CHINA'S ARMY WELL DRILLED

AND SHOULD NUMBER OVER A MILLION MEN IN 1920.

Its Fighting Ability and Its Loyalty Still to Be Proved—On It Depends the Fate of the Manchu Dynasty—Railroad Plans and Army Plans Linked.

PEKIN, June 16.—The modern army of China has attracted the attention of army officers from many foreign countries. In view of the tremendous possibilities of an army of Chinese foreign military men are prompted to consider the ability of the Chinese as soldiers, their aptness, their knowledge and appreciation of modern methods of warfare and the development of their patriotism, on which much depends.

There is a more immediate interest in the Chinese army as it stands to-day. In its present state, as opposed to its possibilities, diplomatists and statesmen are taking more interest than military men. The reason is that upon the loyalty of the modern system of organization inaugurated by the now disgraced Yuan Si ih Kai the continuance of the white manchu dynasty in power is generally thought to depend.

The armies of China are said to include all told between 500,000 and 600,000 men; but most of the soldiers are entirely ineffective except for suppressing risings of unarmed people. The Hsunfangtui, comprising the former Manchu army of the Eight Banners, the Chinese army of the Green Standard and others, is not to be taken into account for any serious campaign. Its forces are little more than armed as compared with unarmed men, and their weapons are in most cases obsolete and ill kept.

But there are in China over 160,000 effective soldiers, trained and armed with modern rifles and rapid fire artillery. These troops, unlike the others, are schooled in the modern methods of warfare, many of them are able to read and to write a little, and they are officered by men who have studied in military colleges abroad or those in China where foreign instructors are employed.

According to the original programme this new army should increase to the number of 400,000 men in 1913 and to 1,185,000 in 1920, but that it will be permitted to develop is a grave question to some extent because of the present political situation.

It is the plan of the Chinese Government to construct in the next ten years a network of railways, which while developing the country would, also enable the Government to move troops to any frontier. At present an army of a million men would be largely ineffective owing to the lack of transport facilities; but there are several reasons why the execution of this project is uncertain.

One reason is the present hostility of the people of several if not all of the provinces to the system of foreign loans, by which alone the Government seems able to finance the vast railway projects it has in contemplation. Though the people object to the Government's borrowing money abroad, often threatening to prevent the construction of railways built with foreign money, the wealthy classes, nevertheless, have not sufficient confidence to invest their money in enterprises controlled entirely by their own people.

The new army has one great value for the existing Government as long as it remains loyal. Though it may not be sufficiently effective to defend the country against aggression it is at least well able to protect Pekin against any revolutionary outbreak which the Chinese could bring about.

One entire division is composed of Manchu troops, while Manchus are scattered throughout the other divisions. Many of the higher officers too are Manchus, but perhaps the more capable in both rank and file are found among the Chinese.

It is said by the Chinese that the Manchus have been ruined as a race by the Government system of giving to every Manchu a pension according to his class in life. The pension is not sufficient, they explain, to keep a man without effort on his own part, though it is enough to make him more or less indifferent to labor in a country where a livelihood is difficult to get. This pension measure has done much to keep alive hostility toward the race of the conqueror, and it would seem that the hostility has not been so rife in many years as it is to-day.

Reports come from the Yangtse districts that the modern soldiers there are not thoroughly relied on by the Governors, who put their confidence in the provincial troops. It is said in Pekin too that many men of the new army are supporting the demands of the delegates from the various provinces and from Chinese communities overseas, who are now here to memorialize the Throne for an early opening of the proposed Parliament, which has been promised for eight years hence.

The present situation in the modern army is much the same as that with the returned students. It is the Manchu dynasty that adopted the new army system as well as the plan of sending students abroad to acquire a modern college education. Now that these men have attained the enlightenment which the Government considered necessary for the development of the country they form a body of patriotic young men discontented with the old systems and the feebleness of the very Manchu Government which educated them.

American officers on duty in the Philippines often spend a summer vacation here, and others returning to America by way of Siberia sometimes pass through Pekin. When here they take occasion to visit one of the two divisions of the new army that constitute the strength of the forces serving as guard of the capital.

It was in the company of one of these men that I visited the camp of the division at Paotingfu the other day. We obtained permission from the War Department, the Lu Chuan Pu, our applying to headquarters being sufficient to secure the proper identification.

Mustangs ponies with high Chinese saddles and gaudy caparisons were ridden by three troopers, one of whom had his queue down his back in a tasselled end stuck in the approved fashion into the right hand coat pocket. We knew of course that the men wear their hair twisted into a knot under their military caps and that they are permitted to let their queues hang in the manner of respectable citizens if we had failed to ascertain the rule applied to non-commissioned officers. My friend from Manila was at a loss to know what measure of deference he should show the man of war, though I, being a mere civilian, was at liberty to treat rank and file with the same civility.

