

## 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.

### AUCTION BRIDGE—NO. 27.

"Modern Auction in a nut-shell—Signs, signals, and a short supply of brains." The expert knows by sad experience that often a poor play will win when the scientific rules or deductions fail. Why? Because outside of a contest or tournament one rarely finds evenly matched players—never or almost never at the society afternoon of Auction. But then is when the supply of brains is brought into play—in either words, then is when one must play one's opponents and profit by their shortcomings, as it is only the expert who, untroubled by the game, never hesitating in any play, never by any mannerism giving an inkling of his hand's value.

The only time when it is excusable to hesitate is at first sight of one's hand, and at first sight of the dummy's. After the dummy's cards are placed on the table one is justified in taking time to plan the scheme of attack, locating the finesse available, and noting the combined strength of suits.

### HOLDING

Declarer.

Spades—A, Q, 5, 4, 3

Hearts—K, 5

Diamonds—Q, 4, 3

Clubs—10, 7, 6

Dummy

Spades—J, 7

Hearts—10, 9, 6

Diamonds—J, 10, 2

Clubs—A, K, 9, 8, 5

Spades are bought with a bid of one. Suppose second hand leads Ace, then King of Diamonds. The third round of Diamonds declarer holds with Queen. The trump lead next is safe, but the finesse must be made in the Spades by Jack, and a finesse must also be made in Clubs.

### HOLDING

Declarer

Spades—A, Q, 2

Hearts—J, 3, 2

Diamonds—K, Q, 4

Clubs—A, Q, 10, 9

Dummy

Spades—10, 9, 8

Hearts—K, 9, 5

Diamonds—7, 5, 3

Clubs—J, 8, 5, 4

Declarer has bought with one No-trump. Dummy's hand is very weak—not even strong enough to take declarer out of the No-trump, as he has no five-card suit. The finesse in Spades, also in Clubs, is all that will save even the one trick necessary. A finesse should almost always be tried unless it be with a plain suit as trump and nine cards in the combined holding.

When, as often happens, you can win the trick either with your own hand or with the dummy's, be careful to consider these points: Which is the longest and best suit to play for; which hand you can lead the suit from to the best advantage and so on to make any finesse; and especially, which hand will need the high cards as re-entry cards. Should none of these considerations seem important, it generally is better to play low from dummy and thereby force third hand. In a No-trump declaration, if the adversary has opened against you a suit in which you hold an Ace, with no possibility of never taking another trick, do not play your Ace at once unless you have another suit strong and long enough to make the game.

When your long suit is not cleared, you should hold up your Ace as re-entry until the adversary on your right has no more of the suit and when he secures the lead can not return the suit to his partner, but is compelled to open another one, probably to your advantage.

### Questions and Answers.

Q. What is meant by "The Etiquette of Auction?"

A. The answer given is in full from the Laws of Auction revised to January, 1920, and reprinted here by permission of The Whist Club of New York.

Etiquette of Auction—In the game of Auction, slight intimations convey much information. The laws fix penalties for an offense. To offend against etiquette is more serious than to offend against a law; for in the latter case the offender is subject to the prescribed penalties; in the former the adversaries are without redress.

## Just Thirty Years Ago in the Grande Ronde Valley

April 22, 1892.

The council has ratified the proposed change in plan of water distribution. The plans as first given by Mr. Adams, the engineer, gave a large distribution in the vicinity of Cogan's addition. This has been changed so as to put a six-inch pipe on the north side of the railroad bridge and extending east as far as the elevator.

Mrs. McKennon, mother of J. D. McKennon and Mrs. J. M. Berry, is on a visit from the east and will remain a year. She is accompanied by her nieces, Misses Harvey and Fanny McKennon.

A drive whist party was given by Mrs. F. T. Abbott Wednesday evening. Those present were Mrs. and Mrs. J. E. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Snodgrass, Mr. and Mrs. Jap H. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Berry, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Scriber, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Slater, Mr. and Mrs. James Argyle, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Masterton, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Eckley. There was a tie for first honors between Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Masterton and Mrs. Eckley. J. M. Berry received the gentlemen's first prize, while Mr. Scriber and Mrs. Graham, while carrying off the boobies.

A large number of teams are engaged in hauling rocks for Anthony's new brick building on Adams avenue.

The elegant residence of J. D. McKennon, on Second street, is rapidly approaching completion.

The band boys have arranged to give open air concerts Saturday afternoons.

A little child of Mrs. J. H. Pearce fell down cellar a few days ago and fractured his collar bone.

The community is in deep sympathy with the family of P. H. Murray, who mourn the untimely death of a six-year-old daughter, which occurred Tuesday noon. The child was playing on a pile of lumber near the house.

when in some manner the pile toppled over, burying her underneath.

Died—In this city, on April 15th, Hattie Wallace, daughter of S. F. Wallace, aged seven years.

GET SUNDAY Journal April 23rd—Attractive girls of La Grande to appear on that date. 4-21-22

## EAT

At the

Brownie Lunch

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## THRIFT SHOP OPEN.

The Red Cross Thrift Shop is open daily now in the New Foley Building, off the Chestnut street entrance. Thursday will continue to be Thrift Day and on this day all who have donations for the shop are asked to have it ready to be delivered, that being the day collections are made. 12-10-rfp

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