A Column for Card Players and Question Box—

Conducted by Hoyle, Jr.

Address questions about any game to Hoyle, Jr., The Observer. Answers will be mailed promptly. No questions answered unless signed with name and address.

"The best laid schemes o' mice and men Gang aft a-gley."

In spite of all the mushery and drill of the bidding in Auction—which are the signals permissible across the board or table from one player to his partner, and which are equally useful to the opponents, if needed—a player often is so intent on his own hand, so selfish in his desire to play the deal, that he disregards the messages, whether spoken or implied, and rushes headlong to disaster.

Again, he may misinterpret a bid or, more frequently, a double. The double is at present having a most desperate popularity—desperate because novices not understanding its legitimate uses, are employing it on every occasion, much to the detriment of their scores.

In no game do circumstances play so important a part as in Auction. Upon what has been bid depends what must be bid, and even in the "comparative" are most diverse; as, for example:

(Note: 0 indicates a small card under ten.)

Many would bid No-trump. Safest bid is Spades on

Spades—A., Q., J., 0, 0
Hearts—K., Q.
Diamonds—0, 0, 0
Clubs—Q., J., Ten

Many would bid No Trump. Safest bid is Spades on

Spades—A., K., 0, 0, 0
Hearts—A., Q., 0, 0, 0
Diamonds—J., Ten, 0
Clubs—None

Many would bid No-trump. Then, if the opponents show any strong suit, go to Clubs on

Spades—Q., J., 0
Hearts—K., 0
Diamonds—J., Ten, 0
Clubs—A., K., Ten, 0, 0

The diversity of judgment is most interesting, and the most be guided by the declarations.

The play of a hand is rarely the same as if that hand should be given as a problem, for unconsciously the mind is biased by the undue knowledge that the deal is a test or problem, and in consequence many freak plays or methods will be used. In the comparative or par contests is where the different opinions on each and every hand are most evidenced.

Questions and Answers.

Q. North bids one Heart, East bids one Spade, South doubles one Spade, West passes, North passes, East passes. South holds that his double was informatory, and that North should have gone to his longest suit.

A. Not so. After North has shown Hearts, he has every reason to interpret South's double as a business double, and should have allowed it to stand. This is one of the occasions where the incorrect use of the double proved most disastrous.

Q. What is the 'Rule of Eleven?'

A. Foster's Rule of Eleven: "When a fourth best card is led, deduct the face value of the card led from ELEVEN, and the remainder will be the number of HIGHER cards held by the other three players. Example: 8 is led—eight from eleven leaves three—there are three higher cards than 8 which are NOT in leader's hand."

This rule is especially valuable in the No-trump play to the third hand player, and enables him to finesse. Many players contend that this rule is not of value in Auction; on the other hand, an equal number of players always apply it and find it of great assistance.

The Rule of Eleven was the outgrowth of the long suit game of Whist, and was originally formulated by Mr. P. J. Tormey, a whist expert, under the title of "Rule of Fourteen," which was the same idea worked out in a longer way. Instead of eliminating the known three cards of the combination led from, the face value of the card (fourth best) led was deducted from fourteen, and the remainder was the number of higher cards held by the leader and the other three players. By deducting his own three remaining cards, the leader can easily place the others. For instance, 8 is led—eight from fourteen is six—therefore there are six higher cards than 8, three of which are not in the leader's hand. 8, 7, and 6 are the only cards to which it seems worth while to apply this rule.

Q. How are these rules of Eleven and Fourteen formed?

A. There are thirteen cards in each suit, but the Ace (number one or one spot) ranks highest in value, therefore should be counted above any other card, and should rank as the fourteenth instead of the first card in determining the number of higher cards held against the card led. Therefore, for this hypothesis, we start numbering the suit of cards with deuce as two and on up until Ace, following the King, is fourteen, or the number from which the card led is to be deducted. For the Eleven rule, deduct the three known cards from the fourteen, and eleven is found as the basis from which to work.

Just Thirty Years Ago in the Grande Ronde Valley

(April 15, 1892)

Spitzer and Co. made the successful bid for the $30,000 water bonds issued by the city of La Grande. Their bid was $30,000 less a commission of $284.

The Union county teachers meeting will be held in La Grande tomorrow.

Died, in La Grande, Tuesday, April 12, 1892, son of J. F. and Anna Baker, aged three years and seven months.

The Grande Ronde Lumber company started operations last week having put in place one of their new band saws. The second saw will soon be ready to operate and the daily product of the mill will then exceed 100,000 feet.

Work is progressing very satisfactorily on the excavations for McKennon's brick, and the building will be rushed to completion with all possible rapidity. B. W. Grandy has joined with Mr. McKennon and they will build three store rooms. The frame building on Mr. Grandy's lot will be removed at once.

Soliciting committees are at work throughout the county soliciting stock for the Alliance Flouring mill to be built in La Grande. The capital stock is set at $25,000 and no one is entitled to hold more than $500 worth of stock.

Three carloads of brick arrived from Weston this week to be used on the construction of J. G. Snodgrass' one-story building on Washington avenue.

Judge Thomas O'Day, counsel for Isaac, of La Grande, yesterday filed in the state circuit court a complaint asking for damages by reason of malicious prosecution in the sum of $20,000 and additional $50 for expense. The defendants named are E. L. Mahaffey, F. H. Manning, the Commercial Insurance company of Manchester, England.

