PEPPER CONSENTS TO JOIN THE GAME

Persuaded by Old Man Greenlaw's Bungstarter, He Tries His Luck at Poker.

SATISFIED WITH RESULTS

Even After He Had Lost the Chips He Bought From Time to Time.

By DAVID A. CURTIS.

At the time when old man Greenlaw kept a saloon in Arkansas City the town itself did not differ greatly from the other places along the Mississippi River banks where small communities maintained a precarious foothold with great difficulty during the flood seasons and enjoyed large amounts of leisure for the remainder of the year. What buildings there were appeared to have been erected with a clear understanding of the fact that they were extremely likely to be demolished the next time the river flowed over the levee, so that they presented no architectural pretension to the beholder. Neither were they, so far as the casual observer could judge, of any exorbitant cost of construction. And they were no more numerous than was absolutely requisite to the needs of the citizens. It was not an ostentatious place.

In regard to its population, as well, Arkansas City much resembled other river towns of a similar size. It could not be said that the men who conducted its affairs were conspicuous for any great show of activity. Prompt enough in the performance of whatever the exigencies of the moment required, they were at no pains to seek outlets for surplus energy.

There seemed to be little for them to do, and having done it they usually rested, so that ordinarily the aspect of Arkansas City was one of repose and peace. In respect of manners and morals they measured well up to the standard which obtained in that part of the country, but it had never been remarked that they were notable for any superexcellence in either, and there was no evident desire on the part of any to become conspicuous by surpassing the standard.

In brief Arkansas City was an average community, neither better nor worse than many others.

Events of importance did not occur in Arkansas City with great frequency. For the most part the attitude of its denizens was that of expectancy. On occasions, however, they did occur with bewildering suddenness and were sometimes of a highly sensational character. And one thing was generally noticeable about them. Mostly they occurred in the old man's saloon.

There were reasons for it. First, they arose as a rule incidentally to the pursuit of the recognized industries of the town, which were two in number and were mainly prosecuted in one of the two rooms in the saloon. In the front room he sold liquor. In the back room men played poker.

If a man did not drink liquor nor play poker he was not likely to discover a field of usefulness in Arkansas City, for all else that was done was merely casual and was esteemed of slight importance. It is true that there was a steady consumption of tobacco, but that, being as universal as breathing, or the eating of hog and hominy throughout the valley, was classed not among industries but among the natural functions of life; important but negligible as a peculiarity of the individual.

Secondly, the game of poker that was played in the back room of the saloon was of a distinguished grade. Poker was played in other places throughout the Southwest with no small degree of skill and ferocity, but nowhere else was there to be found a game which compared favorably with this as a development of talent and efficiency; wherefore, as the fame of it spread abroad through the land, many pilgrims came from afar to engage in it, esteeming themselves aforetime the peers of any. At times there were doings.

It was the habit of certain citizens of the town to congregate daily in the saloon and to await there the happenings that were always possible, prepared always to take a part in them and fully qualified by nature and training to acquit themselves with credit according to their several gifts. And with these regular frequenters of the place on occasions there would be found one Mr. Owen Pepper, who visited Arkansas City at intervals, being a travelling salesman of parts with certain peculiarities. He was not a strong favorite in the place, but he brought from time to time information, some of which was afterward found to be correct.

On one occasion when nothing whatever had happened in Arkansas City for a pretty lengthy period he entered the saloon soon after supper time and invited the company to join him in a social drink. Having in this manner obliterated the recollection of his last preceding visit, he took a seat in the corner and producing a pipe and tobacco from his pocket proceeded to perform in harmony with the social silence which prevailed.

So thorough was the understanding among the regular attendants at these sittings that spoken words were seldom used unless strangers appeared, excepting when the old man deemed it incumbent upon him to enlighten the others as to some question that he had settled to his own satisfaction in what he was pleased to consider his mind.

The silence was prolonged considerably this evening, but after a time Jim Blaisdell seemed to find it irksome. There had been no game in the place for a week or more and he had grown impatient. Fixing his eye on Mr. Owen Pepper he said:

"How come yo'all don't jine into a game with we uns, Pepper? 'Pears like yo'all is liable fo' to have mo' 'r less of a wad occasional. I reckon yo'all ain't 's much of a sport as yo' p'tends."

His manner was decidedly overbearing, not to say truculent, but Mr. Owen Pepper was affected by it not a whit. There was seldom any display of affability when any of the company addressed him personally, and he was well aware of the estimation in which he was held, so that his own manner was manifestly unperturbed when he replied:

"Oh, I don't know. I ain't got no 'bjections to playin' poker gen'ly, but 'pears like I c'n find places enough fo' to play 'thouten settin' in with yo'uns. I ain't a-sayin' but what yo' game is nigh 'bout the best they is anywheres, 'but 'pears like it was some too good fo' me. They is others where I'd ruther play."

