

Is It Possible to Do Away With Gambling Altogether?

By Ex-Judge A. J. DITTENHOEFER of New York

THE GAMBLING INSTINCT IS IMPLANTED IN THE HUMAN SYSTEM AND CANNOT BE ERADICATED BY ANY PENAL STATUTE.

Gambling is carried on at church gatherings and social festivities. Bridge gambling and poker are played in the home and in the clubs. Human nature being thus addicted in some form or another to gambling, it is no wonder that it is ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SUPPRESS IT.

On the principle that laws that cannot be enforced should not be enacted, laws that make gambling a crime should be repealed, and PERSONS WHO HAVE THE GAMBLING INSTINCT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO GAMBLE in gambling houses just as they are allowed to gamble in Wall street, where in one week more ruination is wrought than in all the gambling houses in a big city in a year.

In gambling houses men take chances in roulette and faro. In Wall street the innocent public is lured to take chances to win on quotations of false and counterfeit transactions, known as wash sales, sent by the arch manipulators over the ticker.

But with the repeal of the laws against gambling a law should be enacted requiring the UTMOST PUBLICITY IN GAMBLING DENIS.

BROKEN ENGLISH.

Trials of a Frenchman With One of Our Common Verbs.

English is said to be the hardest language in the world to foreigners. This is a broad statement, which might be hard to prove, but certainly it is not the easiest in the world. A professor in an eastern college relates a French friend's trials with our verb "break."

He writes: "I begin to understand your language better, but your verbs trouble me still. I saw my friend Mrs. S. just now. She says she intends to break down her school earlier than usual. Am I right there?"

"Break up her school," she must have said.

"Oh, yes, I remember; break up school."

"Why does she do that?" I asked.

"Because her health is broken into."

"Broken down?"

"Broken down? Oh, yes! And, indeed, since the fever has broken up in her town."

"Broken out. Will she leave her house alone?"

"No. She is afraid it will be broken—broken. How do I say that?"

"Broken into."

"Certainly. It is what I meant to say."

"Is her son to be married soon?"

"No. That engagement is broken—broken."

"Broken off."—Los Angeles Times.

FEARED THE HOODOO.

A Story That Was Told on Jesse Burckett, the Ball Player.

Of all the superstitious ball players none can hold a candle to Jesse Burckett the old Cleveland outfielder.

"Jesse and the rest of us were out at Delmar track, in St. Louis," said Bobby Wallace in telling the story.

"Jesse got down \$20 at 3 to 5 on a good thing that may be running yet."

"Burckett had been tipped to this by George Kelster, race track man. After the race Jesse turned on Kelster with one of his snarls, and Kelster, knowing his fear of hoodoo, said:

"I'll put the Spanish curse on you for a week for that."

"The next day Burckett failed to get a hit and muffed a fly. The day after he booted a grounder and struck out twice. That night he hunted up Kelster."

"Come up to my room," said Burckett.

"Kelster went along, and Burckett unwrapped a package, displaying a beautiful ascot, and said:

"George, I'll give you that scarf—it cost me \$2—if you'll take off that Spanish curse."

"Kelster snapped his fingers three times and said, 'It's off.'"

"And the next day, strange to say, Burckett made three hits and fielded like a fiend."

A voter's first duty is now the study of proposed laws.



(This matter must not be reprinted without special permission.)

An engine weighing 540,000 pounds and having sixteen drive wheels has lately been ordered by a West Virginia railroad to be used in pushing freight cars up a heavy grade.

From two counties in western Colorado, Mesa and Delta, there will have been shipped by the close of the season 5,000 carloads of peaches from orchards covering a territory of not more than 8,000 acres.

The quiet resignation of dwellers in the northern portion of the corn belt in the midst of sweltering weather sorely needed for a belated corn crop is one of the interesting traits of our modern agricultural civilization.

Those interested in the progress of agricultural education will be pleased to learn the fact that the number of special institutions that are teaching agriculture in the United States has increased from 545 to 875 within the last two years.

