

MOST AMAZING HANDS IN THE SHOWDOWN

After Mr. Blaisdell Had Exerted His Great Skill in the Deal.

EXPERTS IN A POKER GAME

Surprise Even the Coterie of Skilled Players in Arkansas City.

"There's a heap o' things 'pears to be seen when 'pinions was made of a overweenin' Providence for the welfare of the human race," said old man Greenlaw in a critical tone.

"He removed his coat while he was talking, and there seemed to be no doubt that he was willing to accommodate the callers if they really were looking for trouble. They were all rather staid in appearance, however, and they looked at him in mild surprise, wholly unperplexed, and old man Greenlaw spoke up hastily.

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POEMS WORTH READING.

The Fearless. Who are these living dead That stare with hollow eyes. Dumb tongues and hanging head. As the slow hours go by? Compared with those who lie Within the churchyard clay. These might reply, 'We are more dead than they.'

No change of color is there: No freedom, striving power: No waste or to dare. With naught to hope or fear. Pleasant and choice location. Who enters here Hath ceased to be alive.

For what were these condemned To leave the world they knew? Why in this dungeon pent? This dumb and dreary cell? Was there some dastard crime That makes the blood run cold? There came a time When they were young and old.

The Argent Homeseekers. Now they go forth looking, looking, Looking up and down, sideways: Looking for a place to dwell in. For a place to live in. And they wait near the sidewalks. Now they wander through the city. Looking every night and day for Their ideal habitation. Heat and light and sanitation. Pleasant and choice location. Quite convenient to a station. That's the thing they always lay for. They can find, so they ideal. But they've got to make the deal. Go to take what they can pay for.

The Day's Work. From the Democrat. The day's work counts— It isn't what you mean to do, it's what you do. It isn't what you know you'll gain when all annoyances have died. It isn't what you've dreamed or planned— Such hopes are but a phantom band— The day's work counts.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Obscurely in the militia history of this city before the organization of the National Guard appeared the name of Capt. Vincent, who seems to have been a military instructor. What is known about this officer? MISS HEWSON.

The records of the Adjutant-General at Albany are not complete for that earlier period. It is a militia tradition that Capt. Vincent commanded the Light Guard in 1847, a company of the then Eleventh Regiment; later the designation became the Twelfth. In the records Edward Vincent appears as commanding some company of the Twelfth, but without specification of company, nor is there any record of the date of his commission. He transferred September 25, 1855, to command Company I, Fifty-fifth Regiment; resigned, date not of record, but his successor was commissioned January 20, 1858. Capt. Vincent was junior partner of the firm of Brett & Vincent and is mentioned in Barrett's "Old Merchants of New York," volume II, page 155. He was a descendant of French refugees who left Santo Domingo in 1793 and settled in Norfolk. His father, Vincent Parlois, was a merchant in Norfolk and had four sons, of whom Edward was the eldest. Edward had acquired such skill in matters of military drill that he was under salary in his command of the Light Guard; the money was raised by subscription, for this company was one of the show objects of the city.

A year or so ago you printed a note as to a bakery where the sign read backward and forward the same. What on earth was the sign? N. N. CRAWFORD.

Not only palindromically but chronometrically does recollection lapse, for it was more than seven years ago. As originally submitted the sign was said to read "Treka Bakery," Treka being a town in California. Other correspondents were moved to recall a prior line on the signboard, but they did not agree. One recalled the sign in two lines as "S. Gilliga Yreka Bakery," another announced the proprietorship of N. A. Noonan, each palindromic. In the course of a few years the contention drifted out to Treka and the enterprising editor of the Journal there restored the classic text, just plain "Yreka Bakery." It was an opposition bread factory started in 1855, where the "See-It-Beg" store now stands, as kept by Fred Berg. The old timers never heard of Gilliga or Noonan. Yreka has an interesting name history, one which shows that the pronunciation of Wy-ryka is correct. Its modern form is a contamination due to the fancied similarity to Eureka, the Grecian name of a town in a neighboring county. Properly, that is to say in accord with the usage of the Kikatsay Indians who gave the name to Shasta Butte, it is Wai-ka. Yreka is found as early as 1850; in 1854 the variant Y-eka appears in a report on Indian affairs.

Can you throw any light on the origin of the "bag" as applied to carriage? To an inquiring friend just now I have made the offhand suggestion that it is probably due to the fact that originally there was a bag-like spider upon the front of the vehicle combined with the striking resemblance which the lighter of its thin spokes bore to the spider's web. R. J. E. H.

