CONFESSIONS OF A GAMBLER

Forty Years At Fleecing a New Yorker's History

"NO HONEST GAMBLERS"

He Tells of Tricks Used to Cheat

"Forty years at fleecing," is the record of an old man whose face and figure are familiar to some of the smartest dwellers of New York City and to every gambling house of any note in the country. It is not a record of which to be proud, and yet it is with a little self-congratulatory toss of the chin that its possessor confesses to it. He is an old man now nearly sixty. He has made and lost a dozen fortunes. Out of the wreck he has managed to save a tidy sum—enough to enable him to support in fine style a wife, three beautiful daughters and two college-bred sons. Like the broker and the banker who grow tired of the fray, he has "retired"; yet in his eager, alert mind there still dwells every secret known to the card shark, every trick of the "skin" game.

From Paris to London from San Francisco to New York, from Canada to New Orleans, he has picked these up. Some he has invented himself. Never, until a week ago, had he divulged one of them. The unwritten law among gamblers forbade it. But in a moment of enthusiasm he was persuaded to throw light on these dark secrets of the gaming house. From the lips of a man who had witnessed many tragedies of the green table it is interesting to learn how he accomplished it, how he has managed to escape the law, how he could look upon card-sharking as a legitimate business.

When you call on this retired gambler you hand your card to a neat boy in brass buttons in the hallway of one of the tallest, smartest and most expensive apartment houses that front on the west side of Central park. You are ushered into a reception room, where soft lamps glow under pink shades. The apartment is furnished in perfect taste. Here and there are odd and beautiful things from all over the world—things bought with other men's money. A pair of tapestry portieres from Turkey hang in rich folds over the doorway leading from the reception room to the library. In one corner a cabinet containing perhaps not genuine "peachblows," but many other kinds of curios, stands high against the wall. It is a Chinese affair in richest teakwood, with dragons carved up either side and the head of a hideous god peering over its top.

In another corner an Oriental divan piled high with perfumed satin pillows, stretches itself under a silken tapestry, caught with queer old scabbards.

Here, when the interviewer called sat the gambler, a fine looking old man with features like ivory—a nose strong, very straight, and full of power; blue eyes, keen and full of white hair and mustache of a Kentucky colonel, the bearing of a dandy. In his hand he held a half-burned cigar and his manner was that of a cotillon leader.

As the visitor entered the room a tall beautiful girl in gray swept out at another door. She was the gambler's daughter, a Smith College graduate and a popular belle of a smart West Side set. Nowhere was the atmosphere of the card table present—and yet all of this was bought with money passed over the green described as nothing more nor less than a "Jekyll and Hyde" feeling. Nothing in a few nervous lines and a few heavy lines as down either side of the straight mouth of the man before you, the nervous twitch in his keen old eyes and perhaps the extra tremor of the white, thin, nervous hands told of the life he had led and the lives he had wrecked. Here are the words by which he accomplished it, told in his own words, and in the manner of one explaining the science of starching or telling of explorations in Central Africa.

The man who cheats at cards earns his money. The professional gambler must throw all sentiments to the winds when he embarks on his career. Friendship—why 'friendship ceases,' as we say, the minute play is started. Honor, honesty—all go. You are out to win—win, no matter how. You can show no mercy. You may be sitting behind the hand in the deck; you may know that the other fellow has—something that he will play to the limit. You know that if he bets his pile he is ruined. Do you let up on him? Oh, yes, after he has shoved over his last chip and can't get credit for any more. No quarter! I have to do it. You may be willing to buy wine for the crowd afterward to the extent of a hundred spot, but you didn't let that man keep five dollars in front of him.

Why is it? Simply because you are a gambler. Did you know that gamblers divide the human race into two divisions? They do, and their classification beats that devised by the learned ethnologists. The kind consists of gamblers and—"producers." The 'producer' is the man who makes money by some other means than gambling. Sometimes we call them 'suckers,' but all 'producers' are not 'suckers.' Some producers become gamblers, but until they have forsworn all other means of livelihood they are outsiders and cannot hope to learn the secrets of the 'profession.'

I have been a gambler nearly all my life, and I will say now that the honest gambler has never been born. It is impossible for him to be honest. Times there are when he does not cheat, but it is the lack of opportunity. We are out to win. It is our business to win. Gambling gives all chance to the honest man. We try to eliminate chance as far as possible if we are to make a livelihood out of it.

