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- We urge our readers to realize the opportunities this sale offers.

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- THOS. FRENCH, 90 James Street North.
- C. WEBBER, Terminal Station.
- H. T. COWING, 126 James North.
- G. B. MIDDLEY, Printer, 282 James Street North.
- A. F. HURST, Tobacconist, 204 James Street North.
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- JAS. M'KENZIE, Newsdealer, 334 James Street North.
- ALEX. M'DOUGALL, Newsdealer, 386 1/2 Barton Street East.
- D. MONROE, Grocer, James and Simcoe.
- JOHN IRISH, 609 James North.
- A. F. HAMBURG, 278 James North.
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- W. R. FLEMING, Barber and Tobacconist, 243 King Street East.
- H. P. TEETER, Druggist, King and Ashley.
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- H. R. WILSON, News Agent, King and Wentworth Streets.
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- J. A. ZIMMERMAN, Druggist, Barton and Wentworth, also Victoria Avenue and Cannon.
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- H. BLACKBURN, News Agent, T., H. & B. Station.
- J. R. WELLS, Old Country News Stand, 197 King Street East.

Music and the Drama

Association Hall was filled to capacity last evening to accommodate the crowd of young people and children who were present to witness the splendid concert given by Ryerson Chapter, of the Children of the Empire. The applause was frequent and enthusiastic, showing that the efforts of the children, who were well trained in their respective parts, were appreciated. Mr. E. S. Hogarth, of the staff of the Collegiate Institute, presided. Misses Briggs and Perry were the accompanists. Miss E. Moore, regent of the chapter, was in charge, and she was assisted by the teachers of the public schools. The programme was: Chorus, With a Light, Cheerful Song; Welcome, by eight little ones; recitation, The Reason Why, Victoria Nash; recitation, The Wish of the Small Boy, Gillian Stow; vocal solo, Won't You Come and Play Croquet, Lena Jackson; The Days of the Week, Laura Person and seven little girls; recitation, The Maple Leaf, Reginald Olliver; recitation, Which Shall It Be, Bella Weston; flag drill, sixteen little girls; recitation, Man and His Shoes, Egerton Perry; recitation, Empire First, Helen Harvey; patriotic exercise, Canada; chorus, Canada; recitation, An Incident in the Trolley, Roy Maler; recitation, The Widow's Light, Maria Jackson; vocal solo, Sunbonnet Sue, Rita Carey; The Magic Charm, Lizzie Patterson, eleven girls and a boy; recitation, The New Church Organ, Olga Staback; recitation, Home, Sweet Home, W. Davie; recitation, The Sneezing Man, Harry Louden; The Postman's Chorus (by Treacle); nine boys; recitation, Treacle Tommy, Muriel Adye; recitation, The Flag of England, Joe Weston; patriotic exercise, Britannia.

AT BENNETT'S THEATRE.
 For the Bennett House next week, Manager Appleton has secured a number of important vaudeville features, which will doubtless be appreciated by patrons of that theatre. The star attraction will be Harry W. Fields, a well-known comedian, and the "Redpath Naperness." It is a dainty school-room act that has been making a big hit the last two weeks in the show theatres in Buffalo and Toronto. The Satellite Troupe, probably the best acrobatic novelty, imported from Europe this season, will be the sub-headliner and if one may judge by appreciative press notices from other cities it will be a very strong drawing card. It comprises eight men and women and numbers some of the cleverest acrobats in Europe. Ed. LaVigne, the comedy juggler, who disputes the theory that there is nothing new under the sun, is another big attraction billed to appear next week.

Byrne Brothers' big pantomimic spectacle, and Bert Cooke's laughable sketch, "A Lamb on Wall Street," features on a meritorious offering this week, will more than repay those who visit the Bennett Theatre to-night or at the performances to-morrow. As usual, there has been a brisk advance sale for the Saturday matinee. The Vyno's Musical Farneyard is a novelty that makes a strong bid for favor.

