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\$5,000,000 WINNER

Record in Card Game Held by Young Englishman.

With Little Knowledge of Cards He Wins Title to Mining Property in Australia That Made Him Rich.

New York.—Five million dollars is the largest sum ever won in a card game at a single sitting, and the story of the vast winning carries the listener to a lonely hut in a rugged section of Australia, according to the chronicles of Ralph Nevill, the English historian of gambling, gamblers and gamblers and the turf, says the New York Telegraph. The story is related as an instance of the whims of fortune, which in certain rare instances seems to delight in showering her gifts upon some one who is not a gambler.

A young Englishman, who had gone to Australia with a slender capital, was standing at the door of his hut but just as night was falling, when two men who looked much like tramps approached. The Englishman accorded them such hospitality as his scant larder afforded, and then prepared to put them up for the night. Pipes were at hand, and when conversation waned one of the strangers drew from his pockets a much soiled pack of cards.

Although the young fellow knew little of gaming, he finally consented, after much persuasion, to play for small stakes, but stipulated that as soon as any of the three chances to lose such money as they had in their pockets the play should cease. The game progressed for a time with varying fortune, but luck eventually went the way of the host and the pockets of his guests were emptied of their modest sums. The losers were anxious to continue, promising to remit their losing upon arrival at the nearest town, but the Englishman insisted that the agreement be kept.

"We agreed to play for ready money; your losses are trifling. Let's turn it and go to bed," he said.

The losers continued to insist, but their entreaties fell on deaf ears. Suddenly one of them said:

"Bill, where's that bit of paper we got up the country. Perhaps he'll play us for that." A soiled document was produced. It appeared to be the title of several plots of land up country. The holders apparently attached little



Luck Went to the Host.

value to it, but the host agreed that it should be allowed to represent £10. When the game was resumed luck continued with the host and the document soon passed into his possession. Then the trio retired for the night, and early the next day the strangers went their way, first having left an address, so that any question concerning the title could be referred to them.

A week passed and the Englishman had forgotten about his slip of paper, which he had sent with some other securities to the nearest bank. He was standing in front of his hut about the same hour of the day, when a mounted stranger appeared, and, saying he had come a long way, begged shelter and food. Though roughly dressed the stranger was evidently possessed of money. He announced himself as desirous of purchasing plots of land, and said he was prepared to pay liberally. He pressed his host to tell him if he knew any lots for sale, and finally elicited from him the story of the scrap of paper. The story seemed vastly to amuse the stranger, and before he left he had offered £250 for it.

Ten days later the visitor returned, announcing that he had developed a veritable craze for the possession of the paper. He displayed £200 in cash and tendered it.

It dawned upon the young Englishman about this time that the paper really was valuable, and he told his visitor that it was not for sale.

Investigation proved that the document was a clear title to a property which held one of the richest mines in all Australia, and before he was through with it it had netted the man who had won the paper from the two wayfarers in the hut a sum very close to \$5,000,000. The Englishman, who is still alive, later provided handsome money for the men from whom he had won.

He learned later that the well-to-do stranger who took such an interest in him was a speculator in mines, who, in one way or another, had learned that the property represented by the paper was highly valuable, but even he did not estimate the tremendous sum eventually realized by the man who would have been termed the most sporting circles as more or less of a "piker" at card games.

NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL CITY

Items of Interest Around the State House

State Treasurer's Report.

State Treasurer Brian has completed his report for the month of March. It shows that he had on hand at the beginning of the month \$907,101.53 in the various state funds and at the close of the month had a balance of \$634,888.28. Of that amount \$14,515.71 is cash or cash items on hand and \$620,372.57 is cash on deposit in state depository banks. The balances in the funds are as follows:

Funds	March 31, 1910	Balances
General	\$ 79,296.63	
Temp. School	284,514.82	
Temp. Uni.	1,586.89	
Redemption	5,694.50	
Hospital for Insane	45.65	
Perm. School	160,627.10	
Perm. Uni.	173.39	
Ag. Col. Endow.	22,424.31	
Normal Endow.	1.72	
Normal Int.	238.95	
Perm. Normal Lib.	729.52	
State Library	972.89	
Ag. and Mech. Arts	11,590.01	
U. S. Exper. Station	2,597.85	
Int. Cash	53,488.08	
Penitentiary	14.59	
Keeney Normal Lab.	1,096.64	
Orphan. Hospital	27.94	
Forest Reserve	2,837.34	
Inst. Cash	25,112.16	
Tel. Income	18,228.63	
Fire Commission	10,642.65	
Total	\$634,888.28	
Trust funds invested are as follows:		
Per. School	\$7,806,097.92	
Per. Uni.	201,637.39	
Ag. Col. Endow.	494,108.14	
Normal Endow.	77,817.21	
Total	\$8,579,660.66	

Contra Elected President.

Chairman George E. Condra of the Nebraska conservation commission and Secretary W. R. Mellor of the state board of agriculture were made president and secretary, respectively, of the Nebraska conservation and state development congress at the session of that body Wednesday forenoon. It was voted to continue the organization permanently and as Messrs. Condra and Mellor had done more than any other individuals in bringing it into existence, the delegates naturally turned to them as the men who should lead its activities for the first year. The men who are serving as members of the state conservation commission, under appointment by Governor Shallenberger, were elected to act with Messrs. Condra and Mellor as the executive committee of the new body.

Omaha was recommended to the national conservation congress as the place for holding its 1910 convention.

Engineer for National Guard.

Harry P. Letton of Lincoln, a member of company F, Second regiment, Nebraska national guard, has been appointed assistant chief of engineers with the rank of captain. Captain Letton will take a thirty days' course in the regular army school at Fort Leavenworth.

Captain Letton is the son of Judge C. B. Letton of the supreme court. He will instruct the national guard of Nebraska in the art of burrowing in the ground in times of danger in the quickest possible time, the building of defenses and bridges and other branches of engineering. The statute makes the adjutant general chief engineer and for this reason Captain Letton is appointed to the position of assistant.

Big Band for the Fair.

The board of managers of the state fair has closed a contract for a larger musical organization than the one that has been so popular at the state fair during the past few years. This year Lombardo's musical organization of Chicago, comprising sixty-five people, of whom twenty are opera singers, has been engaged. The managers have been trying to contract for an aeroplane flight each day for the fair. A flying machine will cost \$2,000 for each flight, or \$10,000 for the week. The contest of Wright brothers in the federal courts to prevent the use of machines not of their patent may make it impossible to get a flying machine at the coming state fair.

Big Automobile.

Anton Pravaek of Clarkson has registered the second largest automobile ever registered in the office of the secretary of state. His machine is listed as a seventy-horse-power automobile. Last year a ninety-horse-power machine was registered. The license for automobiles in this state is fixed at \$1 a year for each machine. In some states there is a tax, based on the horse-power, in lieu of all other taxes on automobiles.

Jennie Geiger, the convict who is serving a term of thirty-nine years for complicity in a murder committed in Keith county, has been transferred from the Lincoln asylum to the penitentiary. Dr. Woodard, superintendent of the asylum, certified to Governor Shallenberger that the woman is no longer insane. He certified that she has been cured of her insanity, and the governor ordered her removed to the penitentiary.

The popularity of the automobile in Nebraska is shown by the registration record of the secretary of state, which shows that forty-five new machines were licensed Monday and forty licenses were issued Tuesday. If these eighty-five automobiles registered in two days cost an average of \$1,200 each, the owners paid a total of \$102,000. If this amount was not paid in cash it will probably be paid on the installment plan or when the mortgages come due. The automobile license fees received by the secretary of state thus far in March amounts to nearly \$900.

COMET IS HARMLESS

When It Hits Will Make Pretty Show, But Do No Damage.

Peculiar Electrical Conditions May Be Looked For About the Middle of May—19th of May Date of Passage.

Washington.—Astronomers have fixed the 19th of May as the day of the passage of the earth through the tail of Halley's comet, at which time the celestial visitor will be at its most brilliant period on its perihelion passage through the solar system.

