

PLAYING POKER ON A TRAIN

Texas Castleman Wins the Pot and Never Shows His Hand.

THEN THERE WAS A THRILLING GUN PLAY

Philosophical Drummer Gets On Rap- port with Subject and Spins a Clever Yarn About Festive Game.

"I suppose cards will be played as long as there are men to play and material in the world to make cards with," says the New York Sun of the philosophical drummer, who was leaning back in the corner of the sofa in the smoking compartment of the sleeping car and producing a fresh cigar.

"And, what's more," he continued, after he had his cigar well lighted, "as long as men continue to travel great distances on cars and boats they will continue to play games to while away the time.

"I reckon it's true, though, that desperate gambling on railroad trains is practically a thing of the past. The companies won't allow it and if there's any play for money going on nowadays it has to be done very quietly, so that the conductor won't find it out. There is some, of course, but it amounts to very little. You will find out west, and from all I know in the east also, an occasional gang of sharpers who will play the old trick of starting a game of euchre and suddenly discovering a poker hand that warrants a bet.

"You would hardly think that a game that had been exposed so often as that could be played successfully on traveling men, would you? It is true, though, that the old game seems to be the most successful, no matter how often it is exposed. I've seen that very thing done within a year and an intelligent looking man 'dome' out of \$100 on a train in Illinois.

"Did I interfere? Not on your life! I have no appointment from the court to look after imbeciles at large and I am not hunting up opportunities for getting myself into trouble. If full-grown men have nothing better to do than to give up their money to swindlers they can go ahead and do it to their heart's content for all me.

"Gambling Still in Vogue.

"Fifteen or twenty years ago the custom hadn't been entirely stamped out, and there was still a good deal of gambling going on in the smoking cars, especially the south-west. Of course, the conductors knew about it and if they did not stand in their winked at it in order to save themselves trouble. It was not always among professional gamblers either that the play went on. Sometimes a party of men who knew one another would play, being careful not to allow a stranger in the game, for traveling men got wise long ago on the question of playing with strangers.

"I remember a game I saw in Texas some time in the early '80s that wound up in a curious way, and seemed for a moment or so likely to break up in an lively a shooting scrape as I ever saw. I never knew whether there was a professional in the game or not, or whether, for that matter, they were not all professionals. They certainly played a strong game and a good deal of money changed hands before the climax came, which it did suddenly, as climaxes generally do in poker.

"There were four playing on one of those movable shelves that the brakeman put between two ordinary seats, one being reversed, such as you will find in smoking cars all over the country. There were two other games going on in the car at the time, for the train was fairly full of passengers, but I happened to sit across the aisle from these four and I watched their play for more than an hour, not only because I had nothing else to do, but because I saw in a few moments that they were all playing as if they knew the game thoroughly and were not afraid of their money.

"It was table stakes, and each man had started with a hundred in sight, so there was no lack of interest in the game from the start. I wasn't the only one watching the game, for probably a dozen others were equally interested, and those who hadn't started from which they were watching the stakes, leaning against the arms of other men's seats, and looking on in silence, but with keen attention.

"So far as their appearance could be taken as an indication, they were all prosperous men, two of them looking as if they might have been cattle raisers, and one looking like a merchant. The other I took to be a lawyer, or a politician, though he might have been anything else. He was certainly a man of more education than the others appeared to be, and I judge him to have been a professional man of some sort. And I am rather inclined to think that same way myself, but it was a monstrous good bluff if he hadn't."

"They were not afraid of their money, as I said, and the ante, starting at a dollar, soon became five, and he lost steadily, until I fancied he was either losing his nerve or his temper. Perhaps he wasn't, but he swore a little now and again as he threw down his cards, showing at least that he was getting impatient. He played steadily enough, though, and so far as I could judge made no bad breaks and no effort to force his luck. Then he caught a third king in the draw, and betting it up against two card draws he scooped in a couple of hundred, making, as it happened, just enough of a winning to divide the money something like equally among the four players. Each man had between two and three hundred before him.

"The next deal came to the merchant, or the man I took to be a merchant, and, as the three kings had made a jack, there was \$20 in the pot at the start. The lawyer, sitting under the guns, opened it for twenty and the other gentlemen raised it twenty-five. That put it up to the red-faced man and he raised it fifty. The dealer dropped out and the lawyer trailed. The other gentleman made it fifty more and the red-faced man stayed. That brought it back to the lawyer and he made it a hundred harder. The two gentlemen both stayed, but there was no more raising. The lawyer's play if he was satisfied no one else had a right to kick. It hardly seemed possible that he could have expected the others to allow him to keep the card, but he unquestionably convinced them that he wanted it. I have thought since then that very probably that was all that he was trying to do, and that he knew perfectly well all the time that by no possibility could he expect to be allowed to take the card. If that was his game,

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BEE BICYCLES. Why Not You?

Be one of the lucky ones and get A NEW WHEEL

Just the one you have always wanted—you can, if you try.

This is the greatest opportunity you ever had to get a \$50.00 Bicycle.

Cleveland National Racycle Rambler

Orient Stearns Sterling

Manson Victor Columbia

OR ANY OTHERS YOU WANT

Remember these are all \$50 high grade wheels

Arrangements can be made for Fancy Specialties and Racers for a few more orders.

Start in early and you can be one of the lucky boys and girls if you try. We would rather have you all ride \$50.00 wheels, but if some of you cannot get the required number of subscriptions we can give you a good wheel for less. You can take your choice of any \$40 Road Wheel for 120 orders.

There are some very good wheels that sell for \$30. We will give you one of these for 90 orders.

We have some mighty good wheels for the little boys and girls for only 50 orders. Think of it.