Then it should be of interest to know that buggy is not the Americanism it is so commonly considered. The object and its name come into English from India. In Hindostani "bagghi" means a light travelling cart. Before a rational system of transliteration was introduced buggy very well represented the colloquial sound of the Indian word; it is derived from the verb "bag," meaning to be in motion. After leaving India the word has diversified; in England it is used of a light vehicle with two wheels, in America of one with four wheels.

In a list of the scanty delights of the sailor's life at sea, luscious, black pan, jolly, I find included mention of "Mother Molly's Liverpool Twist." Can some reader inform me what that was and who was Mother Molly? HENRY WALKER.

Mother Molly must be left for the identification of such as were familiar with waterside society on the Mersey in the old packet days. "Liverpool twist" used to be common on the Western Ocean, a form of tobacco which was preferred above the plug. As its name implies, it was tobacco leaf twisted into a rope as thick as a man's finger and about a foot in length. After having been twisted tight with a few drops of Jamaica rum for flavoring the rope was bent over itself and both parts again twisted. As is the case with all tobacco for sailors' use, this was equally available for the pipe and for the mouth.

A new departure in punctuation, namely, that of placing the quotation point after the second quotation mark, seems to be coming into vogue; is this, strictly speaking, in good usage? DAVID A. CHAPLAIN.

The usage is good or other according as the sense demands. If the punctuation is an essential part of the passage cited its sign should be set within the quotation mark; if the punctuation pertains to the sentence including the quoted matter then it should be set without the quotation mark. An illustration is better than theory. "Lay on, Macduff," says he, "and damned be him that first cries 'Hold, enough!'" But: "damned be him," says he, "that first cries." Careful proofreaders are thus punctuating the best printed books of the present day.

In a recent Sunday issue the question is asked, "When did Tourge's 'Hot Ploughshares' come from the press?" Your answer that "A Fool's Errand" was published in 1877 and that his best work was the North Carolina Code of Civil Procedure, which came from the press in 1882, according to the "Century Cyclopedia of Names." BALLSTON LAKE.

The date of "Hot Ploughshares" was given quite as distinctly as the four digits 1882 could be expected to express. The interested attention of alert correspondents is so much enjoyed that a little thing like that may cheerfully be pardoned.

Who was the author of the recitation "Mary the Maid of the Inn"? K. L. T. Southey wrote the poem. It seems odd to obtain this hint that recitations are still recited for public entertainment. Seven years ago when this same question was last put the querist mentioned the pleasure which attended the recitation of this piece by Daniel Dougherty, now but a name and a tradition of elocution.

The Eric Estlin was at Corleaz's Hook. Somehow I have the authority for this statement. It is true that the maps do not locate the yard of Ticket & Crockett, who built the Savannah. MORRIS STRIKER MOTT.

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS.

Auction Bridge. C. D. says: If the dealer bids a spade after second hand passes the dealer's partner bids two spades, what interpretation should be put on such a bid by the dealer, the game being royal or the old count? I have no idea, unless it is to give the dealer another chance to bid, which was the practice under the old count; but that is useless under the new, as the dealer has already declined to make a bid and announces by his original spade call that his hand is not good for two tricks. If the third hand has a long spade suit he should make it royal. If he has nothing at all he should leave it at a spade and be sure of escaping with a maximum loss of 100 points.

B. C. says: The dealer bids a spade and a second hand, has nothing but a suit of five to the ace. Should he name that suit or pass? Pass. To take the dealer out of a spade make is bad policy to begin with and to assume a contract to make seven tricks with only one in your hand is worse.

C. C. O'L. says: Z is the dealer when a looks at one of his cards and remarks, "This will take a trick, anyway." Z offers to bet that it will not and is taken up. During the bidding there is a declaration out of turn and a new deal is demanded and agreed to. What about the bet on the cards in A's hand, which was the ace of clubs? A loses the bet, as he made no conditions. The case is very similar to that of the man who bet \$100 that his yacht would reach the first turning buoy in a race in less than an hour. The race was called off at the starting point for want of sufficient entries and he lost his bet because he made no condition that the race should be sailed. Such cases are usually covered by the sporting phrase, "Play or pay," which means that the bet is lost if the event does not come off.