AT THE SAVOY.
 The Salem Stock Company in "A Flag of Truce," displays all the strong points in this clever drama. Mr. Selman and Miss Lasche, in the leading roles, make an excellent impression. Messrs. Gray, Beebe, Barbour and Stratton also the Misses Shay and Lucas give a capable support. It must be granted that William Haworth keeps well within the bounds of possibilities, the situations while startling are intensely interesting. His taste is excellent and his sentiment as pleasurable as it is sincere. His wit and sense of theatrical effect is unflagging. The entertainment the play and players provides is abundant and hearty. The dramatic event of the season will no doubt be the presentation of Augustin Daly's drama "Frou-Frou," with the winsome Elfreda Lasche in the title role. The drama is very like "The Marriage of William Ash." The play has been presented by the leading actresses of the stage, and has always held a prominent position in the repertoire of Duse, Bernardt-Mrs. Fiske and the Netherlands. Grace George presented it in New York some time since, with an all star

cast, and created a veritable sensation. So a most selling for the entire week. The management have received many letters from prominent Scotch citizens to present a Scotch drama, and shortly "Jessie Brown" or "The Relief of Lucknow," Dion Boucicault's famous play, may be presented.

ELGAR CHOIR STANDS ALONE.
 Music lovers can make no mistake in patronising the Elgar Choir concert next month. The choir stands alone in its special style of singing, and no other form of concert can take the place of those given by the Elgar. Subscribe now and be among the first choosers of seats. Dates of concerts: Feb. 17th and 18th.

MRS. DUNN'S RECITAL.
 At Mrs. Dunn's recital, which will take place this evening in the Conservatory recital hall, the programme will commence promptly at 8.15. Carriages may be ordered for 10 o'clock.

AT THE GRAND TO-NIGHT.
 "Bunco in Arizona," a play dealing with life in a western mining camp, is the attraction at the Grand to-night and to-morrow matinee and evening. The company is said to be a particularly good one and the play much above the average of popular price dramas. The staging is excellent and the introduction of real Indians and cowboys adds greatly to the scenes. The story deals with a young girl who has been left a waif in a mining camp in the far southwest, and adopted by Jim Blunt, a mine owner. When she grew to be about fifteen she was engaged to a popular young miner, named Dick Gold. An unknown aunt appeared in their midst, with the news that Bunco was the child of her deceased brother, that her real name was Heathercot, and that when a baby she was taken from her cradle and all trace of her was lost. The mother died of grief, and the father was killed in a railroad accident in his fruitless search for his child. Two years ago a letter was received from a dying convict in America, making a full confession, and from his information the clue was followed up until the abducted child was found in Bunco, the missing heiress.

It is the desire of the aunt that Bunco return to England to be educated in a proper way to take care of her inheritance. After much opposition, and the pleading of the aunt to Dick to use his influence, Bunco and Dick bid a tender farewell and she departs for England. Five years elapse and then Bunco, being a free agent, returns to Black Creek and marries Dick amid the wild wishes of all their old friends.

Several thrilling scenes are introduced, including Bunco's perilous ride on a machine belt across a ravine to save Dick, and the narrow escape of Bunco and Dick from being scalped by the Indians at their ghost dance.

Good News to Saturday Shoppers.
 The second Saturday of the January sale at Finch Bros. brings to light some extraordinary bargains. You will find unusually big savings awaiting you on every turn at this bright west end store, the ideal place for women shoppers. Read Finch Bros.' large and attractive advertisement to-night; it is full of interest, and brings the good news to many a Saturday shopper who has money to spend. Visit this store to-morrow. Some of the principal sales will be a great clearing of long knitted gloves or mitts 50c, for 25c; handsome French Shantung silks, regularly \$1.50, for 75c; 8.30 a. m. rush sale of wash goods up to 30c, for 20c; opening offer of our annual black dress goods sale, regularly \$3c to \$1.25, on sale, 49c; also a rush sale of women's tweed coats, up to \$10, for \$2.19.