From the railway station we rode through the narrow, ill smelling streets of Paotingfu, entering by an intricate way through the wall, the intricacy being intended to keep out the devil, because, according to the Chinese, he moves only in straight lines. Paotingfu, it may be remembered, is the town which suffered a humiliating disgrace at the hands of the allied armies in 1900. One of the corners of a Chinese town, I do not recollect at this moment whether it is the southeast or the southwest, should never be demolished by an enemy, its destruction putting the town in perpetual disgrace; but this ignominy was here inflicted deliberately as one of the punishments which Paotingfu was required to suffer for the part she played in the Boxer rising.

It is said that the people of Paotingfu expected to be massacred when the allies entered, as they themselves would have massacred the foreigners had the order of things been reversed with them as victors. They were amazed when the foreign soldiers instead of razing the town set to work and paved the main streets running through it. The inhabitants had never before realized the value of good roadways, having been content for centuries with sloughs in rainy weather and dust in the dry seasons. They took up the new idea like children with a new toy and to-day you may ride through any alley within the walls on nicely macadamized paths.

Our ponies jogged through the narrow streets lined with houses so low that in many places we, perched high in our saddles, were on a level with the eaves of the tiled roofs. What would these people, who seldom build a two story house, have to say of the skyscrapers of America?

Naked urchins scampered out of our way or followed on the heels of our ponies begging, and bare bodied workmen came to the openings of their tiny shops to have a laugh as they always do, at the white man, whose face appears to them all features.

Passing out of the walls on the other side of the town, we turned to the left by the side of a narrow canal crowded with junks from shore to shore, so crowded that not one could change its moorings till all were ready to leave. By the side of this waterway our road led through the country for several miles to the vast level parade grounds and the barracks, mud built and mud walled, though whitewashed.

Some of the most enlightened looking men to be seen among the Chinese met us at the main gate. Several of them spoke Japanese and one knew English. The General, whom we met when we entered, had finished his education at one of the German universities.

Among them all there was only one who looked as though he suffered from the opium cure, which many officials addicted to the use of the drug are now testing with pitiful results. The others were well built, healthy looking men who would dwarf the Japanese.

We were shown into a bare, whitewashed room furnished only with a plain table and chairs and with screens over the doors. Contrary to the Chinese custom, the officers removed their caps when entering, and not only in this but in many other little ways they gave evidence of having forsaken their former satisfaction in their own peculiar customs.

Though the morning hour of drill terminated at this camp at 9 o'clock some crack companies of infantry and artillery were kept on foot till we appeared to inspect them. Then for an hour and a half we watched some of the most precise drilling that either of us had seen.

Military Attachés in Pekin will generally say that they doubt the capability of these modern troops in action. The defects of the race, of which lack of initiative is not the least, will appear, they think, when the army is under fire. Nevertheless they all agree that the model divisions go through the manual of arms with precision equal to if not generally better than European armies. It is said by some that even the highly trained German soldiers would be hard pressed to change positions in closer uniformity.

We got a company to develop an attack on an imaginary position, assailing it in open order, which is, after all, the chief drill in which infantry is trained. This attack they performed in a thoroughly approved style, and but for the pigtails of the officers the whole company, clad in khaki, might have been mistaken at a short distance for a body of European troops.

Nor is it only the infantry that drills so well. The mounted men are likewise masters of those tactics which can be learned from books. We saw a battery of artillery go through a turning movement at full gallop several consecutive times, keeping the muzzles of all four guns in perfect alignment, a thing not often seen in the Western world.

This is a striking advance since the days of the war with Japan, the war which brought these vain people to their senses. The forces they sent against their hereditary enemies the little men of whom they were contemptuous, numbered in their ranks soldiers with flintlocks, others with bows and arrows, still others with spears, and some unarmed, carrying on their backs only great flat loaves of Chinese hardtack, one slab of which is enough to last a man a month. It was their humiliation in that war which drove the Chinese Government to adopt Western military tactics.

It is the way in the East, and especially in China, to plead your own inferiority and to extol the virtues of the person with whom you are speaking. Of course this is only etiquette. Even the officers who had been to London and knew that this was not the practice of the West would at times revert to the Oriental manner of speech. When the battery of artillery, for instance, swung around into action, unlimbered and began firing with dexterity at an imaginary enemy this officer declared that though it was the best they could do he knew it was but a poor performance and pleadingly asked for criticism and advice. He said he knew that the American army was the finest in the world, and he would not agree to the American officer's remark that the Germans held that position.

The conversation turned to the question of extraterritoriality, a question which disturbs the peace of mind of many Chinese of education. One of us mentioned the fact that Chinese police and Chinese courts had no jurisdiction over foreigners within the borders of the country.

"Neither have foreign countries," said the young man, "any authority over our people. Have we not our own Ministers and Consuls abroad?"

The Chinese with comparatively few exceptions have little conception of social or any other conditions prevailing in foreign countries, but they are rapidly developing what we know as patriotism over and above their primitive feeling of distrust and dislike of foreigners. What change this patriotism may inspire them to make and how soon that change may come about no one here will venture to predict.

THE PARADE OF PAIN.