F. M. M. says: We have a convention that a two spade bid by the dealer means that he can support a no trumper. This bid having been passed by the second hand, the dealer's partner bids himself with four clubs, seven high; three of each of the other suits, eight or nine high. As actually played, Y bid three spades, Z bid two spades and the dealer went two royals and lost heavily. This is a good example of an attempt to apply the methods of bidding under the old count to the declarations under the new count. Two spades shows three tricks in the dealer's hand, two of them in the spade suit, but not more than four spades in all, or the bid would be a royal. It means no more than any other original suit bid, so far as supporting a no trumper goes. As Y could not support anything and the call was not outbid, he should have passed, and when B finally took them out of it with a heart, the dealer should have dropped it. To bid two royals on a hand that did not justify a bid of one royal at the start, after his partner had passed and a suit was declared against him, would have been foolish. The loss is attributable to Y's bidding three spades, which might have misled Z. If Y's idea was to give his partner another bid, he fell into the old error of giving a player a chance which that player has already declined to take at cheaper rates. If the dealer had any good declaration, he would have made it at the start.

A. C. says: The winning declaration is four diamonds. One of the dealer's tricks is complete but not turned down when the next trick is completed. Before this trick was turned down the declarer detected a revoke in the first and proved it. The penalty was refused on the ground that the trick was not yet turned down.

Leading or playing to a succeeding trick establishes the revoke, so that if it was made in the first of the two in question, the player in error must have played to the next. The fault seems to lie with the partner, who does not ask the usual question. There ought to be a law that if a player does not ask his partner, when he sees that partner renounce, he shall play the loss on the revoke. Good players make it a rule to ask, "No spades, partner?" even if they know thirteen of the suit are in his hand.

C. H. K. asks in what way B's bid is irregular, as stated in the answer to F. M. M. two weeks ago. Y corrects a bid of two clubs to the three clubs necessary to prevail in the previous bid and then passes. B bids two no trumps. The irregularity of B's bid lies in the fact that he had no right to bid at all, but when neither of his opponents objected to it, he passed it, and played the hand out on it, the irregularity is condoned. The law says that B cannot bid unless one of his opponents bids higher or doubles A's amended call. Y does neither. He passes. But any irregularity goes if no one objects to it.

H. T. C. asks where copies of the official laws for royal auction may be obtained. The Official Laws are published by The Whist Club, 13 West Thirty-sixth street, New York city, but the new code, giving the new count will not be ready for distribution until next month. Address the secretary, Clarence A. Henriques.

J. T. G. says: My partner deals and bids a club, five top honors in diamonds, nothing else, and am run up to three diamonds by an opponent's heart bid, my partner passing. When three hearts are bid against me should I pass or four diamonds, it being the rubber game? If it looks as if they would go game in hearts and win the rubber it is worth while to bid as high as five diamonds to save it, as the most you can lose, even if doubled, is 400 in penalties, less five based on one hand and penitence. This is based, of course, on the dealer's having two tricks in his hand to justify his opening call, which, with your five sure tricks in trumps, is seven certain.

Euchre. J. M. C. says: We are playing five hand, two lowest men to pay. A wants 3, B and C 2 each, when A is suched. A contends that he does not play the game because there must be only two men in when the game is finished. If the stipulation is for the two lowest men to lose when the game ends, and it ends when B and C get out by euchring A and his partners, the loss must fall on the two that have the lowest scores of the three left in.

Poker. G. A. L. says: A player asks for a card and it is so held by the dealer that the player says he can name it and calls the four of clubs. The card is faced and proves to be the six. In his hand fold, or must he take the card? If he had called it correctly could he have demanded another card? He must take the card, no matter what it is. The fact that he could not see a peek at it before it was dealt to him does not compel him to tell the whole table what he is about to get. Unless the card is exposed face up by the dealer in the act of dealing it the player must keep it. The difference does not make whether the player knows a second or two sooner what he is going to get, or waits until he picks it up and looks at it.

CUTTING CARRARA MARBLE.

Italian Mountains of It Have Been Quarried Over 2,000 Years. Contrary to general belief, the Carrara Mountains, or Apuan Alps, are not composed entirely of marble, although deposits occur throughout the group, which extends nearly parallel with the Italian coast for about forty miles, from Aulla to Lucca. Undoubtedly the largest and best deposits are at or near Carrara, where there are 485 quarries (out of a total of 722 in the entire district) in active operation.

The product of these Carrara quarries has been known for centuries throughout the civilized world; and although other marble has been sought and many deposits have been discovered and developed in other countries it is stated in "Consular and Trade Reports" that no superior or equal of the Carrara product has yet been found.

This is shown by the fact that the demand steadily increases despite the advanced cost of production of recent years, which has caused higher prices. In fact, the demand for certain qualities of Carrara marble is often greater than the supply. This was the case in 1911, when 29,654 metric tons of rough marble and marble manufacturers were shipped from the Carrara and neighboring quarries and studios.

