THE GREAT GAME

By AGNES L. PROVOST

IT WAS a big day at the old Guttenburg track—before the anti-gambling amendment had made Guttenburg a stale and profitless thing—and as it was also a holiday, there were at least four thousand men crowding and pushing one another in the pool room.

There were three men among the four thousand who were vitally interested in each other's movements, but it was not until they came in from the second heat that Mr. William Lyman—address not found in the directory—discovered J. Brownley of the San Francisco detective force standing before the boards, well in front of the crowd and apparently studying the odds with thoughtful eye. It occurred to Mr. Lyman that J. Brownley's other eye was keeping watch on the rear exits.

Mr. Lyman melted away into the crowd like a fog before the sunshine, being by nature ever modest and retiring when an official appeared on the landscape. He wriggled his way back until he sighted his friend and co-partner, Mr. Collins, and retired with him from the range of inquisitive ears.

"Mickey," he mumbled cautiously: "We're pinched."

"H—l!" observed Mr. Collins profanely, staring around him in an unpleasantly suspicious manner.

"Sure thing. Brownley's up in front. He's done up something great, but you can't fool me on Brownley. It's him sure."

Mr. Collins expressed a desire that the immortal part of J. Brownley might be subjected to a roasting process for an indefinite futurity. Under stress of emotion, Mr. Collins was apt to be vituperative.

"He's follered us all the way from 'Frisco," he grumbled wrathfully, "an' three times this month we've just got off with our necks. The only way to get rid of Brownley is to kill him."

"And have the whole United States know we did it? Not on your tintype, Mickey. I don't throw my head away like that. Never kill a man unless you have to. S'pose you sneak around front and see if the road's clear for a break."

Mr. Collins worked his way swiftly back to the front entrances and casually looked out. One would have said that he was enjoying the beauty of the cloudless sky, so innocently distant and abstracted was his gaze; certainly no one would have suspected that he saw two men look quickly at him and away. Mr. Collins took out a cigar, lit it deliberately, cocked his brown derby at a trifle more precipitous angle on the back of his head, and sauntered back into the pool room.

The two men outside looked at one another, and moved closer. They were in no hurry. J. Brownley's orders were that unless these two sly birds could be captured together at the track, they were to be quietly and cautiously followed to their lairs, and there invited to take up their residence in the nearest police station.

The reasons why Messrs. Lyman and Collins were so greatly in demand were numerous and interesting. These were versatile gentlemen, and if one vocation proved irksome or unhealthful from the legal point of view, they could always pass on to another. At one time they had been interested in a quiet little gambling institution in St. Louis, whose light had gone out suddenly under the police snuffers. After this there had been a period of financial depression, during which they appeared in a new locality with a little scheme for investigating the contents of safes without disturbing the combination. The patent is not known to be filed at Washington, and after one experiment in particular, when they dropped hastily through the back window of a banking establishment, leaving their tools and taking with them a bullet in Mr. Collins' leg, the inventors retired into oblivion and took up the somewhat hazardous profession in which they had dabbled once before—that of reproducing United States legal tender. Some of their work was artistic to a degree, but courts and grand juries have no soul for art, and knowing this, these resourceful gentlemen stopped after floating a goodly number of their masterpieces, and tripped away to new fields of enterprise, with the diligent J. Brownley close upon their heels. They found it convenient to change their occupation frequently, as well as their post office address; it diverted the official mind, and kept it guessing.

Mr. Collins found his partner in a marvelously short time; he was used to it. He shook his head a trifle, which meant that their immediate future was not of an encouraging nature. Mr. Lyman thrust out his under lip in token of his displeasure, as they edged away from their nearest neighbors.

"If we run for it when the crowd goes out to the track, there'll be a million smart Alecks ready to help 'em catch us," he mused discontentedly. "I think they mean to catch us here if they can, or track us down to a good place and nab us. But they don't know that we're onto 'em. We'll fool 'em. We might raise a big row, Mickey, and light out in the racket. We'll stampede the crowd, that's it!"

Mr. Lyman radiated good nature again, as he thought of the mischief at his command.

"Fire?" queried Mr. Collins dubiously.

