MR. DALRYMPLE AND CHICAGO.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP HERE AND IN BRITAIN.

"Conditions in the Two Countries Are Very Different," Announces the Missionary fra Glesca—Revolution in U. S. Brand of Human Nature an Essential Preliminary to Extension of Municipal Ownership Here—Not Expedient, He Says, in Interest of Our Workmen.

LONDON, July 31.—The general manager of the Glasgow corporation tramways left Great Britain amid general amazement that any one in the United States could conceive him capable of instructing the Americans in street railway management and municipal administration. He has returned from his mission to Chicago amid equally general indifference. The one thing that tickled the public was his going out. What happened to him or what he thinks of it all does not seem to be regarded as of any importance. A long interview with Mr. Dalrymple has been published, but there is little in it of the slightest interest to people on this side of the Atlantic, although it may be of interest to his American friends. To sum it up, Mr. Dalrymple comes back as he went, a Glaswegian municipal trader, with none of his old opinions changed apparently, and with no acknowledgment whatever of having learned anything from his visit. You search this interview in vain for any feature of American municipal control or street railway management which really evokes Mr. Dalrymple's approbation. On the other hand, the most significant part of the interview consists of his frequent reminders that the conditions are very different in the two countries, and that he is not prepared, as matters stand, to make any bold recommendation of municipal ownership.

Some of Mr. Dalrymple's remarks are rather cryptic. For example: "I believe the City Council is a very able and intelligent body, but if they went in for municipalizing such a huge undertaking as this there is no doubt they would require to eliminate the political element." Again, if a manager is appointed, "he must have a fixed tenure and for a fairly long period. It would not do to leave him to the chances of a changing administration. Of course, I should let him be under the direction of the City Council, but when it came to management he must be entirely free." Here Mr. Dalrymple recalls the everlasting dilemma of the trading municipalities in England. Either they must let their officials run them or they must run their officials, and in either case they are liable to trouble. Numerous municipalities seem to find it difficult to adjust their relations with officials. Manchester municipality, for instance, is becoming a standing joke in its quarrels with successive chief electrical engineers.

"If," says Mr. Dalrymple, "they could eliminate their present method of political influence, I do not see why they should not quickly make a considerable advance and improvement in municipal matters. But the system by which every municipal official becomes a little center in himself of political influence sacrifices efficiency to expediency. That is to say, it is the old idea of the spoils to the victor. If a man works to get a councilor in, he expects to be paid for it. How can you expect satisfactory municipalization under such conditions as those?" From this we may fairly conclude that Mr. Dalrymple considers it an essential preliminary to any extension of municipal ownership in America that there shall be a complete revolution in human nature as this quality is exhibited in the United States.

It might, however, easily occur to the average intelligent American citizen that human nature is after all pretty much the same all the world over. He need not by any means lay in a stock of sackcloth and ashes and mourn over the wickedness of his city politics. For, as a matter of fact, Mr. Dalrymple's sermon is nothing more than a rehash of some of the arguments most persistently urged by the anti-municipal trading party in England. It is amusing, but perhaps not surprising, that Mr. Dalrymple should see the point of them when he travels abroad and should conveniently ignore them when he is at home. It is an undoubted fact that self-interest is the guiding principle in inducing men to seek election on public bodies in Great Britain, partly for the mere love of power and patronage and partly for the opportunities afforded for direct or indirect enrichment. These general statements of Mr. Dalrymple might have a boomerang effect if some of the United States engineers who have crossed the Atlantic on business could speak what they know.

There are now enough American engineers and business men employed in undertakings domiciled in England to form an imposing industrial regiment, and as many of them are engaged in work which gives them special opportunities of observing and criticizing the operation of municipal trading their impartial opinion as to the general expediency of public ownership should be very valuable. Unfortunately there is something like a reign of terror existing which makes it most imprudent for any director or official of contracting and manufacturing companies intimately or remotely concerned with local government affairs to breathe a syllable in disapproval of the most glaring instances of municipal muddling, even when they injuriously affect the interests of his own business. The Association of Municipal Corporations is so powerful, its tentacles so far reaching and the self-defensive instincts of the Aldermen and Councilors so sensitive that any manufacturer or contractor who dared to question their infallibility and speak his mind, however apologetically, as to the evil results and tendencies of their costly experiments in socialism would never get another order from any local authority in the country and would be actively interfered with in his relations with other customers. If any official of such a company released his self-restraint and expressed his genuine opinion of the blundering tyranny of the system he would have to be thrown overboard by his employers.

