

BIGGEST OF POKER POTS

Dazzled the Crowd Around a Table on a Missouri River Steamer.

BUT THE GAME DIDN'T END RIGHT

There Were Nervy Players and Mighty Big Stakes—When the Captain Was Called There Ensued a Serious Interruption.

"It was the biggest pot I ever saw on a poker table in the early days of Missouri river steamboating," remarked Ben Jewell, the retired Missouri river pilot, to the Chicago Inter Ocean correspondent, "and that is saying a good deal for the game of poker in these days was no penny-ante amusement. I have seen a passenger start up the river from St. Louis City or Yankton bound for Hinmarck with a roll of bills like a city water main, and when he reached the middle of his journey he was a mortgagor of his good looks and persuasive manners for the loan of a little bit of chewin' tobacco or a nip of forty rill; and not because there wasn't plenty of them articles for sale on the boat, neither, but because he had struck a cyclone of poker and been turned inside out—strapped, sucked, busted, skinned, and cleaned up and sung over the pilot who had won. It was a glorious game in them days—the great American Poker.

"The game was aboard the steamboat Nancy Lee, on her last trip up from St. Louis City late in the fall. The Nancy was a rotten hulk, anyway, and I didn't want to pilot her no more than I wanted to pilot a saw-log down the Mississippi in a freighter, but it was a case of takin' her up the river or losin' a steady job with the company, and I couldn't afford to throw up the job.

A BECKLESS GUESS. "The captain was a reckless cuss, who filled up his frock every once in a while as full as a boy's stomach on Christmas and let her wheeze and throb and slush through the water like an ocean liner. The smoke from the funnels like mad, and many and many a night I've sat in the pilot house with my hands on the wheel and held my breath, expectin' to be blown down the river to the state of Nebraska or the territory of Dakota by the bustin' of a boiler. But we had a streak of good luck and the steamer held together. The captain was a good fellow, and a couple of hundred miles up from St. Louis City and stopped to take on a supply of fuel.

"When we swung out in the stream again, it was bright and light, and I turned the wheel over to the cub and went down into the captain's cabin. The night was so clear a lady could have navigated the wheel, and I went down to the state of Nebraska or the territory of Dakota by the bustin' of a boiler. But we had a streak of good luck and the steamer held together. The captain was a good fellow, and a couple of hundred miles up from St. Louis City and stopped to take on a supply of fuel.

"The captain seemed pleased. "When the cards were dealt out the captain skinned 'em along just enough to get a squint at his hand, and I saw by his looks that he had opened with a pair of aces, ones, too. But nobody but me could tell from his face whether he had a full house or the moleskin. The captain had a funny way of twitchin' his nose, and I knew that was a good thing as we used to call it, and I just kept watch of his mustache, and I had him. I guess I'll tap her for about a hundred," says the captain, and a stack over into the center of the table.

"The cattle buyer looked studious for a minute and fingered over his checks sort of nervous like a man who has a horse but needed a bracer. Finally he stayed, and the other fellows dropped in with a hundred apiece and the draw began. The captain drew one card, and ordered the dealer to deal. He might 'a' been drawing to four of a kind, or he might 'a' had only one pair or two pair, or three of a kind, and draw on the top card, and I saw by his looks that he had opened with a pair of aces, ones, too. But nobody but me could tell from his face whether he had a full house or the moleskin. The captain had a funny way of twitchin' his nose, and I knew that was a good thing as we used to call it, and I just kept watch of his mustache, and I had him. I guess I'll tap her for about a hundred," says the captain, and a stack over into the center of the table.

"The captain seemed agitated. "The captain skinned his cards back again, as if to be sure he had what he thought he had, and made a bet of another hundred. The next round he drew a pair of aces, ones, too. But nobody but me could tell from his face whether he had a full house or the moleskin. The captain had a funny way of twitchin' his nose, and I knew that was a good thing as we used to call it, and I just kept watch of his mustache, and I had him. I guess I'll tap her for about a hundred," says the captain, and a stack over into the center of the table.