"M'm, no, Mickey; that's an old gag. We'll do somethin' original. Brownley's in front of the whole bunch—awful reckless to stand in front of a crowd—the other chaps are back of it, and we'll keep about three-quarters back, and save our shins while we lose the other fellows. Chase, Mickey; it's 'most' time for the start."

Mr. Collins was not a man of many words, but his little eyes twinkled as Mr. Lyman hastily told him what to do. He wriggled swiftly away, lost himself in the thickest of the crowd and managed to get his brown derby knocked off. When he came up from searching for it in the press, several feet from where he had been, he had in his hand a large and rakish light felt, which he tilted well over one eye. He was now ready for business, and if there were any investigating gentlemen craning their necks to see a man in a brown derby, they missed him.

Then Lyman caught Collins' eye over the heads of a dozen or more men, and pulled out a huge roll of bills which ran into the thousands, fluttering them over with the air of a man who has plenty more, and will risk the whole business with all the pleasure in the world. He turned his back deliberately upon Collins, who edged his way toward him, watching him with sharp but furtive eyes.

A swift hand shot toward the roll of bills, but Lyman was ready for it. His revolver flashed out as he whirled around and faced the dodging Collins; the hand with the bills was crammed safely in his pocket.

"Look out in front!" he yelled, leveling the weapon at Collins' head, and a score of men in the line of his aim melted away with warning shouts and jammed against those in front. Only twenty, certainly no more, but the mischief was done. It is marvelous how slight a thing may set a great crowd in motion.

Up at the front Brownley turned in surprise as he heard a roar behind him. Four thousand men, not more than twenty of whom knew the cause for their flight, were bearing down on him in a howling, fear-stricken mob, sweeping toward the rear exits. The old Guttenburg pool room was not as lavishly provided with exits as the more modern structures, and a mob there was a thing to flee from.

There was but one thing to do, and that was to run for life or death in the same direction. Even as he ran Brownley saw men piling on each other in layers in their frantic efforts to jump from the windows, but he shot past them for the broader exit ahead and felt himself whiz dizzily through the air as he took a flying jump into the back enclosure and landed on all fours on something soft and struggling—a man of vast circumference, who swore frightfully at the concussion. A pain shot through Brownley's foot, but he rolled swiftly to one side, just as the pushing, struggling mass poured out on the ground.

It was over in three minutes, and men rushed from all sides to disentangle the heaped-up mass of humanity. Many picked themselves up and limped off, disheveled and cursing, but some had to be lifted carefully, with broken ribs and legs, and bleeding faces, and above and around there was a babel of excited questions. Rolls of money had disappeared in the rush, watches were lost and hats gone, but no one knew what had happened.

Later, some of the few who had seen it told how slight a matter had started a great stampede, and J. Brownley swore to himself as he went through the streets in an ambulance, with a leg and ankle that would lay him up for weeks to come, and ten thousand bruises distributed impartially over his person, but Messrs. William Lyman and M. Collins were far away, speeding through the land in a pullman car and drinking cool drinks. Even J. Brownley and his exasperated aides did not guess that they had done this thing.

"It was a great game," sighed Mr. Collins contentedly, tapping his glass with his fingers and noting with dreamy satisfaction that their nearest fellow traveler was three chairs away. "It was the slickest thing I've seen this season, and there was lots of money dropped or pinched in the shuffle. I went in with the crowd, Billy, and I made some fair pickings myself."

"So did I," admitted Mr. Lyman with a reminiscent chuckle. "We've made the haul of our lives this day, and if Brownley wasn't killed, it'll take him all summer to piece himself together again. It certainly was a great game, Mickey. We'll work it again."

Vitamines

The word "vitamine" was first used by Dr. Casmir Funk, when he fancied he had prepared a pure or nearly pure form from rice polishings by extracting them with alcohol and purifying the extract, which when applied even in very small doses was capable of curing polyneuritis in pigeons in a startling manner. The derivation of the word is obvious, from vita, life, and amine, an ammonia derivative, because it appeared to be a substance necessary for the maintenance of life and health and was thought to contain nitrogen in amine form.