Consequently it is not possible for American engineers and others working in England and doing business with municipalities to come out in the open and frankly state their experiences. Several of the largest electrical manufacturing companies have reason to be bitterly disappointed with the results of their enterprise, their latest balance sheets showing no more than a bare surplus of income over expenditure; and it is well recognized in the electrical business that such poor results are simply due to the paralyzing influence of municipal monopolies. The fact that most municipalities have borrowed all the money that the market will advance, so that they have no funds for the natural extension of their electrical supply and traction undertakings, while they persistently obstruct any attempt on the part of private corporations to do the work that they are themselves neglecting, obviously leaves the manufacturer and contractor short of what should be his normal employment, and thins his staff. This municipal mongering is a devitalizing element—a disease of the community, in fact, which is starving industry of its natural sustenance, so that the electrical manufacturing and numerous allied trades are in a state of chronic anemia. Only those concerns that fortunately secure foreign contracts from time to time are able to make a good show in their accounts.

Viewed from New York or Chicago, the British alderman may look like a combination of the noble old Roman senator and an immaculate modern trust director. He seems to need either a pedestal or a halo to do his portrait justice. But at close quarters he is often found to belong to the small tradesman class, unless he is a labor member. The tradesman goes into politics primarily to advertise his store and increase his importance and his prosperity in various ways. It pays him to be a member of the council of his municipality, in fact, even if he conforms to the ordinary standard of honesty. As for the labor member, he is more or less a professional politician. In both cases political influences of the kind hinted at by Mr. Dalrymple are very strong, although, as all the members do not have to be elected at the same time, but in triennial sections, there are not as a rule violent reactions.

The average municipal official employed by the councils is a compound of vanity, ignorance and servility. Occasionally he may be a man of strong character and actually able to swing the council his way, but generally he goes through life with the fear of an arrogant amateur committee before his eyes—a committee composed of various cliques of tradesmen and labor men, who fight furiously for any credit that may be going, but try to shift the blame on the miserable official. As the constitution of these committees is always subject to change after the frequent municipal elections, the official must always struggle to keep in the good graces of all parties, so that he has to be a Barnum freak of the "Boneless Wonder" type, or else he loses his job.

Of course it is only the insiders who know of these things. The pretense of perfect purity and efficiency is very cleverly kept up, and the ordinary taxpayer only knows that municipal trading is a failure by the wicked increase in his rates, which has directly resulted from the reckless squandering of easily borrowed money by people who for the most part have never been in business themselves except in a small way. They have been lifted off their feet by the rush of loans some years ago and are confirmed public prodigals beyond redemption.

It is interesting to note, by the way, that Mr. Dalrymple does not think municipalization is expedient in the interests of the American workmen. "I do not know," he says, "that there is anything wrong with wages and hours in America. They get a big wage, and the fact that the condition of the workingman under a municipality in America would not be very much, if anything, better than it is now under a company, removes one reason for the municipalization of the tramways that has had great weight in this country."

GOV. MICKEY ON RINGERS.

He Tells About Rules of Quoits and Asks a Question.

LINCOLN, Neb., Aug. 12.—"I am surprised," said Gov. Mickey of Nebraska, as his eye wandered over THE SUN editorial in which his skill as a thrower of horseshoes was extolled, "that THE SUN, after displaying such apparently thorough knowledge of what I insist ought really to be our national game, should fall into so egregious an error as to speak of a ringer as being a shoe or quoit so thrown as to hang on the peg.

"A ringer is nothing of the kind. I speak thus positively because this is a game I know as well as I do my letters. I played it in boyhood, a fact that has a great deal to do with my present ability as the best horseshoe thrower at the State House.

"What THE SUN describes as a ringer is, under all rules, nothing but a leaner. A ringer counts three and a leaner but two. Anybody can throw a leaner, but it requires the highest skill to throw ringers.

"What is a ringer? A ringer is a shoe thrown in such a way that after it has settled down over the peg it completely encircles it, no part of the shoe leaning upon or touching the peg.

"Under the rules, when it is disputed whether the throw is a ringer the laying of a straw, piece of string or corncob across the heel of the shoe will furnish conclusive evidence if any portion of it touches. As has been pointed out in some of the State papers, this measurement often gives rise to violent disputes, but I maintain this only develops the sturdy type of countrymen of which the nation stands in need.

"THE SUN seems surprised that I should make ringers in the method described. I see nothing unusual about my playing. I am informed that billiard players make their best shots by caroming off a selected spot, and that is simply the secret of my skill in this matter.

"There is one point THE SUN has left me in doubt upon it, and that is, is it good horseshoe throwing form to allow the right suspender to droop from the waist while the trousers remain imbedded in the boot tops, or should both be shucked?"

TEN MILE ARTIFICAL LAKE.

One of the Results of the Government's Great Irrigation Plans.

SIOUX CITY, Ia., Aug. 12.—When the National Irrigation Congress meets in Portland this month it will hear a report on the irrigation work being carried on at Belle Fourche, S. D. There are larger undertakings upon which parts of the $25,000,000 appropriated by Congress are being spent, but at no place are the possibilities for reclaiming land greater. In the tract segregated for irrigation there are 465,000 acres, on both sides of the Belle Fourche River.