And although this was 13,221 tons higher than any previous year's record, there was an unsatisfied demand for rough blocks estimated at 4,000 tons more, part of which was carried over for fulfillment in 1912 and the remainder was diverted elsewhere. The surplus on the part of the Carrara industry to meet the demand is probably due to a shortage in first and good second quality white and some of the veined and colored marbles. Of third and fourth quality marble there was probably an over-supply quarried.

Although denied by the principal quarry owners, it is generally believed that first and second quality ordinary Carrara marble is diminishing in quantity and that the quarries produce an increasing percentage of third and lower qualities. It is certain that there is a strong tendency on the part of the producers to shift the classifications so that a good second becomes a fair first, a good third a fair or poor second, etc.

On the other hand it must be remembered that as quarrying goes on the quality of the product varies, and if there has been a shortage of the best qualities of marble for some time it is just as likely to improve in the future. In many of the quarries there is a marked improvement in quality as compared with the production of the same quarries a year or two ago.

The jagged, rough, precipitous character of the Apuan Alps and the peculiar geologic formation of the deposits, which can be expressively likened to a tortuous, broken puzzle, difficult of access, account in a great measure for the slow and unique manner in which the Carrara industry has developed as compared with the marble industry in other parts of the world. It is for the slow development and improvement of the Carrara marble that the industry is the lack of unity on the part of the owners.

The marble was quarried as far back as several centuries before Christ, when the Etruscans, with no other tools than sledge and wedge, split off the outcropping strata by main force. After the fall of the Romans, who continued to quarry Carrara marble until the fifteenth century, after that it was apparently forgotten for centuries until the great religious awakening of the early Middle Ages took place. This renewed the demand for marble and, being followed by the artistic revival of the fifteenth century, gave the industry an impetus which has lasted to the present time.

The wasteful process of quarrying by means of blasting powder is still in use to a great extent, although it is being rapidly replaced, wherever possible, by the employment of the endless, spiral grooved wire. This wire, usually about 1,600 feet long, works tightly stretched over a system of pulleys attached to standards, a part of which are placed on either side of the section to be cut.

Hard sand, brought from Viareggio for the purpose, is mixed with water and allowed to flow in a steady stream under the rapidly moving wire. This produces a clean cut. The wire working at full capacity will cut a surface of about 600 square feet in forty-eight hours and consumes during that time about nine tons of sand. One of the most serious problems of the quarry owners is the accumulation of enormous quantities of waste. Sometimes it interferes so much with operations as to render them unprofitable.

The only use that has been found for the rubble, used for making terraces (terrace) floors, and the dust resulting from this process is one of the most important ingredients used in the manufacture of glass, but the total amount of waste consumed in this way is insignificant. In places it has encroached on the loading stages of the railway and high retaining walls have been constructed along the roads leading to the quarries to save them from obstruction. No solution of the problem has yet been found, though many suggestions have been made. Probably the most feasible one is to construct aerial cables to carry all new waste to the lowlands.

When the blocks are ready to be transported they are placed on sleds and lowered by special gangs of men, known as lizzatori, down the mountainside with the aid of very large hemp cables or ox teams to the loading stages of the marble railway, as the case may demand. The majority of the blocks intended for export are shipped on the marble railway to the sea at Marina di Carrara, there to be loaded from the double tracked wooden piers (which are equipped with one 25 ton electric and several hand cranes) onto sailing vessels which carry them direct to Mediterranean ports or tranship them on steamers at Genoa or Leghorn for longer journeys.

There are at present 12,000 men and boys employed in the quarries. In the 150 sawmills distributed over the same section there are 2,000 men and boys employed. In the studios and marble workshops there are 2,540, and engaged in transportation and loading of marble there are 1,425 more, making a total marble working population of 17,905. Of these 480 are boys under 15 years of age. The estimated total capital in the industry is \$32,000,000, 10 per cent. of which is foreign (mostly English) and 90 per cent. Italian.

The present union prices per cubic meter, f. c. b. Carrara, for ordinary white Carrara marble, known in the trade as Bianco chiaro, are according to size of blocks: First quality, \$34.61 to \$63.69; second quality, \$32.51 to \$55.97; third quality, \$28.95 to \$48.25; fourth quality, \$27.98 to \$29.56. (One cubic meter equals 35.314 cubic feet, and weighs approximately 6,977 pounds.)

Blocks of red stat. ry marble are not often sold by cubic measure. The value of the first quality is \$140 to \$500 per cubic meter, according to the size of the blocks.