Chocolates From the Air

Friends and neighbors were making merry at a birthday party at the home of Andrew Lucas, Tarentum, Pa., when a box of chocolates fell to the lawn as the giant dirigible Los Angeles was passing over that district. "Have some chocolates and be happy. Regards to all," read the note which was signed by L. W. Liambley, ship cook.

ROAD BUILDING

NIGHT VISIBILITY IS OF IMPORTANCE

Pounding through the night with black darkness at your sides and behind you, and only a ribbon of light piercing the veil in front of you may bring a thrill, or it may bring disaster. The narrow country road unfolds, to be plunged again behind you. You take the dips and curves, leap over bridges and culverts, flash past sign posts, the thrumming of your motor drowning out all other sounds. That's the thrill of it. But there's others on the road besides yourself, and that may bring disaster.

Any motorist who has driven an automobile at night has experienced an uneasy feeling when meeting or passing another car where the road-edge is blotted out by the darkness, and there is no way to tell how far one can turn out in safety. Many a fender has been ripped and bent because the driver was afraid of going into the ditch—which he couldn't see—and more than one serious accident has been due to the inability of the driver to see the road-edge.

Even with the advantages of good headlights and the use of dimmers the driver is badly handicapped unless he can clearly distinguish the edge of the road line, and know at a glance just how far he can turn out. Those drivers who are fortunate enough to have hard paved roads in their communities are well aware of the advantages of such roads for night driving. Paved road edges are easily seen in the darkness. They act as a guide line for the driver, showing him at a glance just where the road leaves off and the ditch begins. There is no straining of the eyes when one is driving. Dark objects are easily distinguished, and a horse-drawn vehicle or any other occupant of the road can be clearly seen from a distance.

Out in California, where over 2,500 miles of smooth roads are in use, their advantage for night driving so appealed to the Los Angeles and Santa Barbara Motor Express company that that a letter was sent by the manager of the company to the Los Angeles county board of supervisors asking that hard-surface construction be used in building new roads. This company operates a fleet of trucks over a number of routes, many of the trips being made at night. In mountainous sections the need for clear vision at night is even more pronounced than on flat stretches of road, for if a driver should turn out too far to the side of the road a bad spill might result.

The experience of this company and the experiences of all those who drive at night carry a lesson for the motoring public. The driver has been told time and again to be careful. His motor club is constantly working on plans to assure the safety of the auto owner. Anything that leads to safety on the road should be given particular attention, and when new roads are to be built careful consideration should be given to the feature of visibility at night.

Benefit of Motor Trucks in Transportation Seen

"Marked progress in the methods of handling shipments has been made during the last ten years," said George M. Graham, chairman of the traffic planning and safety committee of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, speaking before the traffic club of New York. The Traffic club is composed of railroad men and shippers.

"The shift in population in our cities from 40 per cent in 1900 to 51.4 per cent in 1920 has called for a reorganization of shipping facilities, with particular need for big local terminal operations.

"The railmen in the face of great obstacles have been meeting this situation effectively. Fortunately the development of the motor vehicle has come about in this period, providing rapid transportation in the short-haul local field. In 1914 the country was absorbing 25,000 motor trucks a year, and today about 400,000 new trucks are being purchased annually.

"This new development means better service for the public and more profits for the railroads which are engaging in truck operation. From the public standpoint the carrying of goods promptly from the railroad terminal by motor truck means a great saving of time. From the rail standpoint the truck provides an economical means of carrying goods in less than carload lots over short hauls."

Mr. Graham also emphasized the need on the part of all transportation authorities to safeguard the public. He pointed out that the motor world is demanding the severest punishment for reckless drivers and is seeking the best methods of traffic control.

Off-Flavors From Turnips

Feeding turnips to cows at the rate of 15 pounds, an hour before milking, produces objectionable flavors and odors in the milk. A careful investigation recently conducted at the government experimental farm found the above true. It was also found that increasing the allowance to a full feed of 30 pounds greatly increased the intensity of the objectionable odor and flavors. Proper aeration greatly reduced the intensity of strong flavors and odors in the milk.