The project contemplates the construction of two immense dams. The first will be more than 400 feet in length and will serve to divert the waters of the Belle Fourche River, Grow, Owl, Indian Horse, and Willow creeks into a canal leading to the main reservoir. This canal will be six and a half miles long, forty feet wide at the bottom and fifty-eight feet wide at the waterline. The dam to hold back the water in the main reservoir will be between 4,000 and 5,000 feet in length, 125 feet high, 500 feet thick at the base and 100 feet wide on top. The total cost will be $3,000,000.

This obstruction will impound a lake ten miles long and three miles wide at its broadest point. The country which will surround this artificial lake is most picturesque, being among the foothills of the famous Black Hills. Already there is talk of organizing companies to promote summer resort features. It will be the largest body of water in the State.

STATE IN THE FROG BUSINESS.

Pennsylvania Shipping 300,000 From One of Its State Hatcheries.

From the Wellsboro (Pa.) Republican-Advance.

The largest lot of frogs ever grown in captivity in Pennsylvania is now being distributed from the Pleasant Mount hatchery, in Wayne county. Fish Commissioner Meehan decided last year to add frog culture to the service rendered by the fish commission, and a few were raised at the Corry and the Erie hatcheries and distributed. The experiment was successful, and frog raising, it was decided, should also be tried at the new Pleasant Mount station. There the frog crop has been entirely successful, and the 300,000 that were raised are now being sent out.

These frogs will be the only ones the people will get from the State this year, as the experiment proved a failure this season both at Erie and Corry. At Erie an epidemic got in among the pollywogs, and at Corry more than 100,000 small frogs were eaten by snakes.

The process of raising young frogs is exceedingly interesting. When four or five days old they are ready to ship and are from 1½ to 2 inches long. When twelve days old they are worth 2 cents apiece for bass bait, so there is money in raising frogs if one knows how, since it is possible to grow 2,000,000 of them to the acre.

The frogs are shipped in cans of 400 each, packed simply in wet moss.

The 300,000 on hand are not nearly enough to supply the requisitions, which come from every county. Fish Commissioner Meehan will in the fall issue bulletins from the reports of the superintendents of the fish hatcheries giving their experience at frog raising for the benefit and instruction of the public.

The raising of frogs is easier than the raising of poultry. A frog a week old planted now will be fit for the table next year, and in two years will be a "monster."

Two kinds of frogs, the greenheads and the western, were raised at the hatchery, but the greenhead is preferred by epicures. The market price of edible frogs is from $1.50 to $3 a dozen.

POEMS WORTH READING.

The Restless Sea.

A flight of silver stars, of stars abreast,
Start from the darkness; then they part and run
Like racing swimmers, losing one by one,
Until the leader dives before the rest.
Again this star, a moon gleam on the crest
Of a deep shadowed wave, its race half done,
Shows clear an instant—midnight has begun.
The sea is sleepless by its queen's behest:
O mystic moon, O regent of the sea,
Is there no art to make these splendors lie
Silent and fixed, not restless as they are,
Changing forever? Giant slave, O free
Thyself from thy pale tyrant; her defy,
And rest in beauty without motion's mar.

MAURICE FRANCIS EGAN.

August Days in Town.

While the summer boarder lingers
Mid the scent of woodland thyme
And the waiter's pliant fingers
Clutch his solitary dime—
Here I revel, little caring
For Dame Fortune's smile or frown;
Oh, I've quite a lordly bearing
On these August days in town.

Soft the zephyrs sweetly blowing
In the shadows of Broadway;
There's a golden radiance glowing
On this perfect summer day.
Giddy people by the ocean
Seek their butterfly renown—
Let them have it; my devotion
Is these August days in town.

Sylvan scenes without a rival,
Cattle browsing on the lea,
I behold round Spuyten Duyvil
From the trolley speeding free.
Fancy pictures dryads haunting
Bits of elf land green and brown—
Oh, the lovely sight's enchanting
On these August days in town!

When the moon's pale silver sickle
Makes the fall of eve worth while
For the outlay of a nickel
I sail down to Staten Isle
And from waters phosphorescent
Gaze on Gotham's golden crown.
Beauty gilds the glorious crescent
On these August days in town.

EUGENE GEARY.

To Our Guests.

Envoys of mighty nations, met to-day
In solemn session at the Portsmouth bar,
Under the crimson stripe and silver star;
Ours is the welcome that a friend can say.
Here peace abides, while still the bloody fray
Makes havoc in Manchuria afar,
Where for Mikado and for Russian Czar
The sword and gun are hungry for their prey.

We, too, have fought to save our country's life,
Mother and brother; we, too, know the cost
In men and gold ere sounds of battle cease.
God give you wisdom now to end the strife!
Let not the opportunity be lost;
But send the dove forth with its message—
Peace!

FRANK DEMPSTER SHERMAN.

Lines to a Beer Baby on a Coney Island Boat.