Comets come and go, and while in the solar system assume various shapes of circles, knots, twists and streaks tails, and then leave those on the earth forever in doubt as whence they come and whither they go—a conclusion of the physicist and astronomer.

But this spring when the comet comes, it will afford the rare chance, as the earth passes through its tail, of learning much in regard to comets and their accompanying phenomena. This will include distinctive markings as bright patches, streaks, straight and twisted, many and various shapes of tails and any other phenomena as may present itself to the observer.

In the passage of the earth through the tail of Halley's comet there will be a polarization of its light, light fluctuations, earth currents, which mean a marked change in the electrical condition of the atmosphere—auroral displays may be expected for several days at the intersection of the earth with the material of the comet.

The color of the sun will be temporarily modified in the earth's passage through the tail. Twilight panorama, luminous clouds, dust particles in the air and the apparent brilliancy of zodiacal light may be greater during the passage through even so rare a substance as the tail of a comet. The auroral light will perhaps show up to be the most interesting and the most spectacular phenomena in the passage of the earth through the comet's tail.

Dr. Humphreys of the Mount Weather observatory, speaking of this phenomenon, says: "Evidently the source of this line is not definitely known, but conceivably it may be rendered more brilliant by the passage of the earth through the tail of a comet, and therefore it would be well for some favorably situated observer carefully to measure its brilliancy on several consecutive nights, so selected as systematically to overlap the calculated date of our supposed passage through the tail of Halley's comet."

The late Prof. S. P. Langley said: "The encounter of the earth with a comet's tail would be like the encounter with a shadow, and the chances of

BOGOTA HAS STREET RAILWAY RIOTS



Street scene in Bogota.

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA.—Riotous mobs have succeeded in stopping the operations of the Bogota City Railway Company, and now the Colombian employees of the company, terrorized by the crowds, have refused to make further efforts to move the cars. The American legation, which was stoned some days ago, is protected by the local authorities and Minister Northcott is doing all in his power to bring the troubles to an end. The Bogota City Railway Company is composed of Americans who received a concession from former President Reyes. The granting of the concession proved very unpopular, and the rioting, directed against the Americans followed.

a collision with the nucleus is remote indeed. Some time about the middle of May the earth will pass through the tail of Halley's comet.

The real gist of the stunt will be known only by the mathematical astronomer, and if there should be a hitch in the performance they would hardly have the opportunity to explain the slip-up in the laws of gravitation.

Far away in the depths of space, so remote from our planetary system, lies the future comet. Across the abyss which intervenes between the comet and the sun the law of gravitation extends its sway. After the lapse of centuries, or thousands of years,

MENACE TO PLAGUE

Ground Squirrel and Common Rat Aid Bubonic Plague.

Federal Experts Trace Death of Boy and Alarm Health Department Chief in Chicago—Asks Aid of Government.

Chicago.—Extinction of the ground squirrel as well as of the rat may be necessary if Chicago is to avoid the bubonic plague, according to Dr. W. A. Evans, head of the city health department.

Dr. Evans has received the health bulletin of the federal government, which contains an alarming report on the spread of bubonic plague by fleas that infest these animals. He renewed his advice for the killing of every rat in the city.

Up to August 13, 1909, government inspectors found 178 squirrels in Contra Costa county, California, infected with the plague. Orders were given afterward to poison every squirrel in that county. The government will send out free poison for this purpose.

Two cases that caused Dr. Evans to renew his warning for the extinction of rats in Chicago and that may place the squirrel in the same category are as follows:

"July 15, 1908, a boy who lived on a ranch in the northern part of Contra Costa county, died of the plague. Later in the same month a young woman of Pinole canyon succumbed.

"Infected rats were found on the ranch adjoining that on which the boy lived, according to the government report, and an infected squirrel was found near the house where he had lived. The boy had been shooting

Baby Lives on Hen's Eggs

Peculiar Diet of Washington Infant as Cure for Indigestion—Treatment Costly.

Dayton, Wash.—Seven eggs daily—nothing else—is the peculiar diet of the ten-months-old infant of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Warwick, ranchers living four miles southwest of Dayton.