English Comments on the Spectacle Produced by the Hobble Skirt.

From the Gentlewoman.

We are asked to believe with every recurrent mode in dress that where the fashionably dressed congregate there may be seen the parade of pain, which to the serious minded looker on is little less shocking than those scenes which are witnessed at the pilgrimage to Lourdes.

At the present moment we are warned of the approach of an excruciating addition to the deplorable disappearances on the parade of pain. Those who must picture the possibilities of fashions as their extremes may end them already foresee the advent of women crippled by the clinging bond of the "hobble" skirt.

Walking with the infantile totter or trippingly, in its most perilous sense, is heralded as the inevitable feature of this season's parade of pain. Pinned about the knees by the ever narrowing skirts woman will neither be able to walk nor sit. Hobbling or standing is the only alternative presented to her, no matter for what freedom of mind and limbs she may yearn.

On the parade of pain there can be no grace, comfort, reason, common sense or liberty! We are to follow our Japanese sisters and acquire the art of hobbling. If this is the doom of the would-be ultra-fashionable it is after all not so deplorable as might be the case. There is hope for hobblers in the recollection of those "three little maids" who tripped their way so fascinatingly through the "Mikado."

POEMS WORTH READING.

Sweet Peas.

Where bees are droning all day long
And happy robins call,
Sweet peas are nodding in the breeze
Along the garden wall.
Pale blossoms, pink and lavender,
With buds like little pearls,
They bring me thoughts of other years
And prim, old fashioned girls.

Their frocks of frilly calico
Were just that tint of blue,
Their bonnets with the ruffled capes
That faded lilac too.
Sweet peas, along the garden wall,
You are the souls I know,
Of Hetty, Hannah, Ruth and Rose,
Who died so long ago.

MINNA IRVING.

The Harvest.

Chant the harvest song of the brawny reapers,
Bare arms bronzed and muscles astrain and gnarled
Like the oak boughs tossed by the winds of winter
Hoarse in their triumph!

Chant the scythe, its gleam in the golden windrows
Where the cornflower shines with its morning sapphire,
When the wheat is ripe for the wain in waiting,
Ripe for the gleaners!

Sing surcease from toil in the long sweet shadows,
Doves that coo and murmur of loving voices,
All the large content in the dreams that gather
After the harvest!

CLINTON SCOLLARD.

The Pro and Con.

I love to go on pleasure far away
To start quite early, when the morn is gray,
For some secluded country spot, and stay
For the day!

Some like a fair companion, I dare say
That may be good enough for such as they.
I think (with deference) she's in the way
On that day!

I love to see the little lambkins play,
I love to hear the grazing horses neigh,
I even like to hear a donkey bray
On that day!

Still, though I feel unutterably gay,
There is a disadvantage I've to weigh,
For when I go I always lose my pay
For the day!

LA TOUCHE HANCOCK.

Benevento.

DOUBLE SONNET IN ALEXANDRINES.

John Swinnerton Phillimore in the Saturday Review.

Eight hundred years ago, when Benevento lacked
Stuff to repair in haste her great church overthrown,
Her zelus domus tue would for waste atone
With lovely temple aisles, shafts and volutes that smacked
Of heathen dedication. Dressed, aligned, intact,
Four silent files salute the Galilean throne
White Janissaries! the marble wombs of Paros grown,
Neither did those cathedral builders leave unsacked
Tombs of the senatorial dead, but took and hung
A frieze of time defying effigies to adore
A God whom once by stealth their trembling slaves confessed.
Strange catechumen shapes enshrined aloft among
The afterborn—and each one keeps for ever more,
Wrapt in the toga fold, his hands across his breast.

Quarried in what strange pits by handiwork unknown,
Freighting forgotten wheels in places long untracked,
By play of the earthquake shock, toys of the cataract—
Whence came the blocks to build this temple I call my own?
Off in reluctant flesh and half rebellious bone
The loaded dice of antenatal bias act,
And the soul feels her human dwelling all compact
Of long ago far fetched and strangely memoried stone.
Like me my great grandfather stooped his head, or swung,
Or halted, musing, whose great grandsire long before
Prescribed the cast of his humor, zeal and sloth and rest;
Phrases that rise alert on my unwary tongue
Seeming inborn, as bubbles off the fountain floor,
Long since another's thought on other lips expressed.

Lazyday.

From the Washington Star.

Nothing at all to worry about
When the skies are warm and blue
And the hours come drifting in and out
'Cause there's not much else to do
When the locust sings on the bending bough
Where the leaf is green and still,
It is Lazyday that is with us now
Let them call it what they will

Monday's a day to doze away
A dream is Tuesday's quest
Wednesday's the date for loitering play,
And Thursday for simple rest
Friday, Saturday, Sunday too
For loafing is an excuse
For it's Lazyday the summer through
And worrying's no more use.

Is It Worth While?