"They was al'ays a yaller streak into Pepper," observed the old man contemptuously. "I reckon he's some scairt he mought lose a few dollars."

"Oh, I don't know," said Mr. Pepper, "I don't mind losin' occasional p'vidin' I c'n see a chanst o' winnin' occasional. I ain't no hawg, but I ain't no damphool neither. 'Pears like I c'n enjoy a game o' poker c'nsid'able better when I has mo' of a show 'n a av'rage player 'pears to have into yo'uns' game."

Joe Bassett, who was one of the company, was a gentleman of irascible nature, prone to hasty action rather than to prolonged parley, and there was a show of exasperation in his manner when he took a part in the conversation, but a less quarrelsome man might easily have found Mr. Pepper's grin at the moment very provocative.

"Yo'all 'pears to be some p'sumpchous," said Bassett sternly, "but mebbe it's on'y ign'rance. Was yo' makin' ref'rence to any allusions when yo' mentioned yo' didn't had no show into the game?"

"Oh, I don't know," said Mr. Pepper deliberately. His speech was customarily somewhat slow, but he was sufficiently nimble in his movements, and, having his eye on Bassett, he rose and made for the door with great speed as he saw that gentleman spring at him.

There were times, however, when the old man himself showed surprising agility, and quick as they were on this occasion, he showed himself still quicker. Grabbing his bungstarter from the corner where he always kept it, he leaped over the bar and interposed his sturdy person between them.

"Th' ain't no call fo' no vi'lence, Joe," he observed in a dispassionate tone. "Pepper ain't said nothin," not yet he ain't, what can't be 'xplained. 'Pears like yo' all mought a misonderstood. 'Cordin' to what I heer'd, 'pears like he ain't no 'bjections to settin' into a game p'vidin' they is a show fo' him to win.

"Bein's that's the case, just nachully it follers how he ain't got no 'bjections to settin' in with yo' uns right now. I reckon he won't go so far 's to say what th' ain't no show fo' nobody into a squar' game. An' I reckon he won't go so far 's to say what yo' uns don't play fair. Ain't that right?" he demanded fiercely, raising his bungstarter as he concluded.

Mr. Pepper's attention was still fixed on the door, but seeing that Sam Pearsall had reached it first, and stood in a position to bar his egress he recognized the futility of his thought.

"Oh, I don't know," he said. "I reckon it mought be took that away."

"I knowed it," said the old man, triumphantly. "I c'n tell a reel spo't fr'm a fo' flush every time. Yo' uns ain't never gave Pepper credit fo' bein' one, but I al'ays said what they was mo' into him 'n anybody 'd reckon they was, judgin' fr'm 'pearants.

"Now's the perliminaries is done been settled, 'pears like they ain't no necessity fo' to waste no mo' val'able time. Yo' uns mought as well start yo' game right away. Pepper 'pears to be ready."

"Oh, I don't know," said Mr. Pepper with some show of reluctance, as the old man turned to him as if implying a question in his last remark. "I reckon I mought set in fo' a few hands, bein's yo' uns 'pears to be liell bent on playin', on'y I'm liable fo' to quit the game if it goes ag'in' me too hard. I sho' is got c'nsiderable of a wad with me, but I ain't p'posin' fo' to lose the huli on it."

"That's reas'nable," said the old man with the air of one who is willing to concede a minor point, in view of having prevailed in the main contention. "They ain't nobody called on fo' to squander his hull wad in riotous playin', as the Good Book says, not 'thouten he sees fit." And as the others seemed to recognize the limitation declared by Mr. Pepper to be permissible enough in the case of a non-professional player the game was begun forthwith.

"How many chips was yo' all p'posin' to set in with?" demanded the old man, as he prepared to sell.

"Oh, I don't know," said Mr. Pepper. "Yo' mought give me fifty fo' a starter." And he separated a $100 bill from a small roll of similar notes.

Mr. Pepper's first hand was sufficiently promising in appearance, being a four flush, to induce him to stay after the others had all come in on his ante. Not only that but he was bold enough to raise before the draw, and as he filled the flush he raked in a pot of respectable size.

The proverbial ill luck of winning the first pot struck him, however, on the next deal and it was only a short time before his chips all disappeared.

He started to rise from the table, but Jim Blaisdell said half angrily and half in surprise: "Yo' all ain't gwine to put fo' North American citizens the inc'nvenience o' getting 'up a game fo' yo' benefit an' quit 'em on no such losin'?"

"Oh, I don't know," said Mr. Pepper. "Mebbe I mought play in another twenty." And he produced the bill he had taken in change, receiving $30 in other money and $20 in chips in exchange for it.

