

GAMBLING DEVICES.

ELECTRICITY EMPLOYED BY SCIENTIFIC SHARPER.

Interesting Description of Two "Sure Things"—By Manipulating the Current the Dealer Can Select the Winner Every Time—But the Pools Still Bet.

It is a time worn motto that a man is a fool who attempts to beat another at his own game. Nevertheless there is a perpetual and rich crop of gullibles who insist upon throwing their hard earned money away in the vain and elusive hope that a fortune is within their easy grasp.

The method is to them of no consequence. They sincerely believe that the means deserve the end, and with this harmful and foolish idea in view they state on their downward career, fully believing themselves competent to get the best of the sharper. But the sharper is proud of his name, and he does his best to deserve his title. He generally succeeds and then lies in wait for another victim. The sharper is a cute one, and it seems almost a pity that his energies are not put in more useful directions. His inventive ability is far above the average, and he contrives devices which are marvels in their way; but as Josh Billings tersely puts it, "It is a damned poor way."

Fresh in our minds are the developments which resulted from a raid by the police on one of the most prominent gambling establishments.

Extraordinary devices were found, and everything was conducted on a scale of magnificence and ingenuity that was marvelous to behold. Electricity played a prominent part. In fact, everything that could be done to further the aims of the gamblers in a dishonest way was carried out to a point bordering on perfection.

There was one device for stopping the passage of a marble at a certain point, which could be changed at the will and discretion of the operator in charge. Each compartment was regularly numbered and had underneath it a small secreted electro magnet, the wires from which were so connected with spring contact points placed under a foot-board, which in turn was situated and hidden on the floor, that the ball could be arrested in its progress at any point.

Here, though, was apparently a difficulty in connection with its successful operation. While it is true that the ball could be stopped, the suddenness of the stop would immediately attract the suspicions of the players. It was evident that the stoppage must be performed gradually, so as to appear natural. A quick glance at the wheel showed the operator which compartment was the most profitable one for him. The ball slowed up, stopped, and he gathered in his ill gotten gains.

The gradual slowing up was by a successive number of weak impulses sent through the adjoining electro magnets, thus retarding the progress of the ball, which was completed by an inner sphere of soft iron surrounded by a highly polished celluloid coating. Great skill on the part of the operator was of course required to avoid detection. But the men who worked this scheme felt so sure that discovery was impossible that their very boldness and audacity furthered their work. Murder, however, will out, and the secret was finally laid bare to a curious crowd.

Another device that attracted considerable attention was planned to deceive the most inquiring. A table was devised the top of which contained a number of squares laid off similar to a chessboard. Immediately above the center of the board was suspended a light metallic board by means of a slender silken thread. A compound mechanical motion at the top of a triangular framework placed immediately over the center of the board caused the silk thread to take a rather erratic course. On the boards were placed a number of statuettes somewhat similar to chessmen, but all of approximately the same height. The suspended ball was started on its erratic course while the table was slowly revolved.

Bets were then made as to which particular piece would remain erect when all others were knocked down. Piece by piece they dropped until but one remained, and this one of course was declared the prize winner. The game was even more audacious than the one above mentioned, but if anything it was more ingenious.

The way in which it was made "a sure thing" for its possessors was as follows: Underneath each individual square was a rather strong electro magnet, all the north poles pointing upward. Each magnet was separately controlled in an adjoining room, a signal being communicated to the operator by any of the well known systems common with so called "second sight" performers. Inside of the light suspended ball was a compound permanent magnet with the north pole pointing downward. Each marker, which I described as somewhat similar to a chessman, was loaded with a piece of soft iron passing through its axis. The pieces for as many players as were present were placed upon the board. The operator then, according to his discretion, selected the piece which he desired to remain till the last. The signal was given, and the ball was started. Of course the piece left to the last was the one selected, and time after time were his wagers of cheating gullibles increased. Nor did the crowd of fools diminish.

Currents from a few cells of battery being sent through the electro magnet energized it, north pole uppermost. The piece was held rather securely against the board, and even if the light ball did knock against it the force of the blow was not sufficient to dislodge it from its position.—Electrical Review.

An English judge has decided that at a marriage ceremony, if the church doors are closed or one witness absent, the marriage is void.