In addition to the ordinary Carrara and statuary marble there is an intermediate grade known as Bianco P., of white pure. It has a very fine grain and is a dead white in color, the best quality being without markings or veins. It is found in the Massa and Pietrasanta quarries and is used mostly for ecclesiastical statuary and altar work, and is valued at about 30 per cent. more than first quality ordinary. There is also a grade known as English veined marble, which is similar to first quality ordinary in texture and color and has delicate black veins.

The colored marbles vary even more in price, the finer grades selling as high as \$10 a cubic foot. The grades best known in America are: Bardiglio (dark dove colored with occasional white veins), found in alternate strata with ordinary white marble; Panazzo (varicolored mottled and veined on a cream colored background); Panazzetto (alternate white and dark background with fine colored inter-laced veins); Breccio, sometimes quarried in very large blocks, is a compact conglomerate containing a large proportion of flint and in color it varies from ash gray to a blood red in ground, penetrated in every direction by yellow, blue, white and red veins and markings. There are numerous other colored marbles found around Carrara which are much less known commercially than those mentioned, though none the less valuable.

RECLAIMING THE DESERT. Government Spending Millions on Great Irrigation Projects. One of the great problems of Western America has been that of reclaiming the desert. In order to make the land, wonderfully rich in every other respect, productive in paying quantities water is necessary. Irrigation was undertaken by the Indians hundreds of years before Columbus discovered America, as the famous Spanish explorer, Don Francisco Vasquez Coronado, and his brave conquistadores found on their trip to New Mexico in 1540. They came across crude irrigation ditches conveying water from the Rio Grande to little plots of land upon which the Indian women raised sufficient crops to appease the hunger of their braves. Many of these same ditches, though extended, are still in use, a more adequate system not having been devised, although nearly four hundred years have elapsed since their discovery.

The great increase in the population of the United States during the last fifty years, says John Dugger in "Colorado Weekly," has forced the people westward into the arid regions, making it necessary to increase the agricultural area, and in order to do this some means of reclaiming the desert has had to be discovered.

Upon investigation many areas were found where water could be stored or diverted, and thus made to reclaim thousands upon thousands of acres of barren waste, but the expense of doing this was found to be so great that the possibility of the average land owner and capitalist could only be interested in a very few cases.

The United States Government was finally appealed to, and the present reclamation service was established under the Department of the Interior. The service has been active for about ten years, and during that time has succeeded in reclaiming some 19,100,000 acres of what was once quite worthless desert.

Projects have been completed in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, California, New Mexico, Arizona and many other Western States and the appropriations thus far from Congress for the work have been more than \$50,000,000, which will eventually be returned. Those owning land which has been reclaimed by the Government have agreed to pay for the delivery of water thereon at the rate of about \$35 an acre, same to be due in ten or more equal annual installments, the first to be made upon completion of the project. The largest dam thus far completed is the Roosevelt dam in the Salt River Valley, Arizona. It irrigates some 200,000 acres of land and cost \$8,000,000.

The largest task yet undertaken by the reclamation service is the Engle or Elephant Butte project in the lower Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico. The construction of this plant has been under way since November, 1910, and will be completed in 1917 and will be the largest and most expensive irrigation system in the world. The cost will be more than \$10,000,000, of which \$9,000,000 has already been appropriated by Congress. The dam is being constructed of rubble concrete, 400,000 cubic yards being cast for the structure. The dam is 1,215 miles north of El Paso, down the Rio Grande Valley, a distance of 100 miles. Separate diversion dams and canal systems will be built across the entire Rio Grande valley to make the largest artificial body of water in the world—a total of 2,760,000 acre feet of stored water, enough to submerge the entire State of Rhode Island more than three feet.

The lake will cover 41,250 acres of ground from 200 feet to 10 feet deep, and will be forty miles long and from one to ten miles wide. It will never go dry, and will irrigate 180,000 acres of land in New Mexico, Texas and already in operation. Of the 180,000 acres to be reclaimed by the project 110,000 are in New Mexico, 40,000 in Texas, and 30,000 in old Mexico, the latter being necessary because of Mexico's claim to prior water rights.

The Government owns all the land surrounding the great reservoir, and it has been decided to sell some across the entire lake will be the largest south of Great Salt Lake and west of the Rocky Mountains. It will have many bays and inlets, will be stocked by the State with fish and other fish, and will afford camping places for all who desire to take advantage of them.

The Roosevelt dam in Arizona, this great body of imprisoned water will serve another purpose than that of giving life to the stretches of desert to the south. It is my punishment, and it will furnish power for electricity which will be transmitted to cities, mines and farms stretching over an area of more than 900 square miles.

At that he and his two friends did.

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