Little, sprout haired, spongy darling,
Dutchified and deeply dimpled,
With your triple, rippled chins
By blue ribbons cutely crimpled—
Deep into the foam you're looking;
Not the foam the steamer churns,
But the fairy froth a "schooner"
From its bubbling depths upturns.
Beer you're sipping, baby, lipping
Up its amber beads so cool;
Imbibing calm philosophies
Unknown in Mother Winslow's school.
Not for you the Milky Way
To a high-strung, rasping life;
A keg for you wet nurse might be.
You will smile whate'er the strife:
For you're sipping, sipping, sipping
Fom the fluffy, foaming beer,
Sipping placid contemplation,
Sipping never aging cheer;
Sipping, in your infancy,
Brewed release from brooding care;
Sipping soothing solacings,
Sipping songs with dreamy air;
Songs of love and Vaterland,
Songs of simple life and true;
Aufwiedersehen songs for age—
When songs, and singers, shall be few.
Now your mother takes the "schooner"
From your baby lips and hands;
Drinks your health, then hugs and kisses
You, and points to Coney's sands.
Ah, you Dutchy fattykins;
Ah, you beer weaned, dimpled kid;
May your life be ever joyous,
As the beer foam fairies bid.

EDWARD BRANCH LYMAN.

Questions in Current Literature.

If Henry James and Meredith
Should e'er collaborate,
Do you suppose we'd ever learn
Just what they sought to state?

If Kipling tried to write of love
In melting measures sweet,
Do you believe that he could still
The bold and martial beat?

If Miss Corelli wrote a book
That critics didn't view
With scorn (in lengthy notices),
Would she be in a stew?

Could Alfred Austin write a rhyme
In which we'd fail to hear
The wheels go creaking round and round
In strident accents clear?

If Mr. Howells tried to tell
A tale of sword and slaughter,
Do you suppose the devil then
Would take to holy water?

MAURICE MORRIS.

Go Laughing.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

It's an ugly thing to whimper and a bully thing to smile,
The man who whistles stoutly lays the roughness of the mile,
There's a tavern with a dinner and a barmaid after while.
Taraloo! Go laughing down the road.

There's a stirrup cup, my hearties; let the world go wag away;
To-morrow hasn't happened and we've lost the yesterday;
So we'll celebrate the present with an optimistic lay.
Taraloo! Go laughing down the road.

A Jew's Harp.

From the Charlotte Observer.

My mouf wus made fer a jews-harp,
En my teef wus made fer hit.
When you sees me fix hit in my face,
You says, Hit's made to fit.

You hits de same lick all de time
When you goes to make hit june,
En hit 'pen's entarly on yo'sef
Wut's gwine a be de chune.

Hit's lak a sassy ooman,
Hits fling is done been flung,
'N' you knows hit's dead whenuver
Hit hushes up hits tongue.

The Latter Day Plot.

From the Chicago Tribune.

The heroes of the olden tales—
The heroes of a while ago—
Were knights who sought for holy grails,
Were models of the perfect beau.
Romance to-day has not the glow
Wherewith the former tales were lit.
Do heroes swing the sword? Ah, no.
They lug the jimmy and the kit.

No longer do they brave the gales
That on the angry ocean blow,
Nor port the helm, nor reef the sails
While madly tossing to and fro;
To-day we will not have it so.
The hero has a ready wit
By daylight; in the moonlight, though,
He lugs the jimmy and the kit.

Of hairbreadth 'scapes from frowning jails,
Of threading hallways on tiptoe,
Of rifling banks and robbing mails,
Of finding splendid swag to stow,
Of fatal footsteps in the snow
We read, and marvel at the grit
Of these new heroes that we know—
They lug the jimmy and the kit.

Good-by, Three Guardsmen, Ivanhoe!
You'll not make a best selling hit.
The modern hero is not slow—
He lugs a jimmy and the kit.

W. D.

A Tip.

I shines fo Mistah Broker,
I heah him say, ses he,
"Dey's gwine to cut a melon
Upon de X Y Z.

I drapped de rag an brushes
An' didn't wait no mo',
I streaked fo' dat ar railroad
As fast as I kin go.

I tell yo' what, my brudders,
I hunted pow'ful hard,
I walked along de roadbed
An' loafed around de yard.

But not a bite ob melon
Hab eber passed dese lips;
An' so, I warn yo' brudders
Don't take de white men's tips.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Were steam ferryboats first used on the North or the East river, and how long was it after Fulton's invention that such boats came into service?

G. W. LAY.

This is not easy to determine exactly, for the reason that the present type of ferryboat is not that first employed. In 1812, Fulton's first regular voyage of the Clermont having begun on Aug. 7, 1807, a steam ferryboat ran every half hour in daylight across the North River between Cortlandt street and Paulus Hook. This boat was of the catamaran type, the two hulls ten feet apart, and the wheels were between the hulls and operated by steam. The trip took from fifteen minutes to an hour, according to the wind and tide. Similar catamarans, but operated by eight horses in a treadmill, were in use on the East River as late as 1814. In May, 1814, the first steam ferryboat with outside paddle wheels was put in commission, the Nassau of the Fulton Ferry line. The floating bridges, operated by the tide and balance weights substantially as at present in use, were the invention of Robert Fulton. The row of yielding piles by which the boats are still guided into their slips was the contribution to ferry navigation of John Stevens. As a marine architect he stands second only to Fulton; and his first steamboat, completed but little later than the Clermont, was sent around by sea to Philadelphia, and was the first to ply on the Delaware, Fulton's monopoly excluding it from New York waters.