CHATS WITH YOUR ELECTRIC MAN

—As the title suggests we want these advertisements to be in the nature of friendly talks between us. Our purpose in this is to tell you certain facts about our business that will, we believe, clear away many misunderstandings.

—We confess that prejudice against this business has been fostered by letting gross errors go uncorrected, but all this is going to be changed so far as we are able to change it.

—We shall try in these advertisements to answer every question about the electric business that has puzzled you. If we seem to be overlooking any, kindly write us about it and it will be answered.

—Read these advertisements as they appear from time to time. You will not only find them interesting and informative; but we believe they will cause you to see the public utility business, particularly the electric business, in a new light.

E. O. L. & P. Co.

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SMALLEST OF ALL THEATERS

Ypsilanti, Michigan, Lays Claim to the Original "Little Theater;" Only One Act Plays Given.

(By Associated Press)

YPSILANTI, Mich., Apr. 15.—Ypsilanti claims the smallest theatre in the country, one of the oldest of its kind anywhere and one that is regarded as a unique example of the "Little Theater Movement."

The theatrical club was started seven years ago with fifteen members for a study of the drama. The organization has developed to a point where it occupies national prominence among supporters of the "Little Theater Movement."

The chief object of the club at its inception was to provide entertainment for its members. After the first year the society purchased a small barn here and remodeled it into a playhouse. The same building is in use at present. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 60 persons and is but 12 by 18 feet in dimension, with a small balcony constructed from part of what formerly was a hayloft. The stage has a depth of 25 feet and a proscenium arch nine by 15 feet.

The interior of the theater has been painted and decorated with old English lanterns, giving it an Elizabethan appearance. The stage, however, is equipped with a modern lighting system, costing $2,000 and described by theatrical experts as unsurpassed within its limits by any stage in larger theaters.

Only one-act plays are offered, usually two or three of them on each night when performances are held. Following the performances players and audience join in a supper prepared in the basement of the building.

The club has become self-support-ing and announces it is working toward bringing about a municipal playhouse. Every member of the society is subject to call for any performance, from scene shifting to playing a role in some play. Some of the members have shown unusual ability in scene painting and costume making.

Each play is studied in detail before being presented, costumes, announcement posters and other articles needed are prepared and if furniture necessary is not obtainable it is built by club members.

Among the plays presented so far this year are "The Green Scarf" (Kenneth Goodman); "A Night of the Trojan War," (John Drinkwater); "Fourteen" (Alice Gertsenberg) and "Her Only Son" (Marjorie Sinclair). The organization is directed by Daniel L. Quirk of Ypsilanti, a University of Michigan graduate.

TEMPERANCE IS GAINING

(By Associated Press)

VIENNA, Apr. 15.—The temperance movement recently started in Austria is gaining impetus, at least in publicity. It has served to arouse the liquor interests who have held a big meeting in opposition and attempted to refute the figures officially published of the country's immense booze bill.

The government has agreed with the social democratic proposal to make a start by making the sale of liquors to youths unlawful. A measure is in preparation but some disagreement has resulted over the question of age limit. The socialists wish to place it at 18 years.

The Arbeiter Zeitung, official socialist organ, has replied energetically to the charge of the opposition which is their principal card that prohibition in the United States has resulted in greatly increased criminality. The newspaper prints American statistics of empty prisons, of prisons and correctional institutions for sale, increased savings, bank deposits and similar propaganda.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

I wish to announce to my friends and patrons that this is the last week o order trees and shrubbery for spring delivery, but I may have some left over from shipments already received.

J. H. KILBY.

4-11-5t

Democrats Hear a Joyful Message For Easter From Hull

PORTLAND, Apr. 15.—Bearing an Easter message for the party, Cordell Hull, chairman of the democratic national committee, arrived in Portland this morning to visit a few hours with the heads of local party organizations and individual members.

"From the democratic party standpoint everything is looking fine," he said. "I find that there is almost a universal feeling of optimism in the party ranks. The outlook for success in this fall's elections is most promising. All along the line there is a stiffening up and a growth of confidence.

"This feeling of optimism in democratic success is not confined to democrats alone, but extends to men of independent political thought and action who see in the triumph of the democratic party the realization of their ideals."

For this promising situation Chairman Hull sees two reasons:

"One reason," he said, "is that the record of the last democratic administration is coming into clearer perspective and the people of the nation are beginning to appreciate more and more its accomplishments.

"Another reason is the disappointment arising out of the conduct of national affairs under the present administration which is failing to make good on its promises."

Large-sized, clean cotton rags wanted at The Observer.

UMPIRES GOING TO SCHOOL NOW

CAMP LEWIS, Wash., Apr. 15.—A school for umpires is being held this month in preparation for the opening of the league of army baseball teams here. All enlisted men desiring to qualify for this dangerous arm of the game are welcomed at the school. Extra compensation of $1.00 per game is provided umpires in addition to regular soldiers' pay.

KISSING CONTEST.

LONDON.—Andrew Atwin, a dentist, was sentenced to four months' imprisonment for kissing a patient, Mrs. Dorothy Pure.

This monument, erected to the memory of Joseph Bradford Carr, in Oakwood Cemetery, New York, is a combination of classic and modern ideas in monument work.

—We have made a profound study of monument building, and an order placed in our hands is sure to receive faithful, intelligent execution.

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Have us send our driver tomorrow for your family bundle. We'll have everything back again all clean and sweet in just a little while.

Main 77

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