LIVE STOCK NEWS

IMPROVE METHODS FOR RANGE SHEEP

Do you remember when the only investment a sheep man had was in his camp outfit and in his sheep? Such a business could be managed to yield a profit by methods which would spell ruin if owned by the range sheep man today.

The sheep man of today must own or lease land to stay in the business. This land must be purchased or leased to maintain watering places, to control and be assured of sufficient range, or produce feed for feeding. It is even necessary to own improved ranch property before a permit will be granted upon the national forests. Investments have also been made in dipping vats, warehouses, storehouses, lambing sheds and the like. All of these mean increased capitalization. A man with 800 to 1,000 breeding ewes can easily have an investment in his range business of $12,000 to $14,000. Such an investment requires managerial ability, and the adoption of modern and approved methods of range sheep management, which was not needed in the old days.

Aside from an increase in capitalization, there has been an increase in the operating expenses. The sheep have been crowded out of the land which formerly afforded range, and now they must be fed hay during the winter. Labor charges have advanced, due to advances in the wage scale and also because the flocks have decreased in size.

In order to realize a profit from the business it is necessary to increase the per cent of lambs dropped. A great loss of lambs is suffered from dropping to docking time. A range sheep man on the Colorado National forest had 20 per cent lamb loss during this time. He plans a lambing shed to reduce this loss. Many range sheep men have found that the saving in lambs soon pays for the cost of the lambing shed.—B. W. Fairbanks, Extension Service, Colorado Agricultural College.

Hogs Require Shade and Clean Water in Summer

Shade and clean water during the summer months are essential to successful pork production. All kinds of hogs must have shade. Too much direct sunlight and heat is a frequent cause of hogs failing to thrive and is often the cause of hogs dying. During July and August small pigs often blister on the backs and about the ears which causes, in some cases, severe infections and bad sores.

Expensive shelter is not necessary. Shade trees provide ample protection. Where no trees exist temporary shade may be provided by the covering of a frame with canvas, under which the hogs may go for protection. Some producers build individual hoghouses with sides that may be lifted to provide an increased amount of shade during the summer months. This plan furnishes shade for hogs where only a few are kept.

Clean fresh water for drinking and wallow is equally as important as, or more important than, shade. The old-time wallow hole covered with scum, which was once also the drinking fountain, is no longer in favor with the successful hog breeder. Hogs must have water to drink, and if they cannot get fresh, clean water in the trough or fountain, they will drink where they can find it, regardless of its condition. This fact has caused some to believe that hogs prefer nothing better, but they do, and will demonstrate the fact when they are able to get fresh water from the well.

Live Stock Notes

Don't feed moldy, or spoiled silage.

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Don't put fresh feed in dirty or sour troughs.

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Don't forget to salt all animals regularly.

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Don't feed milk from tuberculous cattle to your animals.

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Keep the brood sows on the farm—hogs are going to be high the coming year.

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Supplement pasture with sufficient grain to keep the hogs in good thrifty condition.

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Protect cattle, horses, and mules from the torment of the biting fly and the horn fly by using fly repellants.

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About 62 per cent of pure-bred live stock is marketed directly for meat purposes.

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Low ceilings for hoghouses save heat and lumber. But don't overlook the necessity of ventilation—and sunshine.

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Two litters of not less than seven pigs each, raised to maturity each year, more than double average profits from hogs.

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The ewe with twin lambs should produce much more milk and consequently needs more feed than is best for the ewe that is feeding only one lamb.

Got Idea Worth While.

The saw is said to have been invented in ancient Rome by a man named Talus. He came upon the jawbone of a large snake, and employed it to cut through a piece of wood. He then formed an instrument of iron similar to the snake's jawbone and this was the first metal saw. Sawmills came into existence in central Europe early in the Fifteenth century.

Fish That Climbs.

Scientific investigation into the habits of fishes has shown that many of them are by no means helpless when out of water. There is, for instance, a tropical fish known as the climbing perch, which has the very curious habit of scrambling by means of its fins, up stones, roots, and even the trunks of trees, in search of the insets on which it feeds.

Auction Sales "In Reverse"

"Dutch" auctions, in which the property is offered at a certain price and lowered by degrees until a bid is forthcoming, were once common, and still are in some countries. A law of Henry VII's time, afterward confirmed by Charles I, prohibited the conducting of auction sales by all persons except certain licensed officials known as outropers.