Is it worth while to see youth's visions fade
High hopes and great ambitions droop and die,
To see the friends we trusted pass us by
And love itself prove powerless or afraid?
Is it worth while to live when steps grow slow,
And frost shows white upon the soft, bright hair,
While the swift, unseen life tides onward bear
Our barks to havens which we may not know?

Ah, yes—while still one hand holds fast your own
In love or friendship through the dying years,
While day and night harmonious chords intone,
And roses bloom when happy June appears,
While to the snows the pines refuse to bend,
Life is well worth the living—to the end!

NINETTE M. LOWATER.

Afterthoughts.

Dear love, when that my loosened spirit goes
Beyond the gates of silence, ask not where
My path is laid, nor what new form I bear,
But rather whisper gladly: "Now she knows
The secret of life's beauty, why the rose
Blooms and is fragrant, why the dawn is fair,
Why the larks sing and why the twilights wear
A deeper charm than any day bestows."

And whisper too when in the early spring
The first faint scents of budded gardens stir:
"Her heart, that slept a while, is waking,
And every blossom is its messenger,
And with each bird that threads the trees above
Bears unto me glad tidings of her love."

CHARLOTTE BECKER.

The Mirages.

Across the painted desert,
Toward the burning skies
From plains of phantom verdure
Their purple peaks arise
The mist along their summits
A scarf of silver trails,
From cliff to cliff the waters
Fling down their foamy veils.

From Arizona's furnace
Of arid sands and stones,
And dusty cactus gardens
Strewn thick with bleaching bones,
The traveller at sunrise
Beholds their ramparts gay,
And seeks their cooling shadows
To see them fade away.

Ghost mountains of the mesas,
No living foot can climb
Their cañons bright with blossoms
Or ledges dark with thyme.
For there the desert victims,
(So say the Navajos),
Who die of thirst and hunger,
Alone may find repose.

MINNA IRVING.

A True Believer.

The Buddhists' creed he stigmatized, their laws and doctrines he despised, and all their customs he denounced in language that was pretty strong.

Confucianism he declared—and very oft his views he aired—was just a thing made up of flaws no man of sense could follow long.

Those who in Islamism believed he (aff) were very much deceived, and he grasped every chance he could their laws and tenets to abuse.

And he was very happy when with rhabd laughter now and then and what he thought was eloquence he scorned the teachings of the Jews.

He was well known to all his friends as one possessed of selfish ends, although his friends were very few and those he had were hard to hold.

A kindness seldom he bestowed, he rarely paid the bills he owed, and to his children and his wife he was at all times very cold.

He never did a noble act, he was so very mean in fact that every person that he met would quickly place him neath a ban.

And yet he felt religion's need, and when you asked him what his creed, he with much emphasis exclaimed: "Behold! I am a Christian man."

NATHAN M. LEVY.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Arguing with me, no doubt for my soul's health, an ardent advocate of total abstinence from fermented and distilled liquors avers that milk and water are shown by science to be the natural drink of all animals. Now where does he get his scientific authority for that statement?

MODERATE.

It would not be easy to find the authority, for there is a looseness of statement in the term natural drink which admits of much variety of argument. If it be interpreted to mean that natural man, the savage in the most primitive environment, drinks water and milk it is not true. From the form of the statement in the query it is clear that the reference to milk applies to adults and the milk of domesticated animals. In parts of the world where cattle have not recently been introduced the aboriginal inhabitants are very slow in acquiring the inclination to use milk. It is a very common experience that the first drink of milk produces nausea and a strong expulsive convulsion. This militates against the idea that milk is a natural beverage to all mankind; the taste for it has to be acquired just as much as the taste for the demoniac fluids. Nor is water everywhere enjoyed by those who may know no better. In many parts of the Pacific somewhat considerable communities pass from the cradle to the grave and never know the taste of water, this because the atolls are devoid of springs or other sources of potable water. In the mountainous islands, abundantly watered, there is manifest a repugnance to water as a beverage. In the islands of each type there is a free use of salt water in recognition of its medicinal effect; it is the rule to begin the day with a draught from the ocean. To quench thirst the common dependence is upon the water in the newly formed cocoanut. If this be lacking there are island peoples who endure thirst until they can come by a cocoanut rather than drink from the abundant streams. Temperance has many arguments, but clearly this is not of their number.

Who wrote the poem in which each stanza ends with the line "If you don't watch out," and where can I find it?

MARY T. MCALISTER.

It is by James Whitcomb Riley and has the title "The Elf Child." These are the verses:

Little Orphant Annie's came to our house to stay
An' wash the cups and saucers up an' brush the crumbs away;
An' shoo the chickens off the porch, an' dust the hearth an' sweep,
An' make the fire, an' bake the bread, an' earn her board an' keep;
An' all us other children, when the supper things is done,
We set around the kitchen fire an' has the mostest fun
A-listenin' to the witch tales 'at Annie tells about,
An' the gobble-uns 'at gits you
Ef you—Don't—Watch—Out!