FOOTSORE FAGIN'S TOUGH RUN.

The Smell of His Cigarette Resented in a Fullblow of Scrap Iron.

"I have traveled from Maine to California and from Winnipeg to the City of Mexico. I never paid a railroad fare. I have been broke for eight years, and I never went without eating more than four days at a time."

A knight of the road was heard giving this wonderful record to a group of companions on a street corner.

"Were you ever in a wreck?" asked a reporter.

"Nope," said the man with a record. "I always was lucky that way. One day I was riding a blind baggage when the engine ran onto an open switch. The engine and car I was on was derailed, and I was tumbled about 30 feet to a cornfield. I was shook up, but not hurt. The toughest run I ever made was out of Denver. The 'con' was out to me and said I could not go with him. I had to leave the town, so I got on and perches on the pilot."

"The fireman spotted me when we got a few miles out and amused himself t'rowing coal at me and turning the hose in my direction. At the first stop I drops down, and when she pulled out I was on the bumper between the two box cars. When she pulled up next time, the 'con' spotted me and got a 'brakie' to keep t'rowing at me until he got tired."

"I thought I'd try the brake beam the next time, and hid in the ditch until she whistled. As she started I swung under the caboose. I got settled on a beam next the tall platform of the caboose. I always takes the last beam, so as if I fall off there is no train to run over me. I toght I was all right for Colorado Springs and felt so good on the beam that I lit a cigarette. The smoke gave me away. First thing I know I got a hiff in the back with a coupling pin. It like to knock me off. I looks around, and there was that cussed brakie chunking me with all the scrap iron he could find."

"It was tough, I tell you. I hung on till we came to a grade, and I goes off backwards as soon as she was running slow. I had to walk the rest of the way to Colorado Springs."—Houston Post.

An Old and Historic Watch.

"I repaired a watch when I was working in Pamela, N. Y.," said a watchmaker now working in a Broadway store, "which, although it was more than 250 years old, had been previously repaired but three times—once in 1835, again in 1831 and then in 1842."

"The watch has an interesting history. It is now the property of David Minthorn, who has an authentic record of it. It was made by Thomas Linford of London in 1826, and in time came into the possession of George III, who presented it to Sir William Johnson, when he left England to take charge of affairs in the colony of New York. Sir William presented it to the famous Indian chief Joseph Brant, whose sister was Sir William's mistress."

"In giving the watch to Brant Sir William remarked that 'it was surely worth 40 rebel scalps.' When Brant had his headquarters in the Schoharie valley, the watch was taken from him with other booty by Evert Van Epps of Fultonville, who was a paymaster in the American army. Van Epps was afterward taken prisoner by Brant, who recovered the watch."

"The grandfather of the present owner of the watch became a warm friend of Brant's in Canada after the war, and Brant made him a present of the ancient timepiece. It has been in the family ever since and has always kept good time."—New York Sun.

Umbrellas and Lanterns in China.

If a Chinese leaves his home after night without taking with him a lantern, such as is assigned to the use of the class to which he belongs, he is liable to arrest by the police. As soon as it is dark every city seems ablaze with lanterns. They light up the homes of the rich and poor. They are attached to the angles of the pagoda. They are seen at every port and on every river. In fact, they make their appearance everywhere, and to call China the "land of lanterns" is by no means a misnomer. Umbrellas, too, are of much importance in China, because there the umbrella is a mark of rank. Two large red silk umbrellas signal the approach of the governor general of a province. A red silk umbrella with three ruffles on it is the kind assigned to the four highest ranks of mandarin. The nobility of lower rank are entitled to an umbrella of red silk, but may have only two ruffles. The two highest ranks of gentlemen commoners are entitled to a red state umbrella surmounted by a knob of tin. The third and fourth ranks have the knob of wood instead of tin, but it is always painted red. An umbrella of blue cloth with two ruffles and surmounted by a red painted wooden knob distinguishes the fifth rank.—Philadelphia Times.

The Trim American Foot.