Jade Is Deceptive Gem.

Pearls and jade are two precious gems widely worn by women today, and one cause of their popularity is the difficulty of telling at a glance the real from the artificial. This is especially true of jade, even when laid side by side. There is no perceptible difference, even to an expert, between one piece that costs a few dollars and one that costs hundreds.

Striking Effect of Diet.

Our Uncle Abner says that, as he looks around among mankind in general and a few that he might mention in particular, he is more than ever convinced that a man is what he eats and that a large percentage of them eat prunes.—Liberty (Ohio) Press.

First Playing Cards.

Our present-day cards—at least a close resemblance to them—were designed in 1392 by Jacques Gringonneur, court painter to Charles VI of France, who had lost his reason. Gringonneur founded his pack on a regular system.

Salt as a Symbol.

From earliest times salt has stood as a symbol of both the necessaries and the savor of life, and a present of salt is to indicate the kindly wish that life may never lack and may never lose its zest.

Accomplishments.

The fact is that to do anythnig in this world that is worth doing we must not stand back shivering and thinking of the cold and danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can.—Sidney Smith.

Origin of a Name.

How many people know that serge takes it name from China, when it was introduced into England in 1660? The Latin name for China is Selicum, which gradually has changed into the modern word serge.

Happiness for All.

Happiness is a wayside flower, free to all who will pluck it—not a rare orchard to be purchased by the rich.—M. G. Woodhull.

South African Mines.

The mining industry spends $150,000,000 a year in South Africa and provides directly or indirectly 40 per cent of the union and provincial revenues.

Camphor for Stains.

Camphor removes many stains. Fruit juice will often disappear when rubbed with a dampened bit of camphor; and a few drops of camphor on a soft duster removes some marks from a mirror.

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Old German Industry.

Most Germans wear spectacles or eyeglasses and Germany is the center of the optical industry. The quality of its crystal lenses is very high. Nurnberg, Augburg and Ratisbon early had their optical factories. The eyeglass factory in Rathenau, founded by the Prussian government, has celebrated its one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary.

Beginning of Printing

John Fust established a printing office at Mentz or Mainz, in Hesse, Germany, and printed a book with the Latin title "Tractatus Petri Hispani," in the year 1442. John Guttenberg invented cut metal types and used them in printing the earliest edition of the Latin Bible between the years 1450 and 1455.

Shades of Mark Twain!

A patron of the Boston public library writes this to the editor of a Boston newspaper: "The other day while in the Boston library I had occasion to ask an attendant there where on the shelves could be found a copy of "Tom Sawyer." Imagine my surprise when she replied, 'Who is it by?' And this is Boston, too."

Strange Death Pact.

A strange death pact of lovers was revealed at a corner's inquiry at Johannesburg. A nurse was found stabbed with a pair of scissors. Before she died, the coroner said, she stabbed her lover with a hatpin, which penetrated his heart.

First to Foresee Eclipse.

The first man, so far as historical records show, to calculate the time of an eclipse in advance was Thales of Miletus, who lived 640 to 566 B. C. He prophesied an eclipse which, according to modern reckoning, took place March 28, 585 B. C.

First Drilled Needles.

The first drilled-eye needles were made in 1826. It was not until 1870 that needles were made entirely by mechanical process and not until 1885 that they were finished by machine.

Odd German Custom.

On "Polte Abend," or the night before the wedding, Germans break crockery outside the door of the bride-to-be, and both she and the groom must sweep it up.

Patching Wall Paper.

When mending wall paper, never cut a regular patch, but tear off a stufficently large piece and paste it over the place, carefully matching the pattern. This patch will show far less than if the edges are cut square.

Her Observations.

Bystander—"Did you get the number of the car that knocked you down, madam?" Victim—"No, but the hussy that was driving it wore a three-piece tweed suit, lined with canton crepe, and she had on a periwinkle hat, trimmed with artificial cherries."—Everybody's Magazine.

Birmingham Weather.

Only once in the history of Birmingham, Ala., has the thermometer fallen below zero.