"Well, it was an exciting situation. They set there for fifteen minutes, and you could 'a' heard pin drops at any time. Finally the captain reached down in his inside pocket and pulled out a long leather pocketbook and started to unfasten the strap about it. Then we looked at each other and a considerable one, too. Whenever the captain went after that pocketbook it meant trouble for the other fellows. There were enough hundred-dollar bills in the book to make a thousand dollars, and the captain pushed 'em into the middle of the table and waited. Not a person spoke a word. The stranger unbuttoned his coat and fished up a stack of one hundred dollar bills. It was as full of bills as a legislative session. He pulled out enough to stack up on the captain's offer and showed 'em out in the center of the table.

"I call you," he said. "There was \$5,000 or \$6,000 on the table in the middle of the game. The captain looked at me as the dealer looked at the devil like me as the revival preacher. The captain went he had a stake to keep him a whole reason in clover and nary a trip. We all held our breaths. The captain started to place his hand face up on the table when—B-r-r-r-r-o-o-o-u-m-m-m-m! Talk about the eruption of Vesuvius or the earthquake that ever quaked. There was a roar and a crash and a rattling like the noise of a hundred cyclones and earthquakes and volcanoes all going at once; the air was filled with flying timber, timbers, arms, legs, pieces of iron, tools, dishes and a hundred other things, thick clouds of steam and smoke covered everything from sight, and it seemed as though the end of the world had smoked on us and jammed everything on earth all up in a pile while we was a sittin' there watchin' that poker game.

AN UPWARD TENDENCY. "I felt myself flyin' through the air like a cherub or something of that sort, sailin' like a bird 'way out of sight, and finally I came down and I fell into the water, and the muddy Missouri and the water colder than ice. The strikin' of the cold water was what saved me, for it brought me to my

ENCOURAGES THE SCHOOLS

Action of Nebraska Roads is Welcome to State Educators.

EXTENSION OF COURTESY BY RAILROADS

Free Transportation of Exhibits Offered Superintendent Jackson, Who Has Formulated a Plan for the Exposition.

The list of articles for exhibition at the exposition which the railroads of Nebraska have agreed to transport to and from points in the state without making any charge therefor has been increased by the addition of all educational exhibits which are under the direction of State Superintendent Jackson. This is regarded by those having the matter in charge as a most important concession and it will insure an exhibit of Nebraska's educational resources which could be secured in no other way. Manager Babcock of the Transportation department and Assistant Secretary Dearing of the Nebraska Exposition commission have been making the railroads of Nebraska roads and the announcement from railway headquarters that the roads had agreed to add the educational exhibits to their list of free transportation. The roads agreed some time ago to transport all agricultural and horticultural exhibits to and from all points in the state without making any charge, and the concession now made practically covers everything that will be exhibited by Nebraska's schools.

With this important concession the railroad expresses the greatest confidence that Nebraska will stand in the front rank in the educational department, as there is no reason why every other state should not be represented by its very best work. With free space and free transportation nothing remains to be done by the schools of the state but to prepare their exhibits, and this work is already well advanced.

The plan formulated by Superintendent Jackson provides that the schools in each county must send exhibits to the county superintendent of education. From there all the exhibits of each county will be sent direct to Omaha where the forces under the direction of Superintendent Jackson will take them in charge and in their place. The generosity of the railroads is especially gratifying to the officials of the University of Nebraska, who have been most considerate in their cooperation. With this embargo removed the university will be enabled to make a showing which will be highly gratifying to those concerned.

USE OF STAMPS FOR ADVERTISING. Exposition Derives Great Notoriety Through the Proposed Issue. The amount of advertising the exposition is receiving from the special postage stamps to be issued by the federal government is already reaching colossal proportions. Every newspaper in the country has published one or more articles regarding it in its telegraph columns, and nearly all of them have commented on it editorially. The Associated Press has sent references to the stamps all over the country from its headquarters, and a full description of them was sent out in this way as soon as the department decided on the designs. Some of the papers have criticized the designs, but the department has no one to whom to refer. Still others have caricatured the issue, among them being the Chicago News, which declared that the stamps would be a "stamping each of the eight stamps. Each stamp was shown in a cut about 5x7 inches, with alleged humorous sketches showing the stamps being used in various ways.