Will you inform me how many Indian reservations there are in New York State, their location, area and population, as nearly as obtainable?

C. H. C.

The Allegany Indian reservation, 30,469 acres, in Carrolton, Cold Springs, Elko, Great Valley, Red House, Salamanca and South Valley in Cattaraugus county, in the census of 1900, contained 1,833 Indians. The Cattaraugus reservation, 21,680 acres, in Perrysburg, Cattaraugus county; in Hanover, Chautauqua county; and in Brant and Collins, Erie county, 1,343. The Tonawanda reservation, 7,548 acres, in Newstead, Erie county; and Alabama, Genesee county, 488. The St. Regis reservation, 14,030 acres, in Bombay, Franklin county, 1,253. The Tuscarora reservation, 6,249 acres, in Lewiston, Niagara, 337. The Onondaga reservation, 7,300 acres, in Lafayette and Onondaga, Onondaga county, 530. Some local authorities would include the reservation of the Huckleberry Indians on Travers Island, a tribe of uncertain number but flowing hospitality. The State census of 1875 indicates reservations in Madison, Oneida and Suffolk counties, now disused. The Oneidas, numbering 141, hold their lands (400 acres) in severalty. The Shinnecock reservation of 400 acres near Southampton carries a population of 150, in which few Indian traces are discernible. The total Indian population of the State is about 5,000.

The word billion in French notation—adopted in this country as a political expression, "the billion dollar Congress," means 1,000 millions. In English it means 1,000,000,000,000. Do writers wishing to avoid ambiguity—accurate writers—not usually avoid the term and say 1,000 millions when they mean 1,000 millions? In other words is the use of "billion" the best English?

C. M. JERVIS.

When the word was introduced into French in the sixteenth century it was in the sense of a million raised to the second power, that is a million million, numbers then being punctuated in periods of six figures. In the seventeenth century the custom was instituted of punctuating numbers in periods of three, and at that time and as a result of the change in punctuation the name billion grew into application to the period next beyond the millions, and trillion to the next period beyond that, and so further in a system of decimal accretion rather than that of involution. Billion came later into English, for Locke ("Essay Concerning the Humane Understanding," 1687) mentions it as a novelty. The English use is in the historic sense. The American use is based on motives of convenience. The French have practically abandoned the word for their every day milliard, used in statements of money.

Will you kindly advise me as to whether there is any meaning to the words "Sator arepo tenet opera rotas"; or is it something got up for palindrome effect?

J. F. COLLINS.

If one may be permitted to regard the barbarism "arepo" as a proper noun it may be construed as meaning "Arepo, the sower, holds wheels with care," and that after all does not seem to be blessed with much meaning. The palindrome is the least of the purposes. It forms a word square with seemingly limitless possibilities as to the number of ways in which it may be read. Thus:

S A T O R
A R E P O
T E N E T
O P E R A
R O T A S

The word square is no very high type of literary activity, yet this intellectual gymnastics has engaged from time to time the acumen of some very keen intelligences.

Where and when was the first electric car operated in this country?

E. NEUMANN.

In 1880, at the expense of Henry Villard, Edison installed at Menlo Park the first actual dynamo-electric railway in America, the track being some eighty rods long. Stephen D. Field of San Francisco in June, 1883, exhibited an electric locomotive at the Exposition of Railway Appliances in Chicago, and during the exhibition carried 27,000 passengers. The current in these two experiments was carried by the rails of the track. Dr. Joseph R. Finney of Pittsburg worked along the line of the overhead conductor and operated very successfully an experimental car in Allegheny in the summer of 1882. The first electric street railway actually doing business in America was a line of two miles between Baltimore and Hampden, Md., put in operation Sept. 1, 1885. It took the current from a third rail midway between the track rails. Van Depoele's railway, four and a half miles long, went into operation at Scranton in December, 1886.

We appeal to you in regard to the correct use of the words *will* and *shall* in the following sentences: "We will be pleased to have you call on us." "We shall be pleased to have you call on us." A discussion has arisen as to the correct use of the words, and we ask your valuable paper, of which one function is to teach good grammar, to enlighten us in this matter.

WILLIAM W. JONES & CO.

This is a distinction in English usage that it is said a Scot never masters. For others the rule may be established that for the first person *will* expresses volition and *shall* expresses mere futurity; for the second and third persons the rule must be inverted. A simple example of just how not to express the sense of futurity may be found to have some mnemonic value: "I will drown and nobody shall save me." No particular interest attaches to grammar, good or bad; but the idioms and usages of our speech are worthy of preservation, and therefore of daily attention.