One's there was a little boy who wouldn't say his prayers—
An' when he went to bed at night, away up stairs,
His mammy heerd him holler an' his daddy heerd him bawl,
An' when they turn't the kivvers down he wasn't there at all.
An' they seeked him in the rafter room an' cubby hole an' press,
An' seeked him up the chimbley flue, an' everywheres, I guess,
But all they ever found was his pants an' round about:
An' the gobble-uns 'll git you
Ef you—Don't—Watch—Out!

An' one time a little girl 'ud always laugh an grin,
An' make fun of ever one an' all her blood an' kin,
An' onc't when they was "company" an' old folks was there,
She mock'd 'em, an' shocked 'em, an' said she didn't care.
An' she kicked her heels, an' turn't to run an' hide
They was two big Black Things a-standin' by her side,
An' they snatched her through the ceilin' 'fore she knowed what she's about.
An' the gobble-uns 'll git you
Ef you—Don't—Watch—Out!

An' little Orphant Annie says, when the blaze is blue,
An' the lampwick sputters, an' the wind goes woo-oo,
An' you hear the crickets quit, an' the moon is gray,
An' the lightnin' bugs in dew is all squeelched away—
You better mind your parents, an' yer teachers, fond and dear,
An' cherish 'em 'at loves you, an' dry the orphant's tear
An' help the po' an' needy ones 'at clusters all about,
Ef the gobble-uns 'll git you
Ef you—Don't—Watch—Out!

Will your nautical sharp please elucidate the following in regard to shipping:

1. What is gross register?
2. What is net register?
3. What is gross tonnage, is it the same as gross register?
4. What is net tonnage, is it the same as net register?
5. What is displacement?
6. Why is it that the foreign ocean liners lie at dock with bow pointing toward shore, while the river boats and the American coastwise steamships lie at dock with bow pointed toward the river?
7. What is the custom with regard to the flag which flies at the foremast of an outgoing steamship? What country does it usually represent?

THOJAN.

The gross tonnage is arrived at by dividing by 100 the whole interior capacity of the ship (stated in cubic feet) together with her enclosed deck houses. Net tonnage is derived from gross tonnage by subtracting from the total capacity the spaces not used for freight or passengers. These two items are different from register measurements.

Displacement is the measurement of the weight of water which is displaced by the submerged portion of the ship. This varies of course with the amount of cargo aboard. For purposes of uniformity an artificial point is assumed as the ship's mean load draught; in theory it means that the average amounts of coal and other stores are aboard, a purely arbitrary condition. The only fair comparison is with all coal and stores aboard. Displacement is stated in tons of 2,240 pounds.

Register tonnage is an artificial system first created by act of Parliament in 1835. It involves a long and complicated series of measurements designed to establish the cubic contents of the ship below the tonnage deck, which is the second from below. To this is added the cubic contents similarly discovered in all enclosed spaces above the tonnage deck. Dividing this sum by 100 gives the gross register tonnage. Deductions are made from the sum of the cubical contents after an artificial method, in some cases the actual area is deducted, in others an arbitrarily established percentage of the gross tonnage. From the remainder after these deductions the net register tonnage is derived.

The flag at the foremast is the mail flag when mail is carried. Otherwise in the case of a voyage to a foreign port it represents the country not represented by the flag of the vessel's registry.

There having been some discussion as to the use of the following, the matter has been finally left for your decision: The question is, is it correct to say "the consensus is" or "the consensus of opinion is"?

K. D. BRODIE.

Instinct with malice, this word has seemed to have a very strong attraction for careless speech. Consensus in itself carries the full signification of agreement in opinion. That should be wholly satisfactory. But when it was adopted into the diction of such as use words by ear rather than comprehension of their meaning it seemed to need strengthening. Thence arose "consensus of opinion," wholly tautological, for it signifies "agreement in opinion of opinion." Not content with this duplication, the same tendency to strengthen a word which should be strong enough in its own roots exhibits itself in the phrase "general consensus of opinion." All of which goes to show that the true sense of consensus is scantily comprehended and that on this account some simple and explicit statement of the meaning is to be preferred.

Please be good enough to inform me through your paper if there is any law enacted specially to protect persons wearing eyeglasses and if any special penalty is fixed for striking a person wearing glasses.

J. J. Z.

There is a popular belief that there is some such enactment, but it has failed to get upon the statute books. If in the course of an assault the glasses are broken and the eyes damaged the court would naturally consider it an aggravated assault and deal with it accordingly. But there is no law which constitutes it a penitentiary offence to strike a person wearing glasses, which seems to be the common belief.

Is anything known of the source of the ceremonial etiquette of rustic New England at dinner. "I have eaten an elegant sufficiency."

CHARLES T. ROBERTSON.

"An elegant sufficiency" is found in Thomson's "Seasons," Spring, line 1158. Ancient manuals of etiquette are by no means easy to come at, for those who have thumbed them most diligently are little inclined to acknowledge their possession. But the phrase is recalled from at least two rustic Connecticut sources, its full form being "I have eaten an elegant sufficiency, anything more would be superfluous." Such language goes well with the boiled dinner.