Now that stocktaking is close at hand, we are forcing out women's coats at \$7.49, \$9.75 and \$14.85, which in many cases means a half price saving. \$7.50 and \$8 dress skirts at \$3.98. Also many dress goods, underwear, staples and gloves will go on sale, prices too numerous to mention here. But the whole story can be summed up in three words, "Never better saving." Come early, 8.30 a. m., if possible—Finch Bros., 29 and 31 King Street West.

It doesn't take a magician to turn night into day.

As a Visit From an Old Friend.

We Welcome the Arrival of Dr. A. W. Chase's Almanac for 1909.

The Annual Diary Contest Has Made This the Most Popular of Almanacs.

As a reminder that another year has rolled around we find on our desk the 1909 edition of Dr. Chase's Almanac. And, like many of our readers, we have come to look on this annual publication as an old friend.

This year's annual of cover has been entirely changed and instead of a rural or agricultural scene, we find prominence, in the cover design, given to the portrait of the famous old physician, who by reason of his great Receipt Book and well-known Family Medicines, has made his name a household word familiar to two generations.

So highly esteemed are these products of the genius and skill of the old doctor that his name has come to be considered synonymous with merit, and, when new-fangled treatments are tried in vain, resort is had to these medicines which have stood the test of time and proven themselves without equal.

Put to return to the Almanac, we find the most prominent features to be the weather forecast, which has a splendid reputation for accuracy, and the annual diary contest, in which \$200.00 in gold, and also other rewards, are offered for the best diary kept in Dr. Chase's Almanac. Each year great enthusiasm is shown in this diary competition, and besides winning valuable prizes, people are learning the benefit of keeping a record of business transactions and daily events.

If you have not been so fortunate as to receive a copy of Dr. Chase's Almanac the publishers, Edman, Bates & Co., Toronto, will send you a copy, postpaid, if you mention this paper. You will find this almanac well worth sending for, as it contains much information which is valuable and useful.



EASY MARK.

He (resolutely)—Now, Maria, we must talk seriously to your father about our engagement and make him toe the mark.
 She (nervously)—Yes, dear, but I'm afraid you'll be the mark.

56 DEAD.

Vezprim, Hungary, Jan. 5.—The explosion of fire damp in the Auka coal mine yesterday resulted in the death of 56 men. The total rescued alive was 184.

OLDEST FREEMASON.

Meriden, Conn., Jan. 15.—Luman F. Parker, aged 95, believed to be the oldest Freemason in Connecticut, died today from heart disease. He had been a Freemason for sixty years, having joined in 1849.

OFF TO NAPLES.

Rome, Jan. 15.—Rear Admiral Sperry and members of his staff, who were received in audience by King Victor Emmanuel yesterday, left today for Naples.

BOAT SINKS.

Pittsburg, Jan. 15.—The steamboat David Wood sank today at dawn No. 4, in the Ohio River. The crew, consisting of twenty-three men, narrowly escaped drowning.

The sleep of a laboring man is sweet.—Bible.

BIDS IN AUCTION BRIDGE.

Surprises In Store For the Beginner--Strategy of the Declarations More Complicated Than It Appears.

One of the peculiarities of auction bridge and also one of its chief attractions is the fact that just about the time you think you know it all you find that you don't know as much about it as you thought you did.

Tell any bridge player that all he has to do is to figure out how many tricks he thinks he can take with a certain suit of trumps, or no trumps, and then to bid that number, and the proposition looks easy. But at the card table he is confronted with another proposition, the bidding of the other players, especially his adversaries.

The dealer, who is compelled to make the first declaration, has always two things to consider. In the first place he must give his partner some idea of what he holds by making a declaration which promises favorable results from his own cards, so that his partner may assist him in one of two ways—in making a better declaration. In the second place, he must give information to each other of which they would avail themselves in the play of the hand in case they do not get the declaration.

It must never be forgotten that the game cannot be won except by the side that actually names the trump, and not even then unless every trick that is bid is made. Those who play against the declaring side cannot score anything but honors and penalties and cannot advance their score a single point toward game, not even if they make a grand slam.