I am at loss to find how far back in the history of the world's people the loving cup has been a feature of entertainments, and what has been revealed concerning them in the finds from excavations of the old ruins of ancient cities. I would be glad to be put in the way of getting information.

C. H. CLEVELAND.

It goes back to the childhood of civilization and probably developed immediately as a pocular expression of the sentiment to "have one on me," a state of mind marvelously facilitated by adding a second handle to the cup. They are abundantly exemplified in most museums of antiquities. The part they played in Homer's time may be seen by referring to the lexicons and dictionaries of antiquities under the words *depas, amphiphoreus* and *amphikupellos*. In a similar culture plane, though widely separated in time, Sir Thomas Malory's "Morte d'Arthur" affords further illustration.

Please let me know which was a city first, New York, N. Y., or Perth Amboy, N. J.

A. G. HANDEL.

New York has the age, for in 1653 the Dutch authorities incorporated as a city the settlement of Amsterdam in the New Netherlands, which so encouraged the 800 people of the new city that they built a wall 2,340 feet long to keep out the Indians and the English. Neither of these hostiles ever dared the wall, but the English came by water and took the city in 1664 and named it New York. In 1673, when the Dutch regained possession, the city became New Orange. In 1674 the Dutch retired from the struggle and the city became for the second time New York. Its first city charter issued from Gov. Dongan in 1686. Perth Amboy was settled in 1683 for the announced purpose of becoming the London of America. Its incorporation as a city was not accomplished until 1784.

Crown Patents.—Kindly publish these queries to attract the attention of some one who may answer them. Are the grants from the English Crown, the Beekman and Rombout patents, the Great Nine Partners, the Little Nine Partners, recorded in this country? Are there maps accessible showing the grants east of the Hudson? Was there land granted in Dutchess county to any Lispenard, or was the Lispenard property there acquired by purchase or inheritance? How was the Ludlow land acquired? Sauthier's map, made for Gen. Lyon, shows the land of Fauconnier & Co. When was this grant made? Who were the company? If THE SUN will illumine these dark places of history it will be gratefully appreciated.

DU B.

Old Clocks.—I have an old fashioned grandfather's clock. On the back of the works is stamped "Osborne's manufactory, Birmingham." Can you give me any information as to the year he was established in business and how he stood as a maker of clocks?

E. D. HAYS.

Can you inform me in what years clocks were made and sold by William S. Johnson, 16 Cortlandt street? It may be as long ago as 1786, and perhaps longer.

N. M. RANSOM.

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS.

Auction Pitch. McK. C. says: A wants one to go and B wants three. B bids three and pitches a spade, of which suit A holds the ace. B makes his three points. Who wins?

B; because the bidder has the first count, and if he has enough to go out, he is out before A can count his ace.

Five Hundred. C. N. S. says: There should be some penalty for a player not discarding after taking the widow, and the revoke penalty should be restricted to the single player that is in error.

The usual penalty in games of this kind for playing with too many cards is that the player in error shall score nothing, his adversaries being allowed to make what points they can on the play of the deal in which the error occurs. The reason that both adversaries of the single player suffer for a revoke is that they both benefit by it, or are supposed to do so. If one of those opposed to the single player does not follow suit, the other should ask him if he has none of it, so as to save the revoke or correct it in time.

W. R. H. says: The rules published by THE SUN on April 2 for playing 500 seem to have been very generally adopted, but there are some minor points that need settling, such as the penalties for possible irregularities. Suppose a player does not discard all three cards after taking the widow, and he is found to be a card over at the end of the hand?

Readers of THE SUN who are in the habit of playing 500 can probably suggest some fair rules for the irregularities hinted at by W. R. H. When a player is found to have a card too many at the end of a hand, it may not be possible to determine whether the error arises from a misdeal or a failure to discard, so that the penalty would have to be for a foul hand, no matter how it arose. Setting the bidder back the amount of his bid seems rather severe for a superfluous card, but such is a common practise.

W. A. G. asks when the rules for playing 500 were published in THE SUN.

April 2, 1905.

Bridge. W. H. R. says: A and B are playing against Y and Z. It is Z's deal, and A is keeping the score for the table. Z asks A how the score stands and A answers, "You are 28 on the rubber game," whereupon Z calls spades, wins the odd tricks and claims the rubber. On putting down the score A finds he was mistaken and that Z was only 24 up. Has Z any remedy?

Being, presumably, led into the error of declaring and playing the hands to make the odd trick only at spades, Z cannot be made to suffer any possible loss through an error into which he is led by his opponent, and it would seem that Z should win the rubber, A having told him he wanted two points only, and Z having made those two points. The question of the responsibility of a single scorekeeper is another matter, and it is probable that some persons would insist Z should have kept his own score. The common practise, however, is for some one person to keep the score, and if that were the rule in the game referred to A should suffer for his own error.