His bad luck continued, however, and the four astute players opposed to him had little difficulty in separating him from his second stack. Again he seemed inclined to quit, but Jake Winterbottom said encouragingly:

"Mebbe yo' all 'd do some better if yo' was to play along a spell."

"Oh, I don't know," said Mr. Pepper, "but I reckon I'll try another $50." And he produced another $100 bill.

When he had lost his third stack they tried to encourage him further by telling him that luck always changed, but he said:

"Oh, I don't know. 'Pears like this ain't my night for poker. I reckon I done lose enough. Let's liquor."

Seeing that he was in earnest this time, the others joined him at the bar, dissatisfied indeed that he should carry money away with him, but counting on some future opportunity. A similar thought was in old man Greenlaw's mind.

"Yo' all didn't ought fo' to be d'scouraged, Pepper," he said in kindly fashion, as he swept in the payment for the drinks. "Anybody's liable to lose at poker sometimes. Mo'n likely yo'all 'll do better next time."

Mr. Pepper meantime had carefully manœuvred his position so that he had an uninterrupted passageway to the door, and he stepped quickly toward it before replying. Not until he had it wide open did he speak.

"Oh, I don't know," he said. "I reckon I ain't likely to do no better'n I done to-night. I done been tryin' to pass off them two $100 bills fo' a hellova while, but 'peared like they wouldn't nobody take 'em. I reckon I done cleared somepin like $80 outen the game an' that's c'nsid'able better'n I was 'xpectin'."

And as the door slammed and Mr. Pepper went away from there they seemed to catch the sound of some one chuckling gleefully, and saying, "Oh, I don't know."

POEMS WORTH READING.

The Spinet.

There in the attic dim it stands,
The spindle legged spinet.
The mice they scamper o'er its strands
And make their nests within it.

From wooden pegs about the wall
Hang garments quaint and dusty;
There leaning is a musket tall,
And here a sword that's rusty.

Fingers invisible they stray
O'er keys that time has yellowed,
And in the gloaming there they play
A music soft and mellowed.

A spider swinging overhead
In riotous confusion,
Spins round and round until half dead.
Ah, is this but delusion?

Down from the wooden pegs they slip,
The quaint old garments rustling,
Then o'er the dusty floor they trip
Like dancers gay and bustling.

"Right shoulder shift!" The musket falls
Upon a figure dimly
Outlined against the attic walls,
In uniform; then grimly

A phantom hand the sword it plays
About a face that's laughing,
In circles, parries, till it flays
A rival who is chaffing.

Ah, little figure all in white
There leaning to the spinet,
You're playing with your old delight
And putting your heart in it.

The dusty keys they bear no trace
Of your slim, taper fingers;
Your touch, like downiest of lace,
Sweeps them, but never lingers.

Only the spider and the mice—
And I can hear your playing
There in my attic paradise
Where fancies go a-straying.

HORACE SEYMOUR KELLER.

Life's Level Plain.

I would not live upon life's towering hills,
A beacon to be seen by whoso wills,
Where all the winds of hate blow swift and strong,
Too far from men to see their hurts and ills.

Nor would I dwell in valleys where the tide
Of life shall rise about on every side,
Where I must struggle, lest I, too be swept
From my safe footing by its waters wide.

But let me dwell upon the open plain,
Where I can see suns rise, moons wax and wane,
Where wide, brown roads wind by, and travellers pass
With cheerful greetings, without thought of gain.

Here let me live, and unvexed let me die,
Friendly to all who speak in passing by,
Ready to give what each one may require,
Smiles to the happy, to the sad a sigh.

NINETTE M. LOWATER.

On the Back Veld.

From the Spectator.

The red flame flowers bloom and die,
The embers puff a golden spark,
Now and again a horse's eye
Shines like a topaz in the dark.

A distant jackal jars the hush,
The drowsy oxen chump and sigh,
The ghost moon peers above the bush
And creeps across the starry sky.

Low in the south the cross is bright,
And sleep comes dreamless, undefiled,
Here in the blue and silver night,
In the star chamber of the wild.

CROSBIE GARSTIN.

A Plea From Cactus Centre.

From the Denver Republican.

Down here in Cactus Centre we have lost our patience, quite;
We have stood for movin' pitchers from the early morn till night;
We are sick of viewin' gun fights in our quiet little street,
And this thing of seein' hangin's has long ceased to be a treat.

The drivers on our stages can't drive into town or out
'Cept some actor-holdup stops 'em, makes the passengers pile out,
Robs the strong box of its treasure—which is lest the driver's lunch—
And goes through the other details of the 'grammer with the punch."

We are sick of seein' lovers spoon before a film machine;
We are sick of seein' "cowgirls" rangin' from the fat to lean;
We are sick of seein' villains smokin' boughten cigarettes;
We are sick of seein' gun plays over faked up poker bets.

