



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 Article No. 31

"This above all, to thine own self be true;
And it shall follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

There is no place where confidence is more valued than at the card table, as unity is the most requisite quality for success.

Many hands at first glance do not seem to fit any known rule for bid or lead, but on due deliberation one always will find there is a way out of this, as out of most other dilemmas. A forced lead as an original lead often is perplexing, but from two or three card suits, if one must be opened, choose the one with a sequence and open high. Avoid opening a suit headed by King or Queen alone; example: King and nine—Queen and ten, nine. However, when holding both King and Queen, with or without other cards, open and open high.

The tenace, also, is a stumbling block to many players, but often must be opened—always, if it be against a No-trump and the hand holds no re-entry card. Then open high and follow by fourth best to tell your partner the suit and to prevent a slam. Your partner, later in the game, may be able to give you your suit again, and you may make it good. Of course, these leads are for the occasions when you do not know your partner's suit. Then the leads when you do know your partner's suit were given in full in an earlier article. The condensed rule for them, however, is to give your partner the highest of four or less, and continuing with next in value, to strengthen partner's holding and to unblock; to give your partner the fourth best when you hold five or more, as your holding may be longer than partner's.

The underplay, or ducking, is keeping back the best card on the first or second round of the play of suit (especially in No-trump), so as to exhaust the holding of leader's partner, thus preventing him from being able to return that suit should he get the lead. Often a high card may be sacrificed in underplaying, but many tricks may be gained.

The grand coup is a rare play which often was used in Whist, but does not occur frequently in Auction. It consists in throwing away a superfluous trump or winning card in order to avoid making a lead where leading would lose you

a trick, or where holding the winning card would block your partner's suit.

Many brilliant plays that occurred in Whist are lost in Auction, as in the latter game each player knows twenty-six cards, while in the former each player knows only thirteen. The action in Auction must be more rapid since much is known of each player's holding by his bidding or not bidding, even before Dummy's hand is shown. Yet this very knowledge puts the players on their mettle and primes them for the fray.

Questions and Answers.

Q. What is the difference between underplaying and finesse?

A. Underplay is keeping back the best cards and playing lower ones instead. It differs from finesse in this, that the object is not to take the trick with the smaller card, but to throw the lead, whereas the finesse is an attempt to win with a card lower than the higher or highest card held, and not in sequence, trusting that the intermediate missing card is held by the opponent between your card and the next play of your other hand. Declarant only should finesse in Auction.

Q. What is the origin of Playing Cards?

A. The pack of fifty-two playing cards is supposed to be of Asiatic origin, "connected with Oriental religions, necromantic, and scientific associations."

They were introduced into Europe before the thirteenth century, their popularity spread into France, England, and Germany, and their use became the pastime of all classes, Whist ranking with Chess as the aristocratic sport.

The characters upon different suits are supposed to have represented the four classes of Society: Hearts representing the clergy; Spades the nobility; Diamonds the citizens, and Clubs the serfs.

Again, the deck resembles the Year; the fifty-two cards the weeks, and the four suits the seasons.

The diversity of designs in playing cards is most interesting, and many collectors have gathered together an almost endless variety of decks. In one antique pack, the Aces are a poppy for spring and a primrose for summer (these being the Aces of the two red suits); one bunch of grapes for autumn, and a spray of holly for winter (for the two black suits). Jupiter was used for King, Minerva for Queen, and Mercury for Jack.

system of government, which afforded a wide scope of freedom. Why cannot we have the same privileges now?"

The liberals, however, who form the majority of the population, although not altogether satisfied with the constitution, still consider it a great step forward in their onward march to free statehood. Their leaders re-echo the opposition of the fact that the country is still under mandate according to Article 22 of the pact of the League of Nations and therefore still under tutelage. One journal remarked: "France in granting us such a liberal constitution has proven herself worthy of the trust given to her by the League."

The state of Lebanon lies to the north of Palestine. It is bounded on the north by the River Khabir and the eastern boundary is fixed along the hills to the east of Lebanon. Beirut is the chief city and seat of government.

Queer Origin of Words.

Strange is the word saunterer, sprung from La Sainte Terre (the Holy Land), whither pilgrims were wont leisurely to journey. Stranger, the word haberdasher, which is said to have been derived from the German habt ihr das hier? Another exotic corruption, this time from the French, is qu'en dirai (what shall I say of it?) for qu'on dirai. —Philadelphia Ledger.

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GRASS VALLEY IS INTERESTED

WASCO, Ore., May 27.—A party of legionnaires headed by C. R. Morrow, commander of Frank E. Brown Post No. 31 of Wasco Oregon, traveled 40 miles south of their city to Grass Valley for a short meeting with the ex-service men of that district. Newspaper, advertising and handbill arranged the coming of the legion men which resulted in a great number being present. The meeting culminated in the desire of the 50 men of that district to form a post of the American Legion.

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ROAD CONDITIONS IN EASTERN OREGON

The weekly report of R. H. Baldock, division engineer of the state highway commission, on the roads of eastern Oregon is as follows:

Old Oregon Trail.

Pendleton-Foot of Crabapple Hill: Open, macadamized.

Foot of Crabapple Hill-La Grande: Blue Mountain summit open but rough.

La Grande-Hot Lake: Pavement and macadam; good construction.

Hot Lake-Union: Open. Cross tracks east of Hot Lake, detour marked to main highway.

Union-Haines-Baker: Good macadam.

Baker-Nelson: Fair county road.

Nelson-Huntington: New standard

grades. The detours on this section are well marked, but care should be used as they are rough.

Huntington-Wesley: (via Old Ferry) Fair condition.

Wesley-Ontario: Excellent macadam.

La Grande-Joseph Highway.

La Grande-Island City: Paved.

Island City-Elgin County road in fair condition.

Elgin-Nimrod: First nine miles macadam. From end of macadam to Mjuna open but rough.

Nimrod-Joseph: Macadamized with exception of 8 mile stretch between Lostine and Enterprise; this strip is rough; take hill road. Road open from La Grande to Walltown lake.

Chains necessary.

retains control over foreign and Italian affairs.

The extremists are naturally dissatisfied with the provisions of the constitution and ask for no less than complete independence. "We are worthy of independence and well qualified for it," declared ex-mayor of Aintab, in a speech protesting against the new organic laws. "When Palestine, Syria and Mesopotamia were still under the actual sway of Turkey, Mt. Lebanon had a privileged

CONSTITUTION FOR LEBANON

Fetes Celebrate New Document in Near East Republic; Self-Government Afforded.

(By Associated Press)

BEIRUT, Lebanon, May 27.—The people of Lebanon have been celebrating with fetes the proclamation of a new constitution for Lebanon and the setting up of a new national assembly under the French mandate. The constitution as proclaimed by General Gourard, the French High Commissioner, affords the country a large measure of self-government.

The Administrative Committee of the Lebanon, which was nominated by France in 1920, for the purpose of co-operation in government affairs in Lebanon has been dissolved and has been succeeded by a representative assembly whose members are all elected by the people.

There are 50 members in the National Assembly. In accordance with the French electoral law, which was promulgated in Syria, there is allowance for every 25,000 inhabitants. The census has completed shows the population of Lebanon to be 500,000.

The constitution affords the National Assembly absolute power of legislation, taxation, and the power to create institutions. France however,

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—For any further information, address W. B. Davis, Secretary, Union, Oregon.