In addition to this kind of advertising the sale of these stamps promises to be tremendous. Orders for the stamps have been for them and some of these are sent through the Department of Publicity and Propaganda. The largest of these later is that of Montana, which has ordered 100,000 stamps. This firm has made application for 8,000 of the 1-cent stamps and wants them as soon as they can be delivered. It is reported that near future. Other large firms are placing orders for these stamps at this early day and the name of the Transmississippi and general advertising position will soon be in everybody's mouth.

GENERAL CLAY'S WIFE RETURNS. Brother Will Probably Be Prosecuted for Shooting at Her. CHICAGO, Jan. 17.—A special from Valley View, Mo., says that General Clayton's wife dropped in with a hundred until it came to the last one, and he followed up his pile of a hundred with four more stacks of the same size. The little fellow, who is a member of an Arctic expedition, attacked a rubber boot, and swore softly like to himself. The fellow had puzzled the crowd.

"The captain's nerve never failed him, but the other fellow sat there so quiet and serene like it seemed he didn't have a thorn's less than the other fellow. The man pat in the first place, and that was a worryin' matter, too. It was a ticklish situation. The captain didn't want to run up against a snag, especially so close to the end of the season with a cold water ahead of him. The other fellows, I could see in a minute, intended to drop out. The current was too swift for 'em. But the captain was a different kind of fellow, and he chucked until his mustache was raised and a rowdier's shirt, and still he couldn't make up his mind. And that other cussed fellow came down and looked like he was a member of a church strawberry festival or a Iowa socialist and nothing worried him but the weather.

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RUANE REFUSES TO GIVE UP

His Persistency Fethers the Board of County Commissioners.

DOES NOT PROPOSE TO TAKE A "FIRE"

Expert Accountant Dismissed Twice Within Ten Days from the County's Service Declines to Leave the Place.

James Ruane, who for a year or more has been employed by the county as an expert accountant, knows a good thing when he sees it. Besides knowing a good thing, Ruane proposes to hang onto that identical good thing while it is in his grasp.

At the meeting of the county commission, held last week ago, James Ruane was discharged, the same to take effect immediately upon the adjournment of the meeting. Ruane was officially notified of the action of the board, but treated the notification with silent contempt. He told his friends that he did not propose to stop working for the county, the action of the commissioners to the contrary notwithstanding. He continued at his desk, doing such work as came his way, and the board again notified him to leave. The county clerk notified him, and at the meeting held last Saturday he told the board that he would resign if he was not reinstated. The board refused to reinstate him, and he has since been severely disappointed, for Ruane will not go.

There is a rule at the court house that all clerks employes must report for duty each morning. Since the day of the employees' meeting to violate this rule, but yesterday there was one man who observed it and that man was James Ruane. When the justice showed up early and found Ruane sitting at his desk, Ruane was on hand and as soon as the clerk to the office of the tax department was unseated, he entered and seated himself at the desk that he occupied while working in the county. Other men of the department arrived later and expressed surprise at seeing Ruane at his accustomed place, knowing that he had been discharged twice within ten days. Asked why he was on duty, Ruane smiled and informed his former co-workers that he was on his job and knew what he was doing.

The commissioners know that Ruane is pretending to work for the county, but they are a quantity as to what to do with him. They are divided in their opinion as to whether they should reinstate him, or whether they should let him go. The county clerk, C. N. Dawson, and Rev. J. D. Kerr, was appointed with power to act in the matter, and he is expected to report at the next meeting of the union.

The session adjourned with the introduction to the members of Rev. A. C. Brown of the Knox Presbyterian church.

REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE ELECTION. Officers Continued in Their Places for Another Year. The annual meeting of the Real Estate exchange, held at the Commercial club rooms yesterday, was one of the most successful ever held in the history of the club. The full membership was represented and the meeting was a most congenial affair.

The old officers of the club were re-elected for another year, the only change in the roster being the substitution of J. F. Farman as secretary. The executive committee consisted of A. L. Reed, who has been unable to attend to the duties of the position on account of the pressure of business in his office, and J. F. Farman, who has been elected in his stead. The list of officers is as follows: E. A. Benson, president; C. C. George, vice president; W. G. Barker, secretary; G. Wallace, treasurer; W. L. Smith, W. L. Wiley and J. J. Gibson, executive committee.