Give us back our days of glory, 'fore all cartridges was blanks;
Give us back the days when real 'uns dragged the innards from our banks;
Take away these movie actors—take away these scenes of strife;
We'd return down here in Cactus to the aimless form of life.

The Sign.

From the Baltimore American.

Nations ye, across the sea,
Who look with longing eye
Upon resources of this land
And its fertility,
Beware of any trespassing,
Alone or in a mass;
For Uncle Sam has just put up
His sign, "Keep off the grass."

Your greedy trampling soon would kill
The promise resting there,
And which the land which harbors it
You'd not let in to share.
But "This sphere for Americans!"
Is cry for all who pass;
So stretch not out for foothold here,
But keep off of the grass.

The Big Policeman stands around
Enforcing straight the law
The Monroe Doctrine gave to you;
Not e'en the Lion's paw
Shall tread thereon with victor's step,
Though 'tis "Ah and alas"
For British pride, the sign is there
For all: "Keep off the grass."

The Wise Saint.

From the Century Magazine.

De debble see St. Peter sneak into heaben's gate;
He holler: "What's yo' hurry? Wait dar, Peter! Wait!"

De saint pull in de latchstring, an' holler: "Now, you go!
I'll sic de houn' dog on you de fustest t'ing you know."

"I speaks you like a ge'man," de debble up an' say,
"And yere you shets me out, sah. For shame, to ack dat way!"

"Don' argify," say Peter. "You leads fo'ks into sin.
Ain't shettin' you out, nohow; I'se shettin' mahself in."

HERMAN DA COSTA.

Consoling Reflection.

From the Washington Star.

I'm in thorough accord with the S. P. C. A.
And I'm glad to reflect on my share
In making some poor little animals gay
Whose lives are no doubt full of care.
My wardrobe is tattered; habiliments which
I depended on for a repeat
Are mangled past curing by darn or by stitch—
But the moths have had something to eat!

When furs grow bald headed and holes you observe
In the overcoat once spick and span,
Oh, don't be resentful, but keep up your nerve,
As a kindly and generous man!
For somewhere the moths are assembled, no doubt,
And your name they will gratefully call
With cheers for the comfort you scattered about,
As the meal ticket, welcome to all.

Autumn.

"Pan is dead," the winds are crying,
Moaning, sighing;
Over all the world is lying
Winding sheet of drifting leaves.

All the earth is filled with weeping;
And the creeping
Shadows gather, dancing, leaping,
In rejoicing that she grieves.

Shadows cast by light supernal
On infernal
Imps of the abyss eternal,
Banished from the shores of day.

Sweeping inward from the ocean
With swift motion;
Drunk and reeling with the potion
Quaffed to night's returning sway.

M. E. BUSLER.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

In what year was the *Daily Graphic* balloon made in the store at 39 Park place? H. K. G.

The question adds a missing detail of information, namely, the place of manufacture. The ascension was made October 7, 1873, from the Capitoline grounds in Williamsburg. The aeronaut, King, had formed the theory that at an elevation which men could bear there would be found a stratum of air under the impulse of a steady eastward drift. This view was adopted enthusiastically by Washington H. Donaldson, who proposed to utilize the eastbound air current by a balloon voyage from New York to Europe. The interest of the public was enlisted, but that interest was not acute enough to subscribe sufficient funds for the undertaking until the then enterprising *Daily Graphic* took hold of the scheme and exploited a thrill seeking public to contribute toward the largest balloon ever built and the gas wherewith to inflate it. The balloon was constructed of twilled cotton and weighed three tons; it called for 700,000 feet of gas. In three attempts to inflate the bag the balloon blew up and the inflation was finally accomplished through the skill of S. A. King. Wise became distrustful of the safety of the balloon and withdrew from the enterprise. Donaldson arranged for the company of two passengers, Ford and Lunt, and made a start. Ascending successfully from the Capitoline grounds the balloon drifted inland. It was found that the balloon lacked buoyancy to ascend through the surface currents to the upper eastward drift. After a flight of about 100 miles, during which the balloon was out of control, Donaldson and Ford jumped safely to the ground. Lunt was the last to jump, fell into a treetop near Canaan, Conn., and sustained injuries from which he died early the next year. Two years later Donaldson made his last ascent; in company with Newton S. Grimwood of the Chicago *Evening Journal* he made a flight over Lake Michigan. Two hours after the start the balloon was seen to drag its car through the lake; then it went aloft and was never traced. A month later the body of the passenger was washed ashore, but the fate of Donaldson was never learned.

A says "between you and me whom will win"; B says "between you and I who will win." Please decide which is correct. B. I.