Again: All the cards are dealt correctly, each player having thirteen. While they are sorting their hands the dealer drops a card face upward on the table. Does the exposure of this card entitle the adversaries to insist on a new deal?

This question is evidently asked under the impression that law 39 would apply but for the fact that the deal has been completed and also that the adversaries have looked at their cards. But the law governing the case is No. 67, revised code of 1905, which says that if either the dealer or his partner exposes a card after the deal is complete and before a declaration has been made, either adversary may, without consulting with his partner, claim a new deal.

Whist. J. B. K. says: N has four winning diamonds and S holds the last trump and three losing spades. N, being in the lead, lays down his cards and says "We take the rest." E insists that S shall trump the first diamond and lead a spade, losing the three remaining tricks.

Unless S also exposed his cards they cannot be called. All that E can call is the cards exposed by N.

Vingt-et-un. J. S. says: The dealer gets two aces, which he insists is a double natural and demands that all the players pay him double. B bets it is not a natural at all.

B is right. It is worth 2 or 12, as the holder pleases.

Cribbage. C. E. says: In a two hand game the cards fell 3, 5, A, 6, 2, 4; A playing first. B pegged six holes, which A disputed. Is this a run?

Yes. There are no duplicates, and the order in which the cards fall does not matter.

Euchre. Z dealt and turned the ten of clubs. All passed, and Z, having five trumps in his hand, refused to take up the ten, saying "Clubs are trumps." A, his adversary, insists that he take it up or turn it down.

The dealer must take up the trump. What can he possibly lose by exchanging any trump he can hold for the ten?

Poker. H. M. says: The dealer has helped all to the draw and has laid off two cards for himself. While he is skinning his hand to discard he is asked how many cards he takes, and he says, "Two." But on looking at his hand he finds he wants three. Is he too late to get another card?

No. Any other player could amend his draw under the same circumstances, and the dealer can, unless his word has misled a player into making a bet which he would not have made had the dealer said three. For this reason it is usual to let the dealer amend his statement under such circumstances only when no bet has been made after he has answered.

B. F. S. says: In a quarter limit game, the blind puts up a quarter, saying "Twenty-five flat." On it coming round to him he raises it a quarter. The others object, saying he cannot do so, as he said it was flat.

The age can raise the ante in his proper turn. His putting up the quarter was only putting in the blind and making good his ante at the same time, and he can raise it, just as any other player could have raised him.

F. B. H. says: In the draw, a player's card is faced. What happens?

The dealer helps all the others and then replaces the faced card.

Again: After the draw, A finds, before lifting his cards, that he has four only. Is his hand dead?

That depends on whether he asked for too few cards, or the dealer gave him too few. If he did not ask for enough cards to make up for his discard, and the next player has been helped, his hand is dead.

C. A. G. says: According to Hoyle's rules, must the opener of a jackpot show more than openers if he is not called after the draw?

Hoyle made no rules for poker, the game not being known until about fifty years after his death. The modern laws of poker say that the opener need not show more than openers after the draw if he is not called.

J. C. K. says: After having given five cards to each player the dealer gives a sixth to the first man on his left, who calls attention to it, saying "I have five." Is this a misdeal?

No. If only one player has received an extra card, and he has not looked at any of his cards, the superfluous card can be replaced on the pack.

P. J. C. says: The last man to get cards finds, before lifting them, that he has four only. Is it a misdeal?

No. The dealer can give him an extra card.

J. C. R. says: Can the opener split his pair without saying that he is about to do so?

The rule now generally adopted is that the opener of a jack pot shall always place his discard under the chips in the pool, whether he splits or not, and that if he splits, which he is allowed to do, the discard will show for itself that he had openers, so that he need not say anything about it until his hand or his openers have to be shown.

J. Q. H. S. says: If a straight flush beats fours, which is the better hand: A 2 3 4 5 of a suit, or K Q J 10 9 of a suit?

The king high straight flush, because in order to make the straight the ace must lose rank. While the ace is still the highest card as a flush, the flush is not enough to win, and to get the double value of the hand, straight and flush, the ace must go below the deuce. It is impossible to maintain that a card can be the lowest and the highest of a suit in the same hand at the same time, and the player must take his choice which he calls it, so in a straight flush the ace goes down below the deuce in a hand like the one named.

C. G. McS. says: Two packs have been in play for some time, when it is discovered that one of them contains 53 cards. Do the winnings and losings stand, or must they be returned?

All bets made with the imperfect pack stand good, except the bets made on the deal in which the imperfection is discovered. This rule is made because it is impossible to be certain how long the pack has been imperfect, and it would be a very bad rule which would allow any possibility of a player making a pack imperfect in order to get his losses returned to him.

H. R. K. says: A bets that a straight flush will beat any four of a kind except four aces. In this right?

No. Four aces are no better than any other four of a kind against a straight flush.

A. R. H. says: A, having opened a pot, is finally called by B. A says, "I have a flush." B says, "That's good." A insists on seeing B's hand, but B says the fact that he acknowledges he is beaten is enough.

