

THE GAME OF MAH-JONG

"Mah-Jong", the Chinese game which has created a furore in England and has obtained a firm footing in the United States and Canada, is thus described by Olga Raester, author of the Standardized Rules of the Mah-Jong League:

No need to speak of age where Mah-Jong is concerned. Everybody knows that it comes from China, and it is as old as Tenques, another national Chinese game which was played in the far-distant centuries. In England, however, Mah-Jong is very young, and inclined, like all young things, to sprawl. Everybody is playing it, everybody is playing it differently.

According to history and legend, Mah-Jong was played by Confucius; it commemorated the Great Wall of China and 108 revolutionaries who were banished by the Emperor during the Sung dynasty.

A fisherman is supposed to have thought of it as a cure for sea-sickness and a Chinese general of the Imperial Army is said to have added the Winds and Dragons to keep his soldiers from falling asleep.

All this you may believe or not. It is certain that there were 108 cards in the original game and that the addition of Winds and Dragons brought the number to 136.

The ivory carvers of Ning Po turned the cards into "tiles", as the dominos now used are called, and it is with 136 of these that the regulation game is played.

Mah-Jong means "sparrow", because the players, like the sparrows, pick up the chance crumbs discarded by others.

There are three suits running from 1 to 9. They are called "Characters", "Bamboo" and "Circles". There is no need to describe them as they are easily distinguished by their names. All the three suits, with the exception of the 1's and 9's are classed as "minor" pieces, and in the scoring count the least.

There are also four Winds, four of a kind to each Wind: East, South, West and North. These four Winds and the 1's and 9's of each suit are "major" pieces, and come next in rank and value.

Finally, there are the three "Dragons" in sets of four: White Dragon, Red Dragon, Green Dragon. These are classed as super-pieces and have the highest value of all.

In the basket there are also four "Flowers" and four "Seasons", pretty pieces which merely give high scoring but do not represent any skill in playing.

There is also the "Box of Winds" and the counter made of short pieces of bone and inscribed with dots. Five for five hundred, one for one hundred, ten for ten points, and two for two. A thousand points, with a limit of 300, or 500, makes a good proportion for playing.

The object of each player is to make up a hand of fourteen "tiles", and in some cases more (if sets off over have been gathered), and to declare this hand before any of the other players.

To make up this kind the player collects three or four of a kind in any suit, numeral sequences in any suit, sets of Winds and Dragons, and a pair. These sets may be compared to the tricks made in Bridge.

The game starts by four players standing around a table, and going through the process of the allotment of seats.

This may be done in a formal manner which necessitates four throws of the dice before East for the round is decided, or in the friendly fashion of each player throwing the dice, the highest settling the place to be occupied by East.

All counting is to be done anti-clockwise from left to right, on the person sitting round the table, beginning with East.

After this the four walls are built, each player setting up a wall of 34 pieces before him in two layers of 17 each. The walls must be pushed closely together to form a square.

East then throws the dice to decide which wall is to be opened, and the number being counted out on the other players, the player to whom the number falls then throws the dice again to see where the wall is to be opened.

The number thrown is counted along the wall from right to left.

Where the count stops the two "tiles" must be lifted out and placed on the top of the opening to the right.

Then East takes the first four "tiles" to the left of the opening, and the other players follow in succession from left to right.

Each player has 13 "tiles". East takes one more, making 14, and East discards one "tile" into the court.

Then comes the turn of each player round the table from left to right, but all must draw one "tile" from the wall before discarding. East, after the first discard, does likewise.

Each discard can be taken by any of the other players for a set of three or a sequence until the next discard is thrown on the table, after which it cannot be touched.

The discards are acquired in the following manner: By a "Pung"—that is, taking a "tile" that matches two of a kind already in the player's hand. The three must be at once laid on the table beside the player. By a "Chow"—that is, taking a discard that makes a numeral sequence of three, two of which are already in the player's hand.

It must be remembered that a "Chow" can only be taken from the discard of a player on the left. When a player has completed a winning hand as described above, the fact is proclaimed. Every player shows his "tiles". The score is counted up, beginning with the winner.

