

While the Children Are Home

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TREATING SEED WHEAT BENEFIT

While Process is New in Oregon Results Have Been Equal to Expectations.

(By F. W. Ballard)

In these days of low prices of farm products, economical production is a matter of first importance. Factors which reduce production costs are being eagerly sought by farmers. A fifteen or twenty per cent saving in any farm operation is a substantial one. A twenty per cent saving in seed cost is being effected by owners of 10,000 acres of wheat land in Morrow county. They are saving twenty per cent less seed and getting as good or better stands than their neighbors. The reason for this is treatment of seed with copper carbonate instead of copper sulphate or formaldehyde solutions as in past years. These solutions used wherever wheat is so sown in the western country for some time, always kill an appreciable percentage of the seed. Copper carbonate applied as a dust does not kill any of the germination powers of the seed which and therefore twenty per cent loss, on a conservative basis, should be seen, according to G. R. Hyslop, of the Farm Crops Department of the Oregon Agricultural college.

While treating seed wheat with copper carbonate is new this year in Oregon, it has been practiced successfully many years in Australia. Last fall county agents in Eastern Oregon counties persuaded a few wheat growers to try the new method and the results everywhere have been successful. In some cases the new treatment is more effective in actual seed control than are the old methods. In other instances it is somewhat effective and on the average has about the same effectiveness. This conclusion is reached after extensive experiments in trials in Oregon, Washington and California, supplemented by extensive field demonstrations in these states.

The new treating method was grasped most eagerly by wheat farmers in Morrow county and the stands secured this fall on the 25,000 acres of winter wheat sown with the treated seed were particularly good for this season. Twelve farmers there tried but the new method is being figuring copper carbonate stands as one hundred per cent, the stands secured from treating with the solutions stood at seventy-four per cent. There was about one per cent advantage in seed control in favor of the old methods. La Rading of Eight Mile, had less than half a stand because of injury to seed by treating with the old-time solutions. J. O. Turner of Heppner, had a two-thirds stand and E. Finley of Lexington, had only a thirty-five per cent stand, which in comparison to the fields on which they had treated with copper carbonate look very slim.

A smaller acreage in Umatilla, Sherman, Union and Wasco counties, has been sown. These acreages will be used again by the county agents as demonstration. The largest acreage treated with copper carbonate in the northwest is found in Walla Walla county, where 32,000 acres of spring wheat was sown after this treatment. Columbia county, Washington, has 20,000 acres treated.

CANADA REACHES LOWER LEVELS

MONTREAL, P. Q., Dec. 27.—Living costs in Canada are nearing pre-war levels, the average cost of the weekly family budget according to government statistics, now being \$10.28, as compared with \$11.82 last year, and \$15.95 in 1920. The index of wholesale prices is lower than it has been in years. Financial experts point out that the decline in commodity prices has been



Easy Lessons
in
Auction Bridge
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Article No. 2 Choice of Suit in Bidding Card Probabilities

CHOICE OF SUIT IN BIDDING

As it takes five tricks or Clubs or Diamonds for game, these suits are designated minor suits and the Heart and Spade suits, requiring only four tricks for game, major suits. It is the experience of the best players that it is almost an axiom of the game that the bid of the bid majority of hands (say) at a suit bid is four tricks and that Hearts and Spades suits are much preferable. The No Trump requires only three tricks for game and therefore should be preferred to the major suits. It has been noted, however, that it is safer on the average to play for four tricks at Hearts or Spades, than three tricks at No Trump, so that the major suits are preferred even over the No Trump.

This division into major and minor suits, and the preference of major to minor or even to No Trump, has made the Spade suit the most valuable suit because it holds extra outside any other suit, with a better chance for game. This result has given rise to the so-called Spade convention as an important part of the double, which will be covered in subsequent articles.

The next thing for the beginner to take up are card probabilities and card valuations that is, what you may reasonably expect from your own and the other players' hands on an average deal, and how to judge the trick-taking value of the cards that are dealt to you.

CARD PROBABILITIES

When a deck of fifty-two cards is dealt out to four players, one at a time, it has been found that about eighty per cent of these hands will contain suits of not more than five cards. That means that four out of every five hands are of this character and therefore represent the type of hands that must be considered first by the novice. For example,

take the following hand:

- Hearts—A, K, 7, 6, 5
- Clubs—10, 9, 8
- Diamonds—10, 7, 6
- Spades—J, 4

This hand is a good example of a hand containing a five card suit. The probability as to division of the eight remaining cards of the Heart suit is that there will be three to one player, three to another and two to the third. In other words, by leading the A, K and small Heart, the bidder of the Heart suit will make four tricks with that suit. If such is correct, that leaves nine tricks to be taken by the other three suits. If these nine tricks are equally divided among the three players, each one should on the average win three each. This probability is called the "average expectancy" and forms the basis of the first bid of the hand.

With the hand already noted, dealer is justified in bidding one Heart, for it will average to produce four tricks, which, added to the three he can expect on the average from his partner, will just produce the seven tricks necessary to justify a bid of one Heart. This point will be covered more at length in dealing with the opening or so-called "original" bid of any hand. These various probabilities—first, that four out of every five hands contain suits no longer than five cards; second, that a five card suit headed by A, K will be held 5, 3, 3, 1 and the fourth four tricks that suit is trump; and third, that the average number of tricks that may be expected from partner is three (the so-called average expectancy)—constitute the so-called "card probabilities." These are most important and most necessary for every novice to understand.

Card valuation will be taken up in the next article.