Not all successful gamblers make a business of it. Take my own case. I don't drink—never was intoxicated in my life. I needed my wits with me. Moreover, I am a specialist. Draw poker is my game. The others can play the horses, buck the faro or roulette, but I made up my mind that if I mastered poker I must devote my attention to that game and no other. If I had devoted the attention, the brains and the energy to some other calling, I might have been a millionaire. But I have done fairly well as it is.

Let me tell you what work it involved. Of course, I had to learn to play the game. That sounds easy when boys pick it up in a few nights. I learned more than the value of flushes, full houses and fours. I learned when to lay down a good hand, when to bluff, when to play my hand pat when a pair of deuces would have beaten it. I studied them. I knew the meaning of the slightest twitch of an eyebrow, no matter how impedturbable my opponent was. I learned the value of lightning decision. I had to make up my mind to raise or lay down when the slightest hesitation meant going out and hunting up a man to stake me to enough to buy chips for another game. I had to be bold enough to cheat when the slightest tumble would have meant exposure and disgrace—for I played 'a gentlemen's game.

"There is no such thing as a gentlemen's game unless you know the history of every man at the table—and even then it isn't. For nearly forty years I have played I have belonged to some swell clubs. Of course I have cheated. I could not have won enough to pay my dues regularly if I had not. I did not win all the time. That would not have been wise. But I lost to the right men. They were not confederates, for I had none. But I lost to them, and when complaints were made by those whose money I had won the others came to the front and mentioned my losses to them.

"I wore good clothes, had a good address, and no one suspected that I was a gambler and a cheat. I did not make the mistake of playing all the time at one club. One night a week was enough at each. Often my business compelled me to leave town. On these little trips I went to other cities to play poker. Once after a run of feigned hard luck, I quit playing entirely. I was careful to announce the fact. What do you suppose I did in the interval? I drew $75 a week for marking cards.

"That is the principal secret of my success—marked cards. I knew how to do it, and practically all my life as a gambler I have played with decks so marked that I could read the backs of the cards as well as others could read the faces. There are few packs which cannot be fixed in this style by a little time and patience on the part of an expert. Of course it is possible to buy 'brace' decks where the marking is done in the printing. Thousands of this sort are sold where the denomination and suit of each card is delicately traced on the back, so skillfully done that the keenest eye cannot detect it unless the combination is divulged.

"But I preferred to mark my own cards. I saw to it that they were used at the clubs where I played. If I could not hoodwink the steward I found out where he bought his cards. There was always some confidential relations with certain persons in the trade. Of course the others were at my mercy. They might as well have spread their hands down on the table face up. I knew what every man held. When I dealt I could decide who should take the pot. But I did not often resort to crooked dealing. It was too hazardous, and then—, it wasn't necessary. I could wait until luck came my way. A man can bet pretty freely when he has a small full house and knows the best hand out against him is an ace-high flush. But that isn't all of it. Suppose a man opens a big jackpot on a pair of jacks and doesn't better his hand on the draw. How easy it is for me to stand pat on a pair of trays and bluff him out of the pot.

"There are all sorts of ways to mark cards. The simplest is the best. To the casual observer there must be difference between the cards. Take this pack. Do you see anything wrong about the backs? Look closely. No? Certainly you would not, if you saw them only in shuffling and dealing amid the excitement of the game. They are marked and I can tell you the denomination and suit as fast as I can deal them. This is the ace of spades; this the king of clubs; eight of spades, and so on.

"All quite remarkable until you get the key and then it is so plain that you feel like kicking yourself. With this pack there is a border in the form of a wall of Troy, with white dots in the center of each open square. Starting with the upper right hand corner the dot in the first space represents an ace, the next to the left a king, queen, jack ,ten and so on down to deuce. Mark out the dot with ink of the same color as the background of the card. If the dot is missing in the ace square the card is an ace, and so on along the line. For the suits start on the upper right side. The dot missing from the square below the ace means spades, next diamonds, clubs and hearts. Do the same with the corner diagonally opposite, and you have the cards marked so the signs will show when the cards are reversed.

"So minute are the symbols that they appear incidental. In a 'gentleman's game' they pass unnoticed. In fact, no one but a card sharp could detect them even after his suspicious have been aroused.

"Yet a man earns his money playing with marked cards. It is a frightful strain. In the first place, you must learn the combination so thoroughly that you don't have to stop to think. Your eyes must be on every card that falls if another man is dealing, and as soon as it falls. Some men hold their cards too closely to permit the backs to be read. Then you must remember what each man received in order to judge his draw. If he holds up four diamonds you must take note whether he gets a diamond on the draw. If his four cards are two pairs you must be on the lookout to see whether he fills his hand. And then—you might be found out. Discovery, disgrace hangs over you all the time, and you must see everything without apparently paying more attention to the cards of the others than anybody else around the table.