The first butterfly farm in the world is to be established at Red Bank, N. J., by business men from New York. This is to furnish society ladies who entertain extensively butterflies of rare and beautiful coloring to flit about in their conservatories and parlors.

In some sections of the northern states where the small grain crop has been heavy this season a good deal of annoyance has been caused farmers who have left their grain in the shock by crickets, the insects gnawing the twine with which the bundles were bound.

The department of agriculture at Washington has lately made an offer of 5 cents each for live bedbugs. Doubtless these are needed for strictly scientific purposes, but readers of the daily papers are of the opinion that they are "bughouse" enough now down at Washington without propagating any more of these bloodsucking pests.

In an instance which came under the writer's notice the other day 1,200 goats were used in clearing a large farm of hazel brush. While there was blue grass in the nearby pasture, they kept at the hazel brush until they had it completely barked, browsed and killed. The owner of the farm will realize \$4 per head on the animals, besides having them clean up the brush.

Oklahoma seems to have taken the lead in the rapid development of demonstration work for the improvement of farming. It has 1,375 cotton demonstrators, 1,312 corn demonstrators and 481 Kaffir demonstrators, while 9,376 boys of the state are enrolled in clubs the object of which is the growing of these products, and 3,555 girls are enrolled in girls' canning clubs.

One of the most attractive trees to the tourist in the Golden State is the valley oak that dots the meadows and pastures of the Sacramento valley. One of the most symmetrical specimens of this variety of oak, which is broad topped and deep rooted, is found on the Bidwell ranch in Butte county. It has a height of 105 feet, a spread of 212 feet and a diameter ten feet from the ground of nearly ten feet.

It may be a matter of imagination, but the writer is of the impression that the much advertised and vigorously prosecuted fly killing campaign that has been waged the past few months has had a very noticeable effect in reducing the numbers of this common pest. In the immediate neighborhood in which the writer lives there is not one fly where two years ago there were ten. Let the good work go on.

The trouble with Oct. 15 as a state field corn day—a day named by the well known corn specialist, Professor Holden, some years ago—is that in two fall seasons since very heavy and killing freezes have occurred on dates prior to that time. As a result of this even Mr. Holden has recommended Oct. 1 as a proper time to select the seed ears, while there are others who believe that this important item of farm work ought to be attended to not later than Sept. 21.

While the bite of mosquitoes is generally considered harmless except that in the biting process disease germs are introduced into the human system, a number of instances have been reported this year where the bites of these insects have been accompanied with more serious results than follow the sting of bees. A Wisconsin farmer was so savagely and repeatedly bitten by mosquitoes the other day that he not only could not find his way home, but died an hour later as a result of the bites.

The auto is not only a luxury from the standpoint of the pleasure it gives to members of the farmer's family, but it comes well within the class of a great convenience when it is used on emergency trips to town for repairs needed in a busy time.

A member of the New York health commission has decided that there is just as great need for individual drinking vessels for horses as there is for separate cups for folks. The idea has much to commend it, but just how it is to be worked out is a problem.

The proper time to cut the corn for the silo is when the corn plant contains in ears, stalk and leaves the largest amount of food value, and this will be when the lower leaves and husks have begun to turn yellow and when the ear has become firm and dent.

The United States produces two-fifths of the world's output of coal, which in all amounted to about 1,802,500,000 short tons, this country's production amounting to 496,221,168 tons. Great Britain led in coal production until 1899, since which time the United States has held first place.

The equipping of a home forge which need not cost to exceed \$5 or \$7 and the posting of oneself in regard to the simpler blacksmithing processes would often save both time and money during a rush season of farm work, when more likely than not the town blacksmith is overloaded with the same kind of repair jobs.

One of the largest, if not the largest, peach ranches in the world is situated in southwestern Arkansas. It contains 2,800 acres of bearing trees, and the crop this year totaled 225,000 bushels. It took 1,500 pickers and packers to handle the crop, and these people camped in and near the orchard while the harvest was in progress.