OLIVER CROMWELL DID NOT BELIEVE IN CHRISTMAS

In the days of Oliver Cromwell Christmas was an illegal festival in England. It was Cromwell's idea that it was a superstitious festival, and he forbade it to be celebrated. He also ordered all holy and mystical things to be destroyed, regarding them as plants of the Evil One. As a matter of fact, little notice was taken of the order, and most people celebrated Christmas as usual.

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Society

The Country club, one of the most popular sites for social functions in La Grande, was the scene of many dinners and social events during the Christmas season. About fifteen members drove to the Country club on Christmas day and enjoyed a turkey dinner and several smaller dinners were given.

Mrs. Harry Zurbrik will entertain at bridge this evening at her home at seven o'clock in honor of her sister, Mrs. Karl Evans, who is visiting in La Grande for some time.

One of the Christmas social affairs of prominence occurred when Mr. and Mrs. M. B. DeFonce gave a delightful dinner to a number of her friends. The dining room was tastefully decorated in Christmas bells and variations.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bohlenkamp, Mrs. Bessie Carney, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Jones, Mrs. Shields, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hunter and the host and hostess.

The Clio club will be entertained by Mrs. Hal Bohlenkamp at the Country club on Friday evening, December 29.

The L. D. S. Sunday school gave a party for the youngsters at the M. L. A. Assembly hall on the afternoon of Christmas day. Santa Claus was present with a goodly supply of candies and nuts for everyone. The hall was beautifully decorated with pine boughs and colors suggestive of the Christmas and a large tree stood as one out of the hall. On Christmas night a dance was given and a large crowd was present, all acclaiming the evening a pronounced success.

Mrs. W. G. Sawyer delightfully entertained the Lucky Thirteen club at her home on Fourth street on Friday afternoon, December 22. All reported a very enjoyable time.

The next meeting of the Kaffee Klatch club will be held at the Country club on Friday afternoon at two o'clock with Mrs. T. J. Scrogins acting as hostess.

The Country club was the scene of another of those delightful dances that are becoming a regular event. On last Friday evening, a fine crowd was in attendance and all reported a very enjoyable evening.

Mrs. J. F. Bowers and John Bennett were hostesses to the Parkside club at the home of the former on Wednesday, December 20, the meeting being preliminary to the arrival of the Yuletide season with the decorations cleverly suggestive of the coming of Saint Nicholas.

After the brief business session a short program was held at which Mrs. Carrie Coolidge gave a reading and Mrs. Dora Stein favored the members with a recitation. The round table talk of "One hundred per cent husband and wife" was the topic of discussion for some time with Mrs. Carroll and Mrs. Hiddle being the principal speakers.

At the close of a pleasant afternoon refreshments were served by the host and hostess. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Garrett Blockland on Wednesday, January 10.

One of the important social functions of the year will take place at the home of Mrs. A. L. Richardson on New Year's day when she will hold open house under the auspices of the Neighborhood club.

The Neighborhood club is interested in making arrangements for a new clubhouse and this party is given in connection with their plans. A special invitation is tendered to the general public to be present at this time.

Women of the Mooseheart Legion will meet at the L. O. F. hall Thursday evening at eight o'clock. New officers will be installed for the coming year at this time and all members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served at the close of the evening.

Mrs. Roy K. Terry, wife of Attorney Terry of Portland, is visiting with her sister, Mrs. John Hodgins for a few days. Mrs. Hodgins is convalescing from a major operation at the Grande Ronde hospital.

A quiet but very pretty wedding occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Ainesworth, 1025 V avenue,

La Grande, when Martha J. Larimore became the bride of Clayton M. Goodman on Sunday, December 24th at 6 o'clock p. m. in the presence of relatives and friends. Rev. A. R. Sittor, pastor of the Baptist church, officiated.

The bride, who has been a very successful teacher in the Enterprise schools for the past two years, is the daughter of Mrs. R. J. Larmore of Fairfield, Iowa. The groom is a prominent stockman of Wallawa county and is the son of Mrs. W. W. Goodman of La Grande.

The bride was attired in a beautiful gown of cream satin charmeuse with an overspray of Spanish lace. She carried a bridal bouquet of Opheila roses. The home was beautifully decorated in harmony with the holiday season. As the bride and groom entered to the strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march, played by Mrs. Vernon Ainesworth, sister of the groom, the lights were turned low and the ceremony was made much more impressive by the silvery decorated archway under which they stood. It was illuminated by the light from Christmas candles and the glow of the fire from the grate.

After the ceremony the bride and groom led the way to the dining room where dainty refreshments

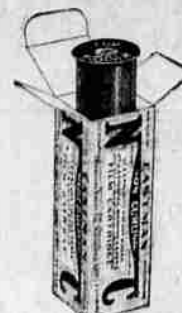
were served. Festivities of the occasion were continued with a sumptuous wedding dinner on Christmas day. Their many friends join in wishing them a most prosperous and happy wedded life.

DIVORCE DECREE
Judge Walter Evans recently granted a divorce decree to Edythe Beem of Elgin, on the grounds of inhuman and cruel treatment, which she shared her husband, Jonathan Beem, with several months ago.

Italian who killed himself because he was unable to learn English in New York seems to have thought it was spoken there.

Day by day and in every way the world is coming nearer to January 1 with its bills and creditors clamoring for payment.

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In the friendly spirit of the season, we take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation of the very cordial business relations we have enjoyed with you during the past year.

We want you to keep in mind that we are always glad to have you call to confer with us at any time on matters helpful to your affairs. If the service of the bank can be more valuable to you during the New Year than in the past, we shall be glad.

All the officers and employes of the bank join in wishing you a New Year well filled with happiness, good health and prosperity.

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