Neither can win on this showing and the holder may pocket the stakes. A might win on the ground that "between you and me" is correct, but whom as the subject of the verb suffices to condemn him; B of course loses on the error "between you and I." It seems that the schools and the homes are wholly neglectful of the inflected forms in current English. There are not many left; reformers have wiped out hosts of them that once were common in the older conjugations of the verbs. But such as do remain are worth preserving, and the only way to accomplish that end is to pay careful attention to the few and simple rules of English grammar until the habit of correct and graceful speech is established.

Who was the first man who wrote music? J. BREVA.

Whether this question refer to muscial composition, as in a common turn of speech, or to the writing in musical notation of a piece of music already composed, the answer is wasted in the backward chaos of unknown antiquity. There is reason to regard the Hindus and the Chinese as in possession of some form of musical notation. The Greeks had a system of writing music, but its comprehension evades us. The Latin notation was, like that of the Greeks in this one particular, alphabetic. A generally accepted tradition credits St. Gregory with the reduction of the scale to the octave and the naming of the seven notes, a service which has commonly won for him the credit of the invention of the art of writing music.

Was St. Colomba a Catholic saint; if so why is there a chapel of St. Colomba at the Episcopal cathedral? C. M. C. W.

In the Latin church there are two saints of this name (Columbia is the preferred spelling) on the calendar, both canonized as virgins and martyrs. The saint to which reference is made in the query is St. Columba of the early church in the British Isles. In the Irish martyrology some sixteen saints of the name are obscurely celebrated, but the only one which has obtained an ecclesiastical place is St. Columba of Terryglass. The Church of England professes to be an apostolic and national church and as such asserts its right to celebrate the ancient saints of the British Isles. Thus it happens that many saints are common to the two churches.

A claims that the publicans mentioned in the Bible were tax collectors. The word publican being their title, the same as "lawyer," "doctor," and they were held in contempt, because so many times the publicans were unjust in their dealings. B claims that a publican did not necessarily have to be a tax collector, and that the term publican was simply a term of ridicule. Y. M. B.

The word used in the Gospels designates the persons who collected taxes and other dues in behalf of the farmers of public revenue after the custom of Roman provincial administration. The condition of their employment was such that they were profoundly hated by those whose property they seized, and in the absence of proper supervision they became great peculators.

If your correspondent who asks for information about books concerning Merlin, the magician, cares to read something of a lighter nature than those specified in your answer to his question I will refer him to a set of stories which appeared serially in an English weekly paper for boys about 1879 or 1880. I do not recall the name of the publication, but the stories—mighty interesting they were too, at least for boys—were all about the adventures of the Knights of the Round Table. The author was "Roland Quiz." These stories, or some of them, afterward appeared in book form and were published by a Mr. Henderson, Red Lion court, Fleet street, London, England, who will no doubt be glad to give your correspondent further information. D.

Referring to Henry Lewis Charnley's query in THE SUN of October 12 as to a "cumulative witticism which depends for its point upon a punning use of positive and comparative forms" it is possible that he has in mind the advice given by a distinguished jurist to a graduating class of law students that they should first get on, then get honor, then get honest. W. E. ELLIS.

Be good enough to let me know if possible of whom it was said:

"When the ermine of the official robe fell on him it touched nothing less spotless than itself." W. H. S.

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS.

Auction Bridge. A. P. W. says: A contends that the first bid, if in suit, must be either doubled or changed before any other player may bid on that suit. B objects that this would leave the way open to a player to bid a suit in which he had nothing, just to stop an adversary from naming it, as the adversaries probably had it, and could only set the contract, but could not go game.

There is no restriction on the suit or anything else, so that the bid is of a higher value than the preceding bid, either in points or tricks. If the dealer bids a heart that does not prevent his adversary from bidding two hearts if that adversary would sooner play the hand to go game than set the contract. It is very common for an adversary to bid two no trumps after the other side has bid one. Even the partner will often bid more in the suit without an intervening bid. Suppose the dealer bids a royal and second hand passes. The third hand finds he would have bid a royal himself, so he bids two royals, or even three, just to show his strength and also to shut out all competition at once.

F. F. says: Z deals and bids one diamond. A says one royal, Y and Z both passing. Z bids two diamonds, A two royals, Z three diamonds and A three royals. Now Y doubles and B holds these cards: king queen small in hearts, ace jack of diamonds, four clubs to the ace queen and four spades to the nine. What should B do?

Unless the character of Y's play was known it would be hard to say whether to redouble or not. If the double was to encourage the dealer to go on with his diamonds if a couple of spade tricks were any use to him the redouble would be a waste of breath. If Y has two or three spade tricks and the ace of hearts A may fail to make his contract. The redouble looks dangerous. It is easy to imagine Y with the ace queen jack of spades over A and the ace of hearts. Another trick anywhere sets the contract.