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS.

Auction Bridge. J. L. N. says: When a player makes a bid which is not enough to overcall the last one and which cannot be sufficiently raised in that suit to overcall, what is the alternative?

If either adversary goes on, making a higher declaration or doubling, the error of the insufficient call goes without penalty, but if neither adversary bids higher, the partner of the one that made the insufficient call is barred from any further bidding on that deal.

P. M. G. says: A bets that if the dealer says one spade and A doubles, the most that can be won or lost on the hand is the value of the odd trick, 100 points, and that if the dealer chooses to concede the 100 points the hand may as well be thrown up, just like an undoubled spade make at straight bridge. Is this correct?

Only half of it is correct. It is the loss and not the gain that is limited to 100 points. If the dealer won the odd, he would not get 100 points, but only four below the line and fifty above. If the dealer concedes that he has no chance, there is no objection to his throwing up his cards and giving the doublers 100 points, but with everything to win and nothing to lose, why should he? The rule in straight bridge which A quotes, the dealer's side taking two points for an undoubled spade, forbids the hand to be played, which is quite another matter, the object being to save time. Any declarer of one spade at auction would be very foolish to concede 100 points until he had seen dummy's cards.

H. W. S. says: A considerable sum of money hinges on your decision of this point. The dealer, Z, starts with one no trumps. A passes, Y bids two hearts. B passes. Z goes back to two no trumps. A bids seven clubs to the A K Q. Should he double or pass again? He passed the first time to see what would happen. On the second round he cannot bid six in clubs against the two in no trumps.

A should pass again. The moment he doubles he tells Z that there is a suit against him and prompts Z to be guided by his partner's preference for the heart suit. Doubling would probably drive Y to three in hearts before it got round to the dealer. If it did not the dealer would surely shift himself. About the only time it pays to double is when the opponents cannot get out of the declaration except by making another which will be equally expensive for them. This is not the case here.

E. T. J. says: We have had quite a row about this play at the club: Dealer bid one spade, A bid one diamond, Y one no trumps and B three in clubs. The dealer, Z, went two no trumps and A passed. What should A lead from six diamonds to the A Q 10, three small clubs and the rest small cards? A insists that Y must have his suit stopped on his left, and Z has a stopper in clubs, as shown by each in turn bidding no trumps after a suit has been shown.

The inference that a player who goes no trumps has the declared suit stopped must not be too rigidly drawn, because a good player will often take a chance that the one who names a suit has not more than five tricks in it, and he hopes for the other eight himself. In such a situation it would seem good policy to lead the ace of diamonds and see dummy's cards and also to get the fall to the first trick, after which it may be thought better to shift to clubs. A blind lead of a club, just because the partner bids that suit, when perhaps he did so merely to show strength in it as a trump suit, is not advisable when you have a suit of your own that you know you can hold the lead with until you get a line on the situation.

Bridge. N. Y. B. says: The make is no trumps, and third hand holds five hearts to the A Q J, three small diamonds and three small clubs, with queen and one spade. His partner runs off five winning diamonds. What should be the discard third hand? King and small heart in dummy.

Those who discard the suit they are not afraid of would let go one heart and then a spade, while those who profess to discard weakness would let go a club and a spade, the club discard being a very bad one however. The majority of those who discard weakness reverse the play when they discard strength, which would make the two small hearts the discard in this case, the higher of the two being given up first, so as to echo. It would hardly seem necessary, with the king only once guarded in the dummy, to guide the leader to come through it unless there were some other combination which he might lead through if not directed. The weakness of the reverse discard is that it takes two cards to complete the signal and also a watchful partner.

F. A. K. asks who is the authority for such a make as royal spades and if it is permitted to make it royal spades on a pass and also if it is necessary for the maker of a royal spade to hold at least simple honors.

Whoever introduced the royal spade declaration is too modest to come forward and admit it now. Dummy has just as good a right to make it as the dealer has. There is no limitation as to the honors held or anything else.

E. A. C. says: What is the proper lead for the second trick from these cards, clubs being trumps: A K Q J and small spades, with nothing else worth attention in the hand and no card indicating anything falling on the first trick won with the king?

It is the rule in bridge when leading never to tell the partner anything that he already knows if you can tell him something that he does not know. Having led the king and won the trick the partner may be supposed to know that you hold the ace. Knowing that you are a good player, he will expect you to make a trick with it at once, playing against a trump declaration unless you shift suits. If you go on with the jack you tell him it is just as good as the ace, or in other words that you still have the ace and the queen as well. If you led the queen you would deny the jack and if you led the ace you would deny the queen.

G. L. M. says: Out West here we have a way of our own of playing royal spades. When the make is passed dummy can choose either of two declarations. One is "Shall we play spades, partner?" and the other is "We will play spades." If the dealer in answer to the first says "Yes" or "Royal" the value of the tricks remains at two points, unless doubled to four, but the hand is played. If the dealer says "No" the hand is thrown up and nothing is scored by either side, the adversaries not being allowed to double. When dummy says "We will play spades" the hand must be played and the adversaries can double if they like. What is the objection to this method?