When the child was seven months old physicians pronounced it incurable. It was suffering from indigestion and at one time weighed several pounds less than at birth. While looking through an old "family physician" book one day Mr. Warwick read that eggs were good for indigestion in in-

PLAYERS NEARLY READY FOR SEASON'S OPENING

WEATHER GOOD FOR BASEBALL PRACTICE THIS SPRING AND MEN SHOW FINE CONDITION.

So far as condition is concerned the baseball players should start this season on pretty even terms. There never has been a spring when the elements treated the players in practice better. From the various training camps have come reports mostly of sunshine and very few of the training games have had to be postponed.

With the opening of the season now only a few days off interest in the great national pastime has about reached the fever stage. On April 14 when the National and American leagues start their 1910 warfare there will be more dead grandmothers, great aunts and uncles than ever heard of before, judging from the early interest taken by the fans. Everybody will want to get off to see the first game and the old excuses for getting away from work will be used along with the new.

Of course no man can tell what the weather will be on April 14, but if it is a clear day in the eight cities composing the big leagues more than 200,000 persons will be in the grand stands and bleachers cheering for their favorites.

From the reports sent from the training camps every team should be right on edge and the players eager for the fray. The Chicago Sox have had the worst luck, losing the services of the veteran catcher and last season's manager, Billy Sullivan. The great catcher had the misfortune to step on a rusty nail and the wound came near causing lockjaw.

The same old question is raised, however, and that is whether condition shown by the players is any indication of the true ability of a team. Tim Murnane, in discussing the question, says:

"In 1897 the Boston club lost every exhibition game played with minor league clubs, with the exception of one tie, and yet put up remarkable baseball from start to finish, finally beating out the great Baltimore team for the championship, by winning two out of three games on the Oriole grounds.

"Fred Tenney and William Keeler alone of those two great teams are to-day in major league company, as ball players. Keeler a questionable quantity, and Tenney on the guessing list. Joe Kelley, Jimmie Collins and Billy Hamilton are playing in the minor association, with Jennings, McGraw and Duffy managing major league teams.

"The great difficulty in getting a good line on the big teams during the exhibition games, is the fact that youngsters are being tried out, and the best pitchers refuse to take chances in curving the ball to the batters. The veteran players are slow in coming to the firing line, while the young players are working their heads off to hold their places.

"The great ball teams seldom reach their best work until after going the rounds with a series with each club, after which they settle down to steady ball playing, working along plans mapped out after looking each other over.

"A poor start means very little to a veteran team, but has the reverse effect on a team made up of young blood. I think that Pittsburg is the best-trained team to-day in the country, take it year in and year out. Fred Clarke starts out with less men than any other manager, giving those men he has with the club a chance to work out carefully, taking no chances of injury by playing practice games while his men are tender and unfit for their best work.

"The Pittsburg manager works along the old lines of gradually building up to a point where the boys can play a fair article of ball when they do meet minor league clubs, just before the season opens, and you seldom hear of the champions lowering their colors before the regular season begins. For this reason Pittsburg is able to retain players longer than the other clubs, at the same time keeping its men in good form, and poor form will beat any club."

American Wins First Stake.

The fat racing season opened in England with a meeting at Lincoln, and the first race of importance was won by H. P. Whitney's Bobbin II. This was the Bathany plate, a handicap of 500 sovereigns, for three-year-olds and upward, distance five furlongs. August Belmont's Boudair started, but was unplaced.

"Iron Man" Will Pitch.

"Iron Man" McGinnity, player-manager of the Newark club of the Eastern league, said recently that he expected to pitch the opening game of the season and hoped he would be luckier than last year, when he lost the curtain-raiser by the score of 2 to 1.

Has Eleven Former Naps.

Columbus, of the American association, has on its roster 11 players who were formerly with Cleveland. They are: Pitchers Liebhardt, Sitton, Upp and Winchell; outfielders Clarke, Congalton, Hinchman and Reilly; first baseman Rossman, third baseman Fried and Catcher Schreck.

Donovan Boosts Young Catcher.

"Wild" Bill Donovan is strong in his recommendation of Beckendorf, the young backstop, who has done so little work for Detroit the past two years.