W. C. asks what is now the standard count for nullos and what the honors are worth.

Nullos seem to be very generally played at 10 a trick, the same as no trumps; but there is never any honor score for aces, no matter how distributed.

W. B. L. says: Z deals and bids no trumps. A says two hearts. Y holds the ace queen and two more hearts, the king queen jack small in clubs, and bids two no trumps. Z bets the correct declaration was to double the two hearts.

Z is right. The partner of the no trump declarer should never increase the contract. Leave that to the original no trump bidder, who alone knows what he has and whether it will pay better to stick to the no trumper or defeat the heart contract. The suit bid is often a trap to get the no trump bid advanced, whereupon the player who bid hearts runs off six tricks in some other suit, the heart bid being a bluff. This is known as "the shift," because if the bluff is doubled he must shift to his real suit.

O. D. R. says: We are trying duplicate auction bridge in Denver by making it a team of four contests, the N and S pair of the team sitting at one table and the E and W pair at another, the trays passing down the line. The points below the line are multiplied by four to prevent the piling up of honors.

When team play is the game there should be an individual score, the first tray being played by the whole team at its own table, and then the players E and W should move up the line. The trays do not pass down the line as at compass whist, but follow a certain route to other tables, so that the N and S and the E and W hands of the same numbered tray shall be played by the same two teams and give them a match record against each other.

Cassino. A. S. A. says: On the board a deuce and trey. A holds a trey and an ace. He puts the ace on the deuce, places the trey from the table on it and calls it "treys." Why cannot B build this to seven with another ace?

No player is allowed to play more than one card at a time from his hand, and double builds cannot be raised because of that rule, as a double build must always remain a doublet. It is to protect himself that a player usually makes these builds. If there is only one more trey to come and he has it in hand any double build of treys is safe; but to make it a six might expose it to attack from any card up to a ten, as the adversary could build on it.

T. B. A. says: A bets that there are only thirteen points to be made in spades when playing spade cassino. B bets there are fifteen.

Neither is correct. A forgetting the point for spades and B giving little casino a double value. There are thirteen spades in the pack to be scored one at a time, but the player taking in the jack of spades scores the point for "spades" in the ordinary game. That is, he counts two when he takes home the spade jack. He does the same when he takes in the little casino; one because it is a spade and one because it is little casino, but this does not make fifteen points for "spades." The number is fourteen.

Rum. G. H. E. says: A bets that no player can get rid of all his cards by fattening the combinations laid out by others unless he has laid down at least one triplet or sequence of his own for them to shoot at.

No such rule. As long as a player can make his cards fit anywhere, in combinations of his own or at the ends of combinations on the table, he may play away as many as he can get rid of, and if he gets rid of them all he wins.

Poker. J. B. R. says: The game is 5 cents calling 15 or 10 calling a quarter. The age antes 10 cents, saying it is "flat" (calling a like amount), and he has no privilege of taking out a part of it when the play reaches him. Can he raise it when he has not been raised by others? That is, when there is no additional amount to make good.

Players who violate their own rules must make their own decisions. If a game is 5 call 15 or 10 call 25, there is no such thing as a flat 10 ante. It should be a 10 blind, calling for a 25 ante. Players should remember that the ante is the total amount before the draw. The blind is what calls for and determines the amount of this ante. Which was the 10 flat?

M. C. J. says: Five men were in a jackpot. After two raises only two are left. They propose to divide it and agree to do so, neither showing the other what he had. One of those who were raised out demands to see both hands. On what grounds can he do so, as neither of those who divided the pot was the opener?

On the ground that all the hands in the final call must be shown to the board. As neither of the players who divide had bluffed or raised the other out both hands must be shown to the table, as demanded.

NOVEL POINTS OF THE LAW.

The case of Stevens vs. McClaughry, warden of the United States penitentiary, which came before the United States Court of Appeals of the Eighth District, was an application by the plaintiff to be released in habeas corpus proceedings on the ground that he was restrained of his liberty for a longer period than the court had a right to impose. Stevens was convicted under separate counts of an indictment charging larceny of a mail pouch and also larceny and embezzlement of the contents of the pouch. The court ordered him set free on the ground that separate punishment for the parts of a continuous criminal act is beyond the jurisdiction of the court and void as to the excess beyond the maximum sentence that may be imposed for a single offence. After the prisoner has satisfied such a sentence he is entitled to his release under the court's ruling.

The Supreme Court of Oklahoma heard the case of Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway vs. Homewood, in which it appeared that a special car in which a theatrical troupe was travelling, eating and sleeping was left on a siding by the railroad company at the request of the owner. It was to be used there as a boarding place while the troupe gave performances for two days at that point and was then to be hauled to the next stopping place. After the car was set at a point designated by the owner it was removed without his permission to another place, where it was destroyed by fire. The owner sued the railroad company for damages, but the court held that the car was being used as a hotel at the time it was destroyed and that the railroad could not be held liable for negligence as a common carrier nor held because the car was moved from its original place for the convenience of the railroad's use of the tracks.