If East has won, East is paid double by all the other players; if East has lost, East pays all the other players double. There are no "post-mortems"; each player has his own sorrow or joy.

There are many points in the game which cannot be gone into in this limited space. One is getting sets of four called "Kong". These are obtained by taking a discard which makes a fourth to a set of three already in the hand; like a "Pung", they must be put on the table, but the player must draw a "Loose Tile" and not from the wall.

The "Loose Tiles" are those which were removed to open the wall and which lie on the top of the "Dead Wall"—that is, "tiles" to the number of thirteen which must be slightly separated from the main wall, and which can only be drawn upon when a "Kong" is made.

From this necessarily brief description it will be gathered that Mah-Jong

GILLETT'S 100% PURE FLAKE LYE

This famous household cleanser and disinfectant is now made in Crystal Flakes instead of powder. It is the best household lye on the market. Use it for cleaning and disinfecting sinks, closets, drains, etc.; destroying vermin; softening water; making soap; cleaning floors, greasy pots and pans, etc.; removing paint, etc.

Avoid inferior and dangerous substitutes. Get the genuine article in cans as reproduced below.



is a wellorganized game; skill only comes with time, and one of the greatest points is to learn a good system of scoring so as to know what to play for.

C. N. R. WILL SOON CEASE TO BE A BURDEN

Sir Henry Thornton Says That Within Ten Years Road Will Be Equal to Any in the World

MONTREAL, Feb. 8.—Addressing the Westmount Women's Club here this afternoon Sir Henry Thornton, President of the Canadian National Railways, predicted that "within three years with any sort of luck, I anticipate that we will no longer be a burden upon the taxpayers of Canada, and within ten years we will be as efficient a railway system as can be found anywhere in the world."

Stressing the need of population to the Dominion, Sir Henry said that if Canada had 25,000,000 people the Canadian National Railways system would be no problem, and it would be an asset to the people of this country, because there would be sufficient traffic to support its large mileage. With respect to the ten years period referred to, he explained that the change would mean training the personnel and employees to the desired pitch of efficiency. Ten years was not too long to achieve what other railway systems had taken fifty years to do.

In regard to immigration Sir Henry considered it would be safe to bring to the Dominion any individual who was sound in mind and body, was willing to live under the laws of the Dominion and under our conditions of society in tranquility; was of caucasian race, and who would respect other races. Bolsheviks and Communists were not wanted, in his opinion.

RHYMOLOGY

In years gone by I've tried to try With my old writin' pen. To pen a word that might be heard In favor of the hen.

It's been some time since any rhyme Of mine has been in print, But I would write both day and night If I might give a hint.

I know some think you're on the blink When you talk 'bout the chicks, But they will pay your debts away With their egg-layin' trick.

The man who frets with lots of debts Should have a flock of hens, And give them care (not anywhere, But in real clean dry pens.)

And then they'll lay most ev'ry day And thus they'll clear the place From debts and claims, those cackling dames Will bring smiles to the face.

Some farms are wrecked by sheer neglect Of all stock on the place, But we can shirk none of the work If we would win the race.

Now you can win and it's a sin If you don't do your best. So ev'ry day and ev'ry way Work with real honest zest.

Never throw rocks at any stocks But give each proper care, And you will pay the debts away And have some cash to spare. —N. DWIGHT FORD.

GOOD INTENTIONS

You get up in the morning, and you confidently say: "I feel that I am going to do a big day's work today."

But you linger long at breakfast, and you really can't refuse To read the morning paper, with its daily gist of news.

Then you amble to the office, and, as might have been foreseen, You spend the forenoon dully in the usual routine;

Then you take an hour for luncheon, and somehow make it two, And returning to the office you bring a friend with you.