Several London newspapers have been entertaining their readers during the Whitsun holidays by a lively controversy over the respective size and beauty of the feet of English and American women. Some editors, in the face of overwhelming evidence, confess that English feet are out of running in such a controversy and console themselves by asserting that the feet of Englishmen are far more shapely than those of their American brothers. There have been many indignant protests against even this admission. The shoe dealers, when assured that they may speak incog., regretfully admit that they are unable to fit the trim American foot with any shoe ready made for the fat and flat feet of English women.

Art Is a Stern Mistress.

"Miss Flimsyfluff is very gloomy," said one member of the opera company to another.

"Why?"

"You see, she's really fond of her husband and hates to be divorced from him, but she feels that her art demands it."—Washington Star.

Both Bodies Found.

Mr. Seutell returned Saturday from the Bohemia mines, accompanied by Mr. Lea, the gentleman who found the body of Mr. Downing. They found Downing's body in the canyon from where Downing's body was found. The bodies had been out of the snow some time and were so badly decomposed they could not be handled and were buried where found. The men had wandered down into a very deep canyon, with very steep sides, and the searching party had difficulty in getting down there, and are unable to see how the men got there. From all appearances the men had gone down there together, and slid down a short distance. Downing was too near exhausted to regain his feet, but Weaver managed to work down the creek about half a mile, and his body was found about three and a half miles from the warehouse, where plenty of bedding and provision could have been obtained had he possessed sufficient strength to get that far. They left no note telling of their misfortune, and the circumstances of their fatal trip will never be known.—Eugene Register.

The Wheat Aphid.

Considerable excitement has been created through the country over the report that an insect of green color, small in size, was found upon the heads of wheat. It started first in Douglas county, the Roseburg papers giving the first account. The papers here have heretofore refrained from mentioning it, for the reason that it was thought best not to give any needless scare, and that the insect might not in fact do any real damage. But the prevalence of the talk upon the subject makes it a matter of public news. It is said that insect is a grain aphid and that its distribution is general throughout valley. Such being the case it has undoubtedly been here for years, not having been noticed before, for its general distribution could not have been accomplished in one season, and in all probability will not perform any great damage. It is generally accompanied with a destructive parasite anyhow.

Fire at Harrisburg.

The Harrisburg Lumber Company's mill burned last Saturday evening, being totally consumed. The fire originated from a spark from the engine and was so far under way before it was discovered that it was impossible to check it. Several thousand feet of lumber and pickets were burned. The loss was about \$5000, insured for \$2000. The company will undoubtedly rebuild in a short time and may put in a water wheel as the motive power, which will remove the danger from fire. This is the second mill that has been burned on this site.

Free Methodist Camp Meeting.

The Free Methodists will hold a district campmeeting at Aberdeen, formerly known as Salt Lake on the Seio and Sweet Home road. Commencing July 12, to continue ten days. All are cordially invited to attend. J. H. BROWN, P. E.

If you want to get nice fresh bread go to Peebler's.

J. S. Courtney M. D. Physician, Surgeon and Accoucheur, Lebanon, Or.

If you want photos made and haven't the money Boyd will take your produce.

When you want to buy a suit of clothing you will save money by getting it at Bach's.

When you want a new hat don't forget Pugh and Munsey. They have the latest styles.

J. E. Adcox, agent for the Albany steam laundry, sends washings down on Tuesdays only.

N. W. Smith keeps the Eldorado Gator machine oil, best in the world for farm machinery.

Pugh and Munsey have just received a new line of furnishing goods, prices there before buying elsewhere.

Hiram Baker received a large invoice of Spring clothing this week of the latest shades and styles.

A line of both cotton and woolen dress goods have just arrived at Read, Peacock & Co's. Something new.

The only sure cure to preserve fruit and berries is to use anti-fermentine for sale at N. W. Smith's drug store.

The Express would call the attention of the city dads to the fact that some work on the streets and alleys, especially cutting down the thistle before the Fourth, would be in good place.

A. E. Ansoerg is now ready to do any repairing of organs, having had long experience in first-class factories. Will guarantee satisfaction. Lebanon, Oregon.

My line of jackets and capes for spring and summer wear is now complete. Capes are the thing this year. And I carry a particularly fine line of novelties, at reasonable prices. S. E. Young, Albany, Ore.

I have a few second-hand books that I will close out at a bargain. M. A. MILLER.

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