"A professional gambler scents marked cards as quickly as a diamond expert detects a flaw in a stone. His faculties are trained that way. It may take some time to grasp the key to the cheat, but he instantly grasps the idea that crooked work is afoot. An amateur poker player, no matter how expert, hasn't the slightest chance against a professional. There are too many tricks in the game. The professional knows enough of these to make it a sure thing, while his opponent is floundering hopelessly in the mazes of chance."—New York Press.

TARIFF ON OXEN.

French Chamber Discusses Increased Taxation of Meat.

Paris, June 30.—The chamber this evening discussed a bill submitted by M. De Busey, Republican Radical ,providing for an increase of the duties on cattle and fresh meat. Jules Siegfried, Republican Democrat, contended that the proposed duties were unnecessarily high. M. Mougot, the minister of agriculture, said the government did not think it was its duty to take the initiative in this matter and he thought that the increase proposed was excessive. The protectionists, he said, of whom he was one, must not exceed reasonable bounds, otherwise they would eventually lose the advantages gained.

The chamber passed the first clause of the bill, fixing the duty on oxen in the general tariff at 20 francs and in the minimum tariff at 30 francs.

EDUCATION FOR THE FILIPINO

Higher Institutions of Learning Sure to Come

ENGLISH BEING LEARNED

Aristocracy Is Against the Friar Sentiment

In connection with the project of the Philippine government of supporting 100 Filipino students each year in American institutions of learning, it is worthy of note that the idea of having a "Philippine university" has only not been abandoned ,but is assuming more definite shape. For the first year or two of the new educational system in the islands entire attention was given to building up primary schools. Last year high schools, with a sort of intermediate grammar-high-school course, and with some manual training, agricultural and normal courses in most cases, were started in nearly all the provincial capitals.

This was a long step toward meeting the request, urgent from the first, of the better educated well-to-do Filipinos that higher instruction be provided in English. For lack of such schools the sons of the very class of the Filipinos which, in one sense, it is especially important to reach first of all to insure the success of the American administration, were being sent as before, to the friar schols in Manila. For the present, doubtless most of them will continue to ignore the public high schools, but in time, with the establishment of a connected system of high school and university instruction in English, it may be expected that the children of rich and poor will mix more in the public schols.

Meanwhile, it is for the moment interesting to note how the sons of the "hol polloi' are in many ways getting the start of their more favored fellow countrymen, especially in the learning of English. Perhaps this condition is to be viewed with some degree of complacency, as promising a more independent lot of "common people" with the coming generation than the Philippines has ever yet known.

The members of the Filipino aristocracy, who are also anti-friar in sentiment, have from the first of the commission's rule, clamored for a university in Manila modelled on our American institutions. But, aside from the determination to build the new Philippine education system from the ground up, not by ornamentation at the top, the insular revenues have never been just what Gov. Taft thought they should be before undertaking this plan. At least, other things that seemed more urgent have been preferred to it, sometimes to the great disgust of Filipino "Americanists." For instance, within the limits of the educational scheme itself, the agricultural school and the industrial school at Manila, with branches, have been preferred to it in the appropriations.

It is possible, however, that some of the $3,000,000 voted by Congress for the relief of distress in the Philippines will be used for the establishment in the Philippines of a government university at Manila. At least, speakin gto the people of Iloilo on his visit to Panay in March, Gov. Taft indicated that it was the purpose of the Commission to use the money for three principal purposes: First, for the purchase of immunized water buffaloes from China, in order to restock the islands with draught-animals; second ,to establish a big land bank at Manila, with branches in the leading towns outside, to loan money on reasonable terms, and enable the poverty-stricken agriculturists to work their land again on a practicable basis; and, third, as the Governor himself put it, "the foundation of an English university in Manila, to be the cornerstone of the completed educational edifice in the islands."