Nothing, except that it is entirely unnecessary. It amounts to a consultation between partners as to the make, which is bad bridge, and the only thing gained by it seems to be that the dealer's side, and not the adversaries, decide whether or not a spade make shall be played. This is rather unfair to the adversaries when they want to double and make something out of good cards, which they would, according to the suggested rule, be obliged to throw up for nothing. It is not bridge to let two partners escape scot free when their opponents hold all the good cards in the pack.

Cassino. A. D. O. says: A has a build on the board when B makes another build, instead of taking in his own build A takes in B's, which B protests cannot be done. If not why not?

All builds are public property, just like any detached cards lying loose on the table. The rule requires a player who has made a build to take it in or to make another build or to take in something or other on his next play. That is, he cannot "trail" by playing out a card that does nothing, but he can take in anything he has the cards to fit if he cannot make another build or add to the first. It is a common trick for a player who has a build on the table to add to another player's build so as to bring it up to his own, such as playing an ace on a seven build of an adversary's and putting it with a previous eight build of his own.

J. C. D. says: How do they keep the count in spade cassino?

Usually on a cribbage board, but any system of various colored counters which represent units and tens will do. Every spade and natural point is scored as soon as taken in, only the majority of the cards being left to be counted at the end of the hand.

Five Hundred. H. M. W. F. says: Which is the official or most generally adopted method of scoring this game?

Each has its advocates in various localities, much depending on how they first learned the game. One method is to rank the suits: clubs, spades, diamonds, hearts, while another is to follow the order in bridge: spades, clubs, diamonds, hearts. In both these the lowest bid, six tricks, starts with 40 for the lowest suit and advances by 20 for each better suit, and by double the initial value for each additional trick, so that spades are 40, 80, 120, 160, &c., when they are the lowest suit, clubs running 60, 120, 180, &c. The third method is to start at 40 for six in spades and to advance by 20's all the way, seven spades being worth 20 more than six no trumps. This system has the advantage of having no duplicate values. In both systems the value of the heart suit is the same all through.

Poker. T. McD. says: What is the objection to a man playing with only four cards? What possible advantage can he gain by being without his full complement?

There is no advantage in it, but it is against the laws of the game and no poker player will stand for it. It is a rule in all games that a player shall hold his full complement of cards or be penalized in some way for the irregularity. Poker is no exception.

Pinochle. M. T. C. says: Playing four hand, player lays down sequence in spades for 150. He then adds dix for 10, and adds to these three kings and queens of other suits, calling the total 300. Is this correct?

Not exactly, as the melds are not made in the right order: laying down the sequence in trumps before the royal marriage is 40 points lost. Meld the 80 kings first, then marry three of them, meld 60 queens, then add the trump sequence and the dix and it is worth 280 in all.

POLITICAL NOTES.

At the Denver Democratic national convention in 1908 Robert Davis, the veteran leader of Jersey City, was at swords points with former United States Senator James Smith, Jr., of Newark over Bryan and other things. After warring for fifteen years Mr. Davis and Mr. Smith have become friends again and have united to support the nomination of Woodrow Wilson as the Democratic candidate for Governor of New Jersey.

If President Wilson runs they expect to carry the Legislature and elect a Democrat to succeed Senator Kean of Elizabeth as United States Senator. Members of the Legislature in New Jersey are elected by counties. With Wilson at the head of the ticket the hopeful ones say that the following counties will send Democrats to the Legislature of 1911:

Hudson	14
Essex	12
Hunterdon	2
Middlesex	4
Sussex	2
Warren	2
Passaic	6
Total	42
Necessary to elect	41

It is nearly twenty years since New Jersey elected a Democratic United States Senator. Prior to that period the Democratic succession was broken only twice in forty-six years.

To secure 101 Democratic members of the next Legislature, the number necessary to elect a Democrat as United States Senator, considered generally a political impossibility, the following results might follow only after a Democratic landslide in New York State next fall," said a sanguine Democrat the other day. "Senators: New York, Kings, Erie, 29; Oneida, 1, Rensselaer, 1, Monroe, 1. Total, 23. Assemblymen: New York, 32; Kings, 18, Queens, 4 Erie, 7, Monroe, 2, Oneida, 2, Albany, 2, Niagara, 2, Chemung, Clinton, Delaware, Dutchess, Fulton, Greene, Onondaga, Orange, Rensselaer, Rockland, Schoharie, Schuyler, Seneca, Sullivan, 1 each. Total, 83."

Ray B. Smith, clerk of the Assembly, has presented his formal resignation as chairman of the Republican general committee of Onondaga county, to take effect July 31.

Former Mayor James K. McGuire of Syracuse has decided to sever all connection with the Democratic party of Onondaga county. He will make no further effort to lead the Democratic party or to advise the organization of Onondaga. He will make New Rochelle his voting residence. Mr. McGuire for twenty years has attended the national conventions of his party and was Mayor of Syracuse when he was 25. He has practically resided in New Rochelle for the last nine years.