If B called A, B must show his entire hand to the table. This rule is made to prevent any possibility of collusion between players who bet against each other.

THE SLAVONIC FICTION.

Foreigners, Mostly Germans, Who Rule and Have Ruled the Russian Empire.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 30.—As Russia's troubles multiply and one part of her political machinery is no sooner patched up than another breaks down, the men inside the Government are beginning to set up the case for the defense. We have had Mr. Witte himself laying it down that Russia has to be judged by standards entirely different from those that apply to any other country.

It was put forward as an excuse for the short lived nomination of his predecessor on the peace mission, M. Muravieff, that he had a "Slavonic name glorious in Russian history" and that Witte's "Courland name" was a handicap when it came to Russia having to see her representative sign a confession of defeat. And so with Baron Rosen, the papers took pains to explain that, though he had a German name, his grandfather was a Decembrist patriot, one of the band of officers who tried to extract the constitution from Nicholas I. eighty years ago.

This emphasizing of Russian tradition as something that must keep her history outside of the currents that affect other nations is not new, but the theory is going to be worked as the great justification of the present régime. Yet it is not difficult to produce abundant evidence not only that this doctrine has no truth in it to-day but, furthermore, that it was never more than a useful fiction built up by men of many races, who found it a handy explanation of the conquests and adventures which their native energy and easy surroundings tempted them to undertake.

Peter the Great's career of expansion, which started the appetite for the "russification" of the smaller peoples who were his neighbors, was generally conducted by men who were not Russians at all. When he went to Holland to study ship carpentry he left his whole empire in charge of a Scotchman named Patrick Gordon. Entire provinces in the south were conquered for Peter by a full blooded negro whom he had bought on the slave market in Constantinople, baptized Hannibal and promoted to be General.

Catherine the Second's exploits in Russia's name were carried through by just such a group of high spirited adventurers from all parts of the earth as Peter loved to have around him. With her they were mostly Germans, for she herself was pure German on both sides.

So it was all through the Panslavist chapters of Russian history, when soldiers and statesmen who were not Slavs at all were working to force on the smaller nationalities around Russia's frontiers a system which they called Slavonic, but might as well have called by any other name, as it was simply the system evolved by their own experience as the likeliest to secure the business of government and generalship as their own exclusive affairs.

The upper ranks of the Russian bureaucracy to-day are plentifully supplied with the sons of naturalized foreigners, mostly Germans. At the Foreign Office not only is Count Lamsdorff a member of the non-Slavonic landowning class, but the man who really typifies what the foreign world understands by Russian diplomacy, Von Hartwig, head of the Asiatic Department, is a man of wholly German extraction, the regular Prussian official, who lives in and for his department.

In the diplomatic service some of the foremost champions of aggressive Russian expansion in the questions that led up to this war have been men of non-Russian families. Lessar and Plançon, who made it their business to overawe the Chinese imperial court with stories of Russia's might from the legation at Pekin, were of Levantine and French extraction.

The new Russian War Minister, Roediger, is another of the German school.

In the army, where the tradition of Russian glory is most deeply rooted, the bias against foreigners is widespread. Most men who saw the early fighting in Manchuria agree that the most competent of Kuropatkin's Generals was the unfortunate Stackelberg.

He was set to do impossible tasks, such as, with 30,000 men, to force the Japanese to raise the siege of Port Arthur, and he was left to withstand the hardest blows at Liaoyang. He is a Baltic province Lutheran, the sound, scientific General of the German staff type.

The leave-it-to-chance orthodox Slav had as little in common with him as with Gripenberg, the gallant old Swede who was treated with as black ingratitude by Kuropatkin as the latter was by the Czar.

But it is only in the army that any sentiment of Russia for the Russians holds good. The political side of the Government is in its personnel a racial mixture—more so even than the names indicate.

Loris Melikoff, the great reform Minister, who drew up a constitution for Alexander II., had a Russian sounding name, but was, in fact, an American by both parents.

Prince Sviatopolk Mirsky, a Russian of historic family, was the Minister who more than any other single man gave the present zemstvo campaign its opportunity and direction. It is illustrative of the entire history of Russian administration that Plehve, half a German, half a Pole, should have stood as the implacable opponent of Western access to Holy Russia, and that Sviatopolk Mirsky, the descendant of Russian chieftains for centuries and not a tax manipulating bureaucrat, stood for political liberty and unfettered access to the experience of the rest of the world.

Russian Liberals recognize the mixture of races and welcome it. They regard all the talk of the mysterious Slav destiny, to understand which Witte says one should be born and bred in the country, as so much humbug.

It is a serviceable enough fiction to frighten timid reformers from interfering with the bureaucrat's preserves. If the distinguished defenders of the Slavonic idea, which the Slavs themselves are not greatly interested in, should cease to get rich out of the public taxes one may expect them about the same time to cease preaching about their lofty mission of protecting the Slav world from Western heresies of free government.

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