The governor qualified this outline of plans by saying that the terms of the appropriation, if any were not yet known to him and his colleagues, and their plans were, of course, subject to any conditions attached by congress. It is possible that the act as passed will not seem to include in its scope the use of any part of the funds directly for the establishment of a university, as the money was appropriated "for the relief of distress." In case it is not deemed legal to take any money directly from the appropriation of congress to start the university, the land bank system, once the interest payments began to come into the government, might be drawn upon to support the educational institution, thus reaching the same end directly. Perhaps, too, money for this purpose can be taken from the captured insurgent funds which still constitute a separate account amounting to somewhat less than $100,000 in the treasury of the Philippines. These funds, however, were turned over to the treasurer of the islands as they were captured and it seems apparent that only Congress ,and not the Philippine commission, can legislate as to the disposal of property captured in war by United States troops.

The requests most often made was that this money should be used to send poor Filipinos to American universities—a fitting diversion of it, since it was raised in large part by contributions levied on the Filipino masses. Now, it seems, the commission feels that, with the relief afforded from the more urgent calls on the treasury by the congressional appropriation, it can proceed with the plan for supporting young Filipinos as pensioners in American universities and technical schools. The details of the plan have not yet been give nout, but, in general, it is that one hundred young Filipinos shall be selected in competitive tests, to be sent to the United States and supported through a college course. Of these it is not improbable that a few may be girls, sent to normal schools in this country to be trained for teachers. If place is made for girls, they will almost certainly have to be chosen from among the best of the Filipino women teachers now employed in the Philippine schools; Filipino social ideas are such that it is hardly probable that any other girls would offer themselves as candidates for a course of instruction in any schools away from home except convent schools.

Of the one hundred pensioners, some think like the following division will probably be made; Law, five to ten; medicine, ten to twenty; normal courses for teachers, thirty to fifty; engineering and other technical and scientific courses, twenty to fifty. In every way the predominance will be given to the more immediate practical work. Real scientific work has never been done in the so-called colleges of the Philippines, and almost no Filipinos of those who have gone abroad for study have ever got really into touch with modern science and scientific methods. In providing each province with a "supervisor" to direct the work of public improvements, particularly roads and bridges, and assist in the inauguration of the land tax, the commission was obliged to send to this country or to draw from the American volunteer army in the islands all the men for this office.

How much money will be allowed to each of these student pensioners of the Philippine government is not yet decided; the amount will necessarily vary somewhat with the location ,and the nature of the course pursued. Students can live much more cheeply at the universities of the middle west than at those of the east. The International club of Manila has been supporting three students at the University of Michigan since 1900, and allows them but little more than $300 a year, which includes vacation as well as college term. One is in the Ann Arbor public schools, and the two older are studying civil engineering. They could not, of course, pursue a medical course, or any other where laboratory fees were especially expensive, on this sum. In all probability, the Philippine government will spend about $50,000 a year on its one hundred students. Practically all the leading educational institutions of the country have signified their readiness to waive the ordinary tuition fees for such pensioners; and this will be no inconsiderable item in some of the institutions of the East.

This plan was first urged by the former Superintendent of Public Schools in the Philippines, Dr. Fred W. Atkinson, who has just returned to his home in Massachusetts, after a trip through Asia and Europe. When the Commission felt itself obliged to defer its execution till more revenue was available, Dr. Atkinson undertook to interest parties of means in the United States in carrying it out. Nothing has come of this, however, though it would seem that here lies a splendid chance for the exercise of American philantrophy. To bring deserving young Filipinos to the United States, and give them the opportunity for study along lines for which they are individually fitted, and in which the country's needs are greatest; to give them the broadening out that will come from contact with the western world, and with its social and economic life, as well as its literature; and, not entirely least of all ,t obring them where they can get to know us in our homes, as well as come in contact wit hthe thousand and one features in which civilization here is more advanced than in the islands—tnis is surely something practical for philantrophy, more practical for philantrophy, more practical than offering $20,000,000 for the reversal of an accomplished treaty, at present, at least.

While only the International club of Manila, composed mainly of wealthy Filipinos, has taken up privately the matter of supporting Filipino students in our universities, there are nevertheless thirty of forty such students at present in this country, supported by their parents or relatives. Of these, nearly a score are in the institutions near San Francisco, including California and Leland Stanfard, Jr., Universities and the California College of the Jesuits. The others are at Michigan, Cornell, Yale and the Columbian University, at Washington. California has been chosen by Filipinos both for its proximity and for its mild and favorable climate. However, the students at Ann Arbor wrote home, during their first winter, enthusiastic accounts of the sleighing and skating; and they have all taken to the gymnasium work and improved very gretly in physique. One of them, entering with the handicap of back work in the high school and with almost no ability to speak English, had caught up with all his work before his second year was up and, even before that, was recognized as at least second to none in the mathematical work—this in the technical civil engineering course. He is nearly or quite full-blood Filipino, a condition which, according to some, would be proof positive that the mathematical, reasonable faculties are wanting in him beyond possibility of development.