The committee appointed to prepare a form of listing property for the purpose of levying a tax on the real estate in this county, which would conform to the law on that subject, presented a form that had prepared for this purpose, which was adopted by the club.

The committee consisting of J. J. Gibson, W. H. Russell and J. H. Parrotte was appointed to prepare a plan for making a list of people who make a practice of not paying house taxes, and to prepare a list of people who vacate to be served on such persons.

A resolution was adopted expressing the thanks of the exchange to President A. E. Smith and his associates for the work they have done, and which promise to increase to this section by reason of the completion of the exchange. The exchange has been successful in its efforts to increase the rates of transportation for the grain and packing house products produced in this vicinity.

NARROW ESCAPE FOR HANS ALBERT. Overdose of Morphine Almost Proved Fatal to Him. Hans Albert, the talented violinist, had a narrow escape from death yesterday on account of an overdose of morphine. Fortunately he discovered his condition in time to telephone for relief and he is now recovering at the home of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Sheridan, at 17th and Broadway.

When the case was called the attorney for the defendant said that he was ready to go on with the arguments. Assistant City Attorney Scott said that City Attorney Connel had not returned from Washington and that he did not feel like going on with the hearing, which was before a continuance of a few days. Before any more remarks were made if the attorneys were not ready the case would go over until the next term of court.

In this case, which was tried in the county court, and which judgment for \$375 was rendered in favor of the plaintiff, Farman alleged that he visited a gambling house in South Omaha operated by the defendants, and while sitting in a game of cards, he saw a sum of money aggregating the amount for which he sued. He also alleged that the game was run in violation of the statutes of the state. On this showing he secured his judgment.

Members of the Omaha Curling Club Are Well Set Up. The members of the Omaha Curling club are taking great pride in the fact that their curling stones with which they will toy from this date on, are made of the finest granite, shipped from Paddy's Milestone, the huge rock in the middle of the Firth of Clyde. Allis Craig stones are curling stones par excellence in the opinion of curling experts. Paddy's Milestone, from which they are obtained, is a huge rock of granite which stands in the channel between Scotland and the Emerald island, six miles away from any land. The granite is of a peculiar character, which permits of exceptional polish and smoothness. The stones are shipped to all parts of the world where curling is indulged. There are other curling stones, but they cannot compare with the Allis Craig stones.

Last week from Canada and two more pairs are coming. On last Saturday the local curlers practiced with them and they went into estates earlier than their qualities. From now on every one of the members of the club will want to have a whirl with the stones and curling will receive new life. Practice occurs on the lagoon in the exposition grounds all day every Saturday.

Secretary Lindsay of the curling club is trying to arrange a match with a team from Grand Island, to take place during the coming carnival.

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PACKLE TWO WARM SUBJECTS.

Ministerial Union Develops a Lead That May Bear Fruit.

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The ministerial union held its regular meeting at Kountze Memorial Lutheran church yesterday. Rev. Alexander Gilchrist presided. The committee headed by Rev. F. A. Wardell, selected to investigate the subject of Sunday closing at the exposition grounds, made a report in which it was stated that nothing had been accomplished. It was said that the exposition directory had declined to confer with the committee at the present time but might be led to consider the subject later on.

The hanging in of the report provoked a discussion of the matter by nearly every one present. The majority of the speakers were in favor of a legislative measure at once with a view of condemning the action of the exposition officials. Rev. T. J. Mackay, however, was not in favor of taking such sweeping action. He said that a great many people would be brought to the city by the railroads on Sunday, and that he saw no objection to their enjoying the sight of the big show, provided the Midway and machinery were shut down, as it was at the World's Columbian Exposition. He said it was a well known fact that the exposition grounds were closed on Sunday, and that the people who were brought there on Sunday, also many were garden and other resorts of less reputable character. He did not understand why the Ministerial union should make a special pleading in respect to the exhibition while the same were allowed to go un molested. Various motions for the body to take action in the matter were lost, and a motion to adjourn was carried by a large vote.