The tomatoes already set on the vines may be hastened to maturity, as well as increased in size, if the vines are pruned back rather heavily. Instead of being used in the growth of new shoots and the setting of more fruit, the strength of the root system will be used in the development of that fruit already on the vines.

The revivifying effect of a heavy rain following a period of protracted drought is said to be due in part to the fact that such a rain contains an unusual amount of nitrogen, which it absorbs from the air as it is precipitated. Samples of such rain water have been found to contain as high as .525 of a grain of ammonia to each gallon.

In view of the oft repeated claim of the physical superiority of the white man over his Indian brother, it is interesting to note that the champion all round athlete of the International Olympic games held at Stockholm, Sweden, while a citizen of the United States in the legal sense of the word, is nevertheless a full blooded Indian of the Sac and Fox tribe.

A long time before the colt gets through sucking it should be petted and handled enough so that it won't be a stranger to it later, when the time comes to break it to driving. The value of many a promising horse is reduced materially because this job of handling is put off until the colt gets set in its ways and not only becomes set, but has the strength to have its own way sometimes.

An increasing number of states are breaking away from the long established contract labor system and instead are employing their convicts in the work of permanent road improvement. The plan in operation means not only labor at a comparatively low cost, but it is found that the outdoor employment, with its sunshine, fresh air and vigorous physical exercise, is a godsend to the men thus employed.

One state pure food commissioner of whom we read the other day proposes to take the necessary legal steps to compel retailers of fruit to protect their products from the flies. He contends that when flies deposit germs on fruit it becomes adulterated within the meaning of the law. Consumers of fruit who are used to seeing flies roost on it before buying would be gratified if this interpretation of food laws should become general.

As showing that agricultural lands in the upper Mississippi valley are advancing rapidly in price it is only necessary to cite the case of the north Iowa farmer who listed his farm with a real estate agent a short time ago at \$100 an acre. The agent was to have what he could get for the place above the price mentioned, and in a couple of weeks he had found a buyer at a hundred and a quarter. The state of mind of the former owner of this parcel of ground can be better imagined than described.

Although there are quite a number of dairymen who are inclined to discredit the tuberculin test as a means of detecting the presence of tuberculosis in dairy cows and stupidly contend that the test is going out of use, it is interesting to note the fact that every state in the Union except Rhode Island, West Virginia, Nevada, Ohio, Illinois and Florida has laws preventing the importation of dairy animals unless they have been given the tuberculin test and have been found free from disease. It is more than likely that the states mentioned will follow the example of those in which the law is now in force.

TEACHING AGRICULTURE.

That the agricultural course as added to the town high school course may be of definite as well as of very practical value is shown in the work done by this department of the Albert Lea (Minn.) high school during the past year in the matter of forming a cow testing association. A good deal of interesting data were collected, and some valuable facts were brought to light. Among these was the discovery that the poorest herd tested averaged but ninety pounds of butter fat per cow during the year, while the average production of the best herd was 315 pounds of butter fat. In the one case the net profit per cow was \$7, while in the second it was over \$50. Individual cows that were tested, it was found, had been kept at an actual loss. If the establishment of these agricultural courses in high schools did nothing more than to arouse the farmers of the community to the necessity of weeding out the losers in their dairy herds they would amply justify their establishment. But they will do much more—not only confer a definite practical good upon the community, but fire many an otherwise indifferent boy with a desire to know more about the fundamental principles of a better as well as more scientific type of agriculture.

PLANTING BULBS.