One of the Ann Arbor students is the nephew of a formes Tagalog insurgent general, and he himself had been "out in the brush" only a short time before he took the International club competitive examination. He and a colleague came to the United States in a very critical mood, and were ardent partisans of Bryan during the fall of 1900. Their ideas about the American people and their country have undergone a great change during their stay here. In the case of all these Filipino students, it has been most interesting to note in their etters home the steady growth of a great admiration for this country and its social and industrial institutions, previously unknown to them or else unconceived, while our political constitution is always the object of theoretical admiration by every educated Filipino.

It is not yet stated whether or no the government competitive examinations for these student pensions will be open only to those Filipinos whose parents are unable to send them abroad for study. At any rate, all such will be given a preference in the choice.—James A. Le Roy in the New York Evening Post.

HOTEL SERVICE AMPLE.

Yellowstone Park Is Not Uncomfortably Crowded.

St. Paul, Minn., June 30.—From sources which have been characterized as entirely reliable, reports have been sent out from the West stating that owing to the crowded condition of the hotels in Yellowstone Park the park would be closed to visitors during the month of July.

C. S. Fee, general passenger agent of the Northern Pacific, said today to a representative of the Associated Press that the hotels were not overcrowded and that there had been no thought of closing the park. Mr. Fee said the hotel service was ample, and that all persons who contemplated visiting the park would be well taken care of.

IMMENSE LANDSLIDE.

Whole Top of a Mountain Broke Off and Tumbled.

Ouray, Colo, June 30—An immense land slide, 2,000 feet wide, came down from the Main range into Silver Creek basin, beyond and between the Revenue and Camp Bird mines. The whole top of the mountain broke off and another section of the mountain looks as if it would break off. The slides are caused by the melting of the deep snow. No damage has resulted.

GUILTY OF CRUELTY.

Haven't Starved the Patients but Have Punished Them.

Denver, Colo., June 30.—A special to the Republican from Santa Fe, N. M., says the report of the committee which has been investigating the charges against the management of the Territorial insane asylum was submitted to the governor today. It exonerates the officers of the institution from the charges of starving and otherwise cruelly treating the patients, but finds that some of the attendants have been guilty of inflicting unauthorized and unnecessarily severe punishment upon refractory patients.

St. Paul, Minn., June 30.—D. S. Elliott, general manager of the Great Northern Express company, ha saddled $500 to the reward offered for the capture of Harvey Logan, the alleged Montana train robber who made a sensational escape from the jail at Knoxville, Tenn., Saturday.

Knoxville, Tenn., June 30.—Through United States Marshal Austin the department of justice added $100 to the reward offered for Harvey Logan's capture. This brings the total up to $1,100, in addition to the $5,000 outstanding for his arrest.

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Tickets on sale July 3d and 4th, good for return to and including July 7th, 1903.

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Baraboo, Wis.	24.65	Fontana	23.90
Charleniox, Mich.	29.90	Fox Lake	23.15
Clear Lake, Iowa	21.15	Genoa Junction	23.40
Cleveland, Ohio	28.90	Glenwood Springs	26.95
Chicago, Ill.	20.65	Gray's Lake	23.15
Colorado Springs	16.45	Ingleside	23.15
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Delavan, Wis.	23.90	Lake Beulah	24.30
Detroit, Mich.	26.65	Lake Geneva	23.90
Denver, Colo.	17.50	Lake Villa	23.15
Denver, Colo.	15.00	Long Lake	23.15
Duluth, Minn.	25.15	Los Angeles	50.00
Deadwood, S. D.	27.30	Los Angeles	45.00
Elkhorn	23.90	Lake Chautauqua Points	34.65
Emporia	3.50	McHenery	23.15
Buffalo	38.65	St. Louis	15.05
Mukonago	24.50	Saratoga Springs	38.35
Mackinac Island	31.45	Saratoga Springs	36.40
Milwaukee, Wis.	24.65	Sandusky	27.35
Minneapolis, Minn.	21.15	San Francisco	50.00
Neenah, Wis.	24.65	San Francisco	45.00
Niagara Falls, N. Y.	38.65	Rhinelander	27.15
Oshkosh, Wis.	24.65	Sheboygan	24.65
Pueblo	14.95	Twin Lakes	23.65
Pueblo	15.00	William's Bay	23.90
St. Paul	21.15		

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