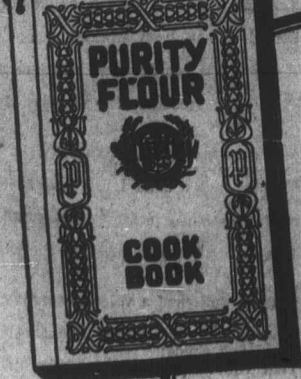
With so many things to talk about, the hours quickly fly, And almost before you know it the day has all gone by; So you amble home to dinner, and after you have dined,

Your wife has some new records for the phonograph you find, And you listen to the records for a couple of hours or so, And finish up the evening listening at the radio. And your opinion of yourself is one of those that sting, For the whole long day is over, and you haven't done a thing!

Eggless Raisin Cake One half cup of butter, one cup granulated sugar, one cup of sour milk, one teaspoon baking soda, one teaspoon cinnamon, one half teaspoon clove ground, one cup chopped raisins dredged with flour, one half cup chopped meats, also dredged with flour, to make a stiff batter. Mix well and bake.

RED ROSE TEA 'is good tea' Folks who want the very best use RED ROSE ORANGE PEKOE

700 recipes 200 pages



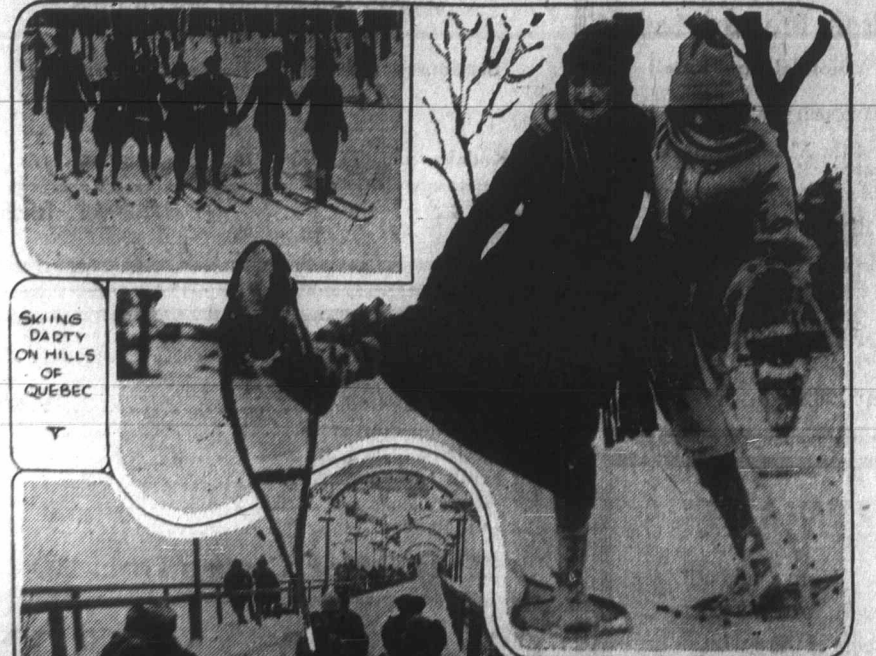
The use of this big new 200 page book will give you a lot of pleasure and satisfaction. It contains 700 recipes—all carefully selected by experts—also valuable household information. We will send you this useful book postpaid for 30c. Write for it to-day.

For delightful, flaky pastry and big loaves of wholesome bread, rich in body building gluten and health-giving minerals, always insist upon Purity Flour.

WESTERN CANADA FLOUR MILLS COMPANY, LIMITED Toronto, Ontario

PURITY FLOUR

Big Programme of Organized Winter Sport in Canada



WINTER in Canada is synonymous with winter sports. With the advent of ice and snow these sports begin; skis, sleds, toboggans, skates, snowshoes and hockey sticks, together with warm, gay sport costumes, make their appearance. A psychological change takes place in the social atmosphere, merriment radiates its contagion, briskness characterizes all outdoor movement.