"Politics is too expensive for me," said Mr. McGuire in explaining his retirement, "and besides my business affairs take up all my time."

Most Democrats who have looked into the situation in Nebraska believe that the fracas between William J. Bryan and his opponents over the liquor question will give the State to the Republicans this fall, and also that the Republicans will reelect a United States Senator.

While the Democratic State committeeman for Rochester, Thomas W. Finucane, has declared that the Monroe county Democrats will present the name of Representative James W. Havens for Governor in the coming Democratic State convention, one of Representative Havens's most intimate friends put the Havens situation thus:

"As I understand it, Mr. Havens will not be an active candidate for the nomination for Governor nor for any other nomination. If there should develop a strong sentiment among the Democrats of the State, and particularly among those of the up-State districts, for his nomination I believe Monroe county will present his name, but I do not believe that Mr. Havens will consent to the use of his name unless conditions such as I have described develop."

Nick Muller, the one time Democratic boss of Staten Island, has organized the Jeffersonian Democracy, with his former chief lieutenant, John J. Kenny, as its nominal head. Mr. Muller is a type of the old time political boss. He was deposed three years ago by the loss of his job as Tax Commissioner, and was superseded as Democratic leader of Staten Island by Eugene Lamb Richards, Jr., although the present Tax Commissioner, Mr. McCormack, was the first successor to Muller. The prominent Democratic leaders of Staten Island refuse to take the new Muller movement seriously, and do not believe that on primary day any substantial opposition to the present control will appear.

DOOM OF THE SWALLOW.

The Destruction of the Birds in Southern Europe.

From the Westminster Gazette.

That is bad news and sad which comes from rural France about the rapid diminution in the number of swallows which make their summer home in that country. The *Temps* is devoting several of its long articles in its delightful "Vie de la Campagne" series to it. Year after year more empty nests vainly await the return of the migrant birds, and this year those who did return were later in coming than in any former year in the memory of living man owing to the severe weather in April and May.

There is well grounded fear that the entire race of swallows will disappear and M. Cunisset-Carnot in these articles examines into the causes of the present state of things with the view, perchance, of arresting the decrease of one of the most beautiful and interesting of all the birds who help to make up the charm of the summer in European countries.

The cause for the rapid decrease in the number of swallows, it is pointed out, is either natural or preventable. The chief natural causes threatening the birds are the dangers they encounter on their long annual journeys from east to west and back again and atmospheric conditions to which they are subject and the epidemics which no living thing can escape. But, argues the writer, these causes have always existed—long before the present rapid decrease in the number of the birds was noticed. Hence there must be some other cause. Where are we to look for it?

As yet science has no answer to this question, but there is some idea that a cholera-like epidemic to which other birds are prone attacks swallows and causes them to die in large numbers. But a much more likely cause of the gradual disappearance of the birds is the barbarity by which unnumbered swallows are wilfully destroyed, either because they are supposed to do harm to crops or from sheer lust of killing or because their nests under the eaves offend the housewife's sense of cleanliness. "The manner in which we treat the birds," it is pointed out, "is disconcerting for its stupidity and its wickedness."

The writer justifies the strong terms he uses by telling of a recent experience he had while walking past a charming country house in a corner of the Maritime Alps. Under the eaves were scores of uninhabited swallows' nests and on asking the reason of the owner of the house the latter replied: "Yes, oh, yes, we had plenty of swallows even up to the last few years. I assure you it was amusing; they used to perch on the cornice and you could kill as many as you liked. And over there on the parapet of the bridge across the stream they used to sit some days in long rows talking together. You could kill eight or ten with one shot. It is curious, but there are hardly any now." "And what, pray, do you do with the birds when you have killed them?" the visitor asked. "Why, of course, we eat them! They are not as good as nightingales or robins, but it's game, anyhow."

Meanwhile some of the large newspapers in the south of France are taking up the cause of the swallows, and M. Cunisset-Carnot, in the *Temps*, ranges himself on their side with his eloquent articles, which he ends with the following appeal to authority. Together with all farmers, all bird lovers and all who are attracted by the charm and grace, the joy and beauty which the swallow adds to our country, I ask myself whether it is not time for the wise legislator to interfere seriously in order to put an end to this regrettable survival of barbarism.

CONTINENTAL HOTELS.

Omniscient Factotums and Perpetually Wakeful Proprietors.

"The foreign hotel rarely collects autographs from its customers. This coyness enables it to assume what happened in certain the-tried belfries of a provincial town," according to a writer in the Queen. "A dissatisfied boarder requested to inscribe something pretty in the visitor's book wrote to the great delight of the landlady the words, 'Quoth the raven.'

"The Continent has become used to the weakness of English folk for total immersion, and only in small hotels in small towns do you encounter now the doll's house jug and basin that were popular years ago. There is still reticence in regard to the provision of soap, the European idea