At this point Dr. S. Wright Butler rose to make exceptions in his report, and in connection with a proposed pig contest, which was to have taken place upon a Sunday at the exposition grounds, he stated that he had been represented and misquoted on the subject, and that he thought the liberty of the press should be carried so far as an advertisement for a pig contest, which was not a religious subject, and that the union is concerned. He was seconded in a short speech by Rev. J. K. Paulson, who thought the meetings of the body should be held at the Kountze Memorial Lutheran church, and that ministers in general owed much to the courtesy of the press in publishing their various proceedings, notices and sermons, and that he thought the Ministerial union should be allowed to make a statement of the light of an insult if carried. On vote, the motion was turned down.

Rev. C. N. Dawson said that it was time that the union took some action in regard to evangelical work during the holding of the exposition. Speaking on this subject Rev. A. W. Clark said he had received a donation from the Rev. L. M. Wood's of the great evangelist, to be used in the purchase of an evangelical wagon, which should be equipped with several speakers and used in the lower portion of the city. He thought the stations would be arranged for in the "bad" sections of the city, which should also be visited by this wagon. To thoroughly investigate the matter, a committee composed of Rev. A. W. Clark, Rev. C. N. Dawson and Rev. J. D. Kerr, was appointed with power to act in the matter, and he is expected to report at the next meeting of the union.

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Lafayette A. Garner, superintendent of the American Express company, returned to Omaha yesterday from Sioux City, where he took George M. Adams, the defaulting cashier of the company at that place. He confirmed the account of the capture of Adams at Philadelphia, as told in the Boer of Saturday morning. Adams is now in jail at Sioux City. He was given a hearing yesterday in the district court and pleaded guilty to the embezzlement of \$3,000 from the American Express company on about May 29, 1897. He will be sentenced on Thursday, and will likely get three years.

Adams' story of his flight from home after he had taken the money is the pathetic story of a heart-broken man, who suffered the worst torture and contumelious with a frenzied condition of his nerves, and in journeying from town to town not only failed to get any employment out of his stolen money, but all the while he was being hunted by the police, who were looking for a man who he met were about to arrest him, and in his sleep was busy fighting off sheriffs with warrants for his arrest.

According to Adams his theft of the \$3,000 was not a meditation, and he took the money for no definite object. In some manner he had allowed his money drawer to get \$101 which he had taken. He declares that he had not seen the money, but he was forced to report the shortage to the officers of the company, for fear that some of his past acts would be brought to light. He had been working for the company for many years, and he was a very good man. He was a very good man, and he was a very good man.

When asked why he did not stop at first-class hotels, buy new clothes and enjoy himself in luxury, he said that he was so terribly afraid of being arrested that he feared the moment he stopped at a hotel, the police would be there to catch him. He was so in mortal dread of arrest that he would frequently get off a railroad train at the next station after getting on merely because he saw some people looking at him. Several times he bought tickets to ride to the terminal stations of southern railroads, but was scared by the southern agents, who were some of the passengers looked at him pretty keenly. One day he got off a train and spent a whole day and night tramping around in the hills, and he was afraid of four men had been spying him closely.

From June until September he roamed through the southeastern part of the country, living in the most miserable hovel in the country were searching for him, but Adams was not to be found. He was in Kansas City with the determination of coming to Omaha to surrender himself to Superintendent Garner. When he reached Kansas City he was arrested by the police, and he was taken to the Memphis route and went as far as Emmet, Mo. It was while he was in Missouri that he met real estate agent, who was a very good man, and he was a very good man.

"Chief of detectives," and practically the whole police force of Springfield, Mo., had been looking for Adams for some time. He had been looking for Adams for some time, and he was a very good man, and he was a very good man.

But the trunk lay in the office in the Quaker City for a long time before its owner called for it. Adams, during all this time, was working as a cook in a canteen at the hotel, and he was a very good man, and he was a very good man.

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Superintendent Garner this morning said that almost the entire credit for the capture of Adams was due to S. C. Sizer, the coroner of Iowa, and that one evening started back to Sioux City with his man. He arrived there on Saturday, having watched Adams without a grain of sleep all the way from Philadelphia.

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CONSCIENCE MADE HIM A COWARD

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