SIX YEARS OF PRACTICE NECESSARY IN WRESTLING

MAT GAME REQUIRES MUCH WORK—WHY THE FOREIGNERS FAIL WITH LEG HOLDS.

Wrestling is not a calling that can be picked up in less than six years of hard work. This is the opinion both of Referee Dick Fleming, who presides at Chicago bouts, and of Jack Carkeek, who trained Frank Gotch for his match with Hackenschmidt.

Carkeek is of the opinion that the variety of grips possible on the wrestling mat is the result of study alone. Then each muscle has to be trained to meet any emergency that may arise. He points to the Hackenschmidt match with Gotch as an argument. There could be no disputing "Hack's" tremendous strength. He could whirl Gotch around like a child. But when Gotch first put the toe grip on him Hackenschmidt was at a complete loss. Only his tremendous strength enabled him to throw Gotch off. He could never have resisted the grip with his leg as lighter men, such as Fred Beell, could have done. He simply encountered a grip that was new to him and for which he was not prepared.

Ernest Stegemoeller, his wrestling partner, was champion of Germany at Greco-Roman wrestling, and there could be no doubt of his knowledge of that game. But when Orfenna commenced using the toe grip on him the evening of the Gotch affair he was helpless. In other words, men versed in every detail of their own style of wrestling were powerless when they went up against the catch-as-catch-can game.

It is on this account that experts say that mere strength is not enough. Every grip must be learned and a method of defense found. And six years is none too long a time, according to the men mentioned, in which to study the game.

Raoul de Rouen of France, who was on the police blacklist because of his rough tactics, is a case in point. He shows how mere strength does not count for anything. Mahmoud, the Turk, although much lighter, was easily able to block all the big fellow's efforts to turn him over or even to seriously trouble him in their four meetings.

That American wrestlers are ahead of the foreigners in use of leg holds seems to be proved conclusively. Nearly all the foreigners who have visited Chicago use a leg or crotch hold simply to work an opponent into another position. Then they promptly shift to a body or neck hold.

"BILL" LANGE PRAISES ANSON FOR GAMENESS

Bill Lange, one of the greatest sluggers baseball has ever known, tells the following tale on old Cap Anson.

"The old Cap was one of the gamest fellows you ever met. I remember one he put over on Bud Dahlen that was a classic. Toward the end of the season one year we were on our way to play Cincinnati a series of four games.

"There was a good deal of rivalry between us and the boys were all keyed up for the coming struggle. But there was a rule that helped put us out of business. I'll bring that in later.

"Dahlen boarded the train in rather big spirits and made a bee-line for his berth. He fell asleep immediately and the train started for the home of the 'Reds.' Now Anson had this rule, that every player must get his ticket from him. It was one way Anson had of keeping track of his men. Dahlen, of course, pitched into a bunk and never thought to ask the captain for the piece of paste-board. When the conductor made his rounds he gathered in all the fares but one. Bud Bill didn't possess the color of a ticket.

"Then the conductor caught out Anson, but the captain just pointed to the rule and said that the ticketless sleeper would have to get off the train. Anson had \$1,000 bet on the proposition that he would come out on the long end of the series. But he was game. The train was brought to a halt. Dahlen was hauled out of his comfortable slumber and set down at a milk station 40 miles or so out of Chicago.

"Cincinnati beat us that series. They won two games and the fourth was declared off for some reason. If we had had Dahlen in the lineup there is no question but that we would have trimmed them. And Anson was fully aware of that fact when he had Bill tossed off the train."

Illinois Normal Bars Football.

The student body of the Illinois State Normal university was started by the announcement by President Felmy that the faculty had decided to abolish intercollegiate football because of the physical danger and the lessening in scholarship of those identified with the sport. Recently baseball also was abolished.

Milwaukeean Looks Good.

The Boston Nationals have one pretty good asset—Curtis, the Milwaukee pitcher. This hurler is very capable, up to big league stuff all the time, and showed good class in the few games he pitched for the Deans last season.

When Bell Meets Bell.

When Bell of Brooklyn and Bell of the Giants are pitching against each other, what a merry linking will be heard!