared his throat and said:
"Senator, would ye be so kind as to put it in writin' that ye didn't give me no tip this time, or my wife'll think I've went and spent it on rum."

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