For many years Quebec and Montreal have been Mecca for a large number of winter sport lovers, who flock to these two cities on the St. Lawrence during carnival seasons. There are, however, many other Canadian points where organized sport is a winter feature. St. John has its skating tournament in which many professionals participate. Sherbrooke, Quebec, has planned an elaborate skiing contest and is providing some splendid trophies as awards. Grey Rocks Inn, an all-the-year-round resort in the Laurentian Mountains, 55 miles northwest of

MONTREAL GIRLS ARE EXPERTS ON SNOWSHOES

Royal, in the former, provides an unexcelled playground where skiing, snowshoeing, bob-sledding and tobogganing may be enjoyed at their best. Skating contests, torchlight festivities on the Mountain and the presence of professional entertainers, provide amusement for Montrealers and visitors. Quebec is really the Capital of Winter Sports in Canada, its Dufferin Terrace and Chateau Frontenac are names to conjure with among winter sport devotees all over Canada and the United States. The three-track toboggan slide on the Terrace is generally the centre of attraction and crowds line its sides to watch the swift flying toboggans. A fine ski-jump, a skating rink, indoor and outdoor curling, contests and parades by the many ski and snowshoe clubs fill every waking hour. A team of husky dogs with sleigh and driver is maintained by the Chateau management for the use of the public. Quebec's carnival will end in a riot of excitement when the third Eastern International Dog-Team Derby is run there on Feb. 21, 22 and 23. Both Canadian and American teams to the number of about eighteen, will strive to win the Gold Cup, Silver Cup and \$2,000 in prize money.

Your Home Paper Is a Mighty Good GIFT

For your Boy or Girl away at School or at Work. For your Brother, Sister, Cousin, Uncle, Aunt, or any friend or relative who knows us folks Back Home.

Unless you've been in their position, you have no idea how they crave the news from back home—how eagerly they scan every line of the home paper. Really, they're far more interested in the paper from back home than the folks at home are.

The HOME PAPER 52 TIMES A YEAR

Contains more NEWS in one issue than you will write in a dozen letters. It costs less than your postage and stationery for a letter. Your friend will be reminded of your thoughtfulness. Each week, as he or she reads the interesting things about the home folks, they will silently thank you.

Your Home Paper, The Acadian, \$2.00 a Year \$2.50 to the United States

When Man They have Not vertice, it's Saying They thing to Sell. Vol. XLIII. DEATH OF K... J. Everett K... Early W... Through the man, which on Wednesday of his brother... of Cambridge... of its best known... taken ill with... ing with his wife... in spite of the... could go passed... The deceased... vate Theodore... man of that pho... farmer and busi... living qualities... ever known... member of the... in 1916 was ele... latrine where h... county with ab... years ago he di... at Centreville... place of the co... ville to reside... Westwood... by Mrs. MacL... dence in the t... 1922 he proved... many friends w... looking forward... next June... Mrs. Kinaman... his first wife... daughter of th... of Canning, T... riage are Fried... residing in the... who survives... Lulu Webster, o... bert Webster, ... he had one so... man, of the S... Hospital, Boxt... Mrs. Austen C... One brother C... field Mills, an... Easton, of Can... The funeral... a service at 10... Capt. Geaves... Canning Meth... HALIFAX A... MIES I... Halifax Cou... Acadia Academ... in an exhibit... Saturday after... of a good sized... about seven... was hotly con... The Ac... and fought ha... were unable to... than one tally... a slight ed in... ed... ford and Sm... Cormier and... Vanbaskirk... Halifax Ac... Doull and W... Pettipas and... sub. ACAD... The Freshm... versity held... on Saturday... to the Corru... was served, a... gram was en... spoke to the... Mr. Messeri... Bishop, Mr... Mr. Marvon... and instrumen... lege songs wa... Bancroft and... the chaperon... The Acad... home on Satu... victory at U... dent body me... umphal proc... of the town... The Acad... met on Sat... ence Hall... The senior... Seminary hel... on Friday ni... WOMEN ON... In the list... ments for a... Scotia, recen... that for Bar... pointed to th... sioner, Beres... est towns of... matter as in... pace for the... The new appo... ton, a lady... who we ven... a very usefu... like action... other town... ing three in... of laying at... Board is on... by Tim ACAD... ty of com... pointment is... it is general... the recomme... dence. COU... The meeti... pointed-by... the appoin... ment of th... Town Hall... at 3 p. m... comprised... and Rouch... season as... five appeal... year writ... ants were... stand to be... this year... appealing... evidence.