That Congress, in the exercise of its power to regulate commerce, could lawfully enact the provisions of the white slave act of June 25, 1910, making criminal the transportation of women or girls in interstate commerce for immoral purposes, or the obtaining, aiding or inducing of such transportation, is held in Hoke vs. United States, 277 U. S., 308. The act and the decision upholding its constitutionality afford another illustration of the broader conception of the commerce clause of the Federal Constitution and of its practical effect to enable Congress to deal with conditions which formerly would have been regarded as the exclusive province of the State Legislatures.

The first case in which the owner of stock in a mine asked court relief because opportunity had been denied him to inspect the mine came up before the Supreme Court of California in Hobbs vs. Tom Reed Gold Mines Company. The court held that the stockholder had a right to such inspection when he asked it for a legitimate purpose.

The first decision of a higher court regarding the admissibility of expert evidence on finger prints is found in the ruling by the Illinois Supreme Court in People vs. Jennings, in which the defendant was prosecuted for burglary. The decision in question is supported by a case in Australia and several in India. The court held as follows on important points:

A comparison of finger prints may be made by witnesses skilled in the art for the purpose of identifying one accused of crime. Witnesses who for several years have made a study of finger prints in connection with the detective bureaus and had actual experience in identifying persons by that method may make comparison, as experts, of finger prints in evidence for purposes of identification. Evidence of a finger print is not rendered inadmissible because the expert states that prints given him for comparison were made by the same person rather than that in his opinion they were so made.

The constitutionality of a law limiting the operations of loan sharks was involved in Mutual Loan Company versus Martell, in which the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts upheld the requirement that assignments of future wages to secure small loans be accepted by the employers in writing, consented to by the wives of the employees and then recorded in order to be enforcible. The Supreme Court of the United States has affirmed the decision, and in its opinion says:

"We have declared so often the wide range of discretion which the Legislature possesses in classifying the objects of its legislation that we may be excused from a citation of the cases. We shall only repeat that the classification need not be scientific nor logically appropriate, and if not palpably arbitrary and is uniform within the class, it is within such discretion. The legislation under review was directed at certain evils which had arisen, and the Legislature, considering them and from whence they arose, might have thought or discerned that they could not or would not arise from a greater freedom to the institutions mentioned than to individuals. This was the view that the Supreme Judicial Court took, and, we think, rightly took. * * * But even if some degree of evil which the statute was intended to prevent could be ascribed to loans made by the exempted institutions, their exception would not make the law unconstitutional."

The New York Court of Appeals holds in Greener vs. General Electric Company that on the trial of an action for the death of an employee caused by falling from a ladder, his statements while lying on the floor after falling, in response to an inquiry as to what happened, that "my feet is broke," and that "the ladder bent over," were not admissible as spontaneous exclamations. The court gives the following interpretation as to what are spontaneous exclamations and what are not:

"The distinction to be made is in the character of the declaration, whether it be so spontaneous or natural an utterance as to exclude the idea of fabrication, or whether it be in the nature of a narrative of what had occurred. In the present case the declaration of the deceased was not spontaneous; it was called forth by the inquiry as to 'what had happened' and was distinctly narrative."

A suit for damages for the destruction of a shade tree came before the Court of Appeals of Kentucky in Blalock vs. Atwood, in which the court held that a shade tree standing on a boundary line between adjoining owners is the common property of both, and the mere fact that it stands on the border of the sidewalk, affording shade for pedestrians, does not interfere with the right of either owner to protect it or to recover damages for its destruction. It was held that where a shade tree, symmetrical in form, free from disease or blemish, and of sufficient size to afford excellent shade and ornamenting the premises, was wrongfully cut down, and witnesses testified that the value of the property was reduced from $250 to $300 in consequence thereof, and there was evidence that the removal of the tree was wanton and malicious, a verdict for $275 would not be disturbed as excessive.

The Appellate Division of the Second Department reversed a judgment for damages and dismissed the complaint in Larkin vs. New York Telephone Company, in which the plaintiff sued for the death of her husband, an employee of the telephone company, who was killed while splicing a telephone wire because during a storm the telephone wire came into contact with a high potential electric light wire. The testimony showed that although the telephone company's rules required its employees to use rubber gloves and rubber boots in all cases where dangerous conditions exist, the decedent went to work with his splicing scissors without making a safety test for high voltage or putting on his gloves. His helper heard him cry out, "My God, John, I got it!" and he fell dead. The court held that there was no negligence on the part of the telephone company

VAUDEVILLE AT MEETINGS.