If the dealer has no particular choice as to a trump he is forced to bid one in spades; but if he has a good declaration of any kind, either in no trumps or in red, he should bid his hand up to its full value immediately. That is, he should bid as much as he can reasonably expect to make if he finds average assistance in the dummy.

As an example, let us suppose that the dealer finds in his hand five diamonds to the ace, king, queen, and the king, queen of spades, with other cards. If he bids one in diamonds, worth six points only, he leaves the way open for the next bidder, sitting on his left, to declare one in hearts or in no trumps, or two in clubs, as he wishes.

While it is true that the dealer's partner or the dealer himself may afterward outbid any of these propositions there is one thing they cannot do and that is make the other side named. The declaration of one in hearts or two in clubs is not made by the second bidder with any idea of getting the play, but simply in order to inform his partner that he is strong in hearts or in clubs, as the case may be. He names his best suit, the suit which he can best use as a weapon of attack or defence, whether it is a trump suit or not.

With such cards as those named the dealer should try to prevent this information giving by declaring two in diamonds immediately. His cards are worth it. Such a bid will compel the second bidder to make a declaration of such value that he may hesitate to offer it for fear of being told to go ahead and play it.

If his suit is clubs, for instance, he will think a long time about bidding three in clubs unless he is pretty sure he can get there, because he knows he will most likely be doubled and fined several hundred points penalty piled up against him. His partner cannot come to his rescue to pull him out of the hole, if he is doubled, without running the risk of getting into a still deeper hole himself.

It is giving information by one partner to the other by means of what might be called straw bids, especially if it is your intention eventually to declare no trumps if pushed to it; because the information that you have allowed to pass between the adversaries will enable them to pick the right suit for their attack at the opening lead.

Take this case: The dealer, Z, carelessly bid one in hearts when he could just as safely have said two. The second bidder, A, offered two in clubs. The dealer's partner, Y, having the clubs stopped, shifted to no trumps, which was bid up to two tricks, and as a no trump the hand was played.

Y having been the first to name no trumps, played the combined hands; B, who was A's partner, led his top club and took out Y's stopper in the suit at once. This eventually resulted in B's getting in again and allowing A to make five club tricks, defeating the declaration.

Had the dealer bid two in hearts in the first place he would have shut out A's inforatory declaration of strength in clubs and B would have led another suit, enabling Y to clear up his own suit before losing control of the dangerous club suit in A's hand.

Observe that if a player has had a chance to name a suit and the bid is afterward changed to no trumps by his opponents, it is almost a certainty that they have the named suit stopped. Take this case:

The dealer, Z, begins with two in diamonds. A, holding among other things six hearts to the king, queen, jack, offers two in hearts and Y bids three in diamonds. B passes and Z shifts to two in no trumps.

This marks Z with the ace of hearts beyond question, because Z knows that if he plays the hand A will have the lead and will lead hearts. This knowledge that the ace of his suit is against him may prevent A from going on to three in hearts and may also prompt him to let Z try his no trump. Of course, there are players with nerve enough to make a bluff of this kind in Z's position, hoping to induce A to overbid himself, but they are rare.

A difficult point in the inferences from the bidding is to distinguish bids which are made for the purpose of giving information and those which are made for the purpose of saving the game. Suppose the dealer's side is eighteen up when he bids two in diamonds. It is obvious that if the dealer is allowed to play it he will probably go out.

In order to prevent this and keep the game in for another deal either A or his partner will have to overbid the dealer Z. Suppose A says two in hearts. His partner will not get much information out of it, as it does not necessarily mean that A has a big heart hand, but simply that he cannot let the diamond make go through, and thinks there is less of loss in penalties in a heart than in anything else.

The penalty for the failure of the declaration being fifty points a trick, regardless of the suit named, it would seem to the beginner much simpler to bid no trumps whenever it was necessary to save the game by overbidding, because of the fewer number of tricks necessary. But this may be a serious error, although it is true that the less tricks you bid the smaller the number by which you may fail.