September is the time for planting a number of the flowering bulbs whose blossoms are prized alike for beauty as well as for richness of fragrance. Among these are the calla, crocus, hyacinth, narcissus and tulip. This is for outdoor bedding purposes. For indoor use the bulbs should be put in pots at once or several weeks later, depending upon the time when one wishes to have the plants bloom. The writer has found the four inch tomato can satisfactory for the hyacinth and narcissus, the jagged tops being removed by putting a bed of coals. The bulbs should be set in these about half an inch below the surface in a light sandy soil, the pots when ready being put in a box and covered with two or three inches of soil and the whole being given a thorough watering. Waterings should be given at intervals so that the soil will be kept moderately moist. A succession of bloom may be had by taking up the pots containing the bulbs after they have rooted, one or two at a time, and placing them where they will develop. In the case of the hyacinth and similar bulbs it is well to remember that the richest bloom is had if the plants are not exposed to the direct sunlight.

A NEEDED LAW PASSED.

The bill mentioned in these notes some weeks ago that provides for the thorough inspection of all imported nursery stock, fruit, vegetables and florists' stock lately passed both houses of congress and became law on receiving the signature of the president. The securing of this needed legislation, in which the United States until now has been behind all other civilized nations, should be a matter of congratulation for all those interested in the tilling of the soil and in its various products in horticulture, horticulture and agriculture. Immense loss has been inflicted upon the interests mentioned by pests that have gained access to the country as a result of there being no adequate inspection regulations in force to ward them off. Becoming law thus late, the new regulations cannot prevent loss already sustained, but they will serve to keep other pests out and prevent the spread of a fungous or insect pest from one state to another.

PROTECTION FROM LIGHTNING.

A friend whose house has been hit by lightning three times in the past five years asked the writer the other day about the value of lightning rods as a means of protection during electrical storms. The truth about this matter can be put in a nutshell. A lightning rod poorly insulated and improperly grounded is worse than no rod at all, for while it attracts a bolt of lightning it in no way protects the structure on which it is erected. On the other hand, a rod properly put up comes as near being complete insurance against lightning damage as it is possible to have. Such an equipment should be secured from a reliable firm that has a permanent postoffice address and put up by one of their representatives who understands his business thoroughly and not from some tramp who is chiefly concerned in making a wad of easy money by questionable methods.

TAKING CHANCES.

The gambling instinct is as common to the man who tills the soil as to the fellow who hangs around race courses. In the former class it is noticed in his willingness to run the chance of serious damage to his grain through thrashing it from the shock rather than stacking it as soon as cut and thrashing at leisure later in the fall. Probably in one-half the seasons as they come and go shock thrashing may be done with fair satisfaction, but the trouble with the business in states that are subject to late summer rainfall is that one can never forecast the weather a week ahead. The result of this is that if one is on the tail end of the thrashing list and the weather is bad his grain is likely to be in bad shape before he gets it in the bin. If stacked at once the grain can be thrashed at leisure, and the stubble can be plowed early, which is another distinct advantage.

OBITUARY.

MRS. MARY A. HOWLAND.

Mrs. Mary A. Howland died at the home of Charles Schuknecht October 2. The funeral was held from the house Friday at 2:30 o'clock. Mrs. Howland is survived by her husband. They came to Hood River a few weeks ago to visit with Mr. Schuknecht and during their stay Mrs. Howland was taken ill. She was 67 years old. Interment was made at Idlewild Cemetery.

Christian Science Services.

Christian Science services are held in the Commercial Club rooms Sundays at 11 a. m. Subject, "Are Sin, Disease and Death Real?" Sunday school at the same hour in Room 2, Davidson Bldg. Wednesday meetings in same room 8 p. m. Reading room open daily, 2 to 5 p. m.

Board of Equalization.

Will meet the third Monday in October at the courthouse at 10 o'clock a. m. to examine and correct all errors in the assessment roll. If any taxpayers have any objection to their assessments, they must file complaint during the first week of the session. J. WICKHAM, County Assessor.

For District Attorney.

I announce that I am a candidate for district attorney for Wasco and Hood River counties on the Independent ticket. If elected, I pledge myself to perform the duties of the office to the best of my ability. [paid adv.] W. J. ALLEN.

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