"Ladies and gentlemen, before John Smith delivers the principal address of the evening, William Jones will entertain with a song and dance just imported from England, where his act was all the go during the summer season."

These words were spoken by the announcer from the stage of a hall where a crowd had gathered to listen to speeches by political candidates. A few years back such an announcement would have caused comment. At that time persons who went to political meetings had but one object in mind and that was to hear the speeches. Now it is different.

Politics is a business and like many others has been brought up to date by the injection of new and up to date methods. Shrewd campaign managers have found that they cannot attract crowds with the old methods; so they have devised new ones and put them in operation this year.

Campaign managers have become aware of the fact that the voters of today do not relish the idea of attending political meetings if they have to sit on hard chairs for one or two hours and listen to nothing but speeches. There is too much sameness. So this campaign the speechmaking is interspersed with songs and vaudeville acts. Not only are the acts good, but the managers have used discretion in the selection of their meeting places. Dirty and dilapidated halls, which were good enough five years ago, have been abandoned for more up to date places, and where possible theatres are hired. The audiences take full advantage of the cosey velvet seats.

The plan is to open the meeting with a song. Then an orator is introduced and he proceeds to speak his little piece, after which a clog dancer or another singer entertains the gathering until another orator gets ready to address the spectators. It is said that this method is very successful, so much so that the number of people who leave in the middle of the meeting has been reduced to a minimum.

Realizing the public's fondness for moving pictures, wise managers have utilized the "movies" for campaign purposes. The verses and choruses of popular songs are flashed on the screen, various scenes are shown and now and then the pictures of the candidates in whose interest the meeting is held are reflected on the screen and kept there for ten seconds while the spectators get acquainted with their features.

The latest innovation is the adoption of "canned music" and "canned speeches" for campaign purposes. This is the use of the phonograph at political meetings particularly noonday meetings in vacant stores, where everything must be run off in quick time. The meetings open with selections on the phonograph and then come the speeches, with phonographic tunes enlivening the meetings when orators are not on the job. When it comes to "canned speeches" the idea is simple. The candidate can be made to speak to a dozen or twenty-five meetings at the same time and he may be ten miles away from all of the meetings.

The campaign managers seem to be especially active this fall. Not contented with the new features already mentioned they have gone even further. Everything has been brought up to date; even the trucks from which the candidates speak on street corners have undergone a transformation for the better. In former years almost any truck served for this purpose. No matter how dilapidated it could be dressed up by the judicious use of banners, bunting and lanterns.

This year, however, horse drawn trucks are too antiquated for campaign purposes and they have been supplanted by auto trucks. The auto trucks are more imposing, and another reason why they were selected was their speed. This enables the candidate to travel around an election district in little time and he is able to accomplish almost twice as much work as in the days of old.

But talking from the tailboards is not as popular as it was at one time and it appears to be dying a natural death. Campaign managers are inclined to favor halls, where the audience is protected from the whims of the weather and where meetings cannot be broken up by sudden storms. Audiences are more contented and attentive when seated than when shifting from one foot to the other on the street corner. And the tough element is eliminated. Outdoor moving picture theatres are popular for political meetings and the managers are using them whenever convenient.

FACTS ABOUT THE TIDE.

To the ordinary lay mind the tides along our coast are most puzzling. He knows that the tides rise and fall twice in twenty-four hours and that this depends in some mysterious way on the moon. But if in his travels he sees a spot along the shore where there is no tide he is at a loss to account for it.

To be exact, there is only one ocean in the world where the tides follow the moon with regularity, and this is the great Antarctic basin. And the reason is that there is the only place a sweep of water is to be found that is entirely uninterrupted by land. The enormous waves caused by the moon's attraction courses round the world south of Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope, with absolutely nothing to break it. Here in our Northern hemisphere great masses of land interrupt the tidal waves, and, combined with the shallowness of the inland seas, cause them to perform antics which seem most strange.

The depth of the water has much to do with the tidal irregularities. Out in the open ocean, where the tide is always real—about 5,000 fathoms—the speed of the waves is amazing. Where the depth decreases to five fathoms the tide cannot travel more than fifteen miles an hour. In England, for example, which is surrounded by narrow, land broken seas, the result is that they get some of the most dangerous tidal races and currents to be found. The most formidable of these is the whirlpool between the islands of Jura and Scarba, on the west coast of Scotland. This is known as the "Caldron of the Spotted Seas."

There the current runs at times at the rate of more than twelve miles an hour, and the force of a heavy tidal current rushing up to the wide mouthed river forms what is called a "bore." A most striking example of this tidal feature is often seen on the Amazon, when a moving wall of water, reaching from bank to bank and to a height of more than twenty feet, will rush inland.