Suppose Z starts with the odd in spades and A passes. Y bids hearts, and B bids two in clubs, prompting Z to increase his partner's bid to two in hearts, just to show that he has a trick or two in his hand.

A has nothing and passes again. It is now up to B to save the game, and it might appear cheaper for him to bid two in no trumps than four in clubs, because the bidder has to pay for every trick by which he falls short.

But at no trumps B might easily lose three or four by cards, costing him four or five tricks penalty, perhaps doubled; whereas he cannot reasonably lose the odd trick even at clubs, which would restrict his penalties to three tricks, even if he bid four by cards.

Probably the most difficult thing in the game is to decide on the probability of the declarers making what they bid. If it is likely that the declaration will succeed it must be overbid in order to save the game. If it is very unlikely to succeed it may be let stand or doubled. Doubling, it must not be forgotten, opens the way for changing the bid and so escaping the double penalty.

Let us suppose such a case as the following: The dealer offers one in spades. A says two in diamonds, so as to be high enough to shut out Y from making an inforatory bid too cheaply. Y looks over his hand and finds there are no diamonds in it, and that his only five card suit is spades, king high; besides which he has a single honor in hearts and the ace-queen of clubs.

The dealer's bid may have meant weakness, or it may have been forced,

waiting for developments. Y cannot risk three in clubs to outbid A's two in diamonds, so he says two in hearts. This forces A or A's partner to go on to three in diamonds at the risk of undertaking more than they can accomplish, and it also opens the way for the dealer to declare himself if his original declaration was simply forced. Even if Y-Z are allowed to play the heart declaration and go down on it they have the satisfaction of knowing that A-B cannot win the game on that deal, and while there is life there is hope for the most dangerous declarations at auction bridge are no trumps, chiefly because the adversaries make no mistakes about what to lead if there has been any previous bidding. If the suit named by a player is not led by him it is a sure sign that he wants his partner to come through with it and give him a finesse. In such a position it is very nice to know from the bids just what suit that partner can probably get in on.

One of the first things that experience will teach the player is the great difference between playing a no trump himself and playing against one. Suppose a player to hold eight spades with the four top honors, nothing else. If no trumps is declared on his right his policy will be to keep still because he will have the lead and can defeat the declaration.

If no trumps is declared on his left he cannot declare spades without bidding six by cards, but if the player on his left makes any declaration which will admit of such a bid as three in spades, or even four, the bid should be made, so that if the declaration is eventually a no trump either side spades will be led against it.

But with such a suit a player could never go no trumps himself unless the situation were desperate, because he could not get the suit led.

Doubling, which is usually the concluding phrase of the bidding among good players, is seldom resorted to unless it is practically a certainty that the declaration cannot succeed. Your partner has big diamonds, outbid by two in clubs, and your partner has increased his diamond offer until the adversaries have been compelled to shift to hearts. You hold three diamonds, two in hearts and some diamonds, making it evident to you that your heart declaration is simply to save the game.

Two courses are open to you—to help your partner along by offering four in diamonds, or to double the adverse heart declaration. The first is risky because they may let you try it and beat you. The second is absolutely safe, because it is practically impossible for them to make what they bid against your heart, and your partner's diamond strength. Remember that hearts was an afterthought with them.

Of course there is a good deal of bluff in the bidding upon occasion. A sharp player will often take advantage of his inference that the opponents are bidding to save the game and not to win it, and will increase his bid offer without changing the suit, just to make them bid a little higher so that he may get a little more penalty out of them. This, like bluffing in another game with which most persons are familiar, is a dangerous experiment against good players, because the very trap you lay for them may be preparing for you.

Take it all in all, auction bridge has a number of surprises in store for those who try it for the first time, not the least of which will be the unpleasantness of the suit, just to make them bid a little higher so that he may get a little more penalty out of them. This, like bluffing in another game with which most persons are familiar, is a dangerous experiment against good players, because the very trap you lay for them may be preparing for you.

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