How would you play it?

By Milton C. Work

Author of Contract Bridge for All

North
S. K-9
H. 9-7-5
D. 7-5-3-2
C. 10-8-3-2

West
S. 10-5
H. 10-8-4
D. Q-9-6-4
C. A-K-Q-J

East
S. 6-2
H. A-J-3-2
D. K-J-8
C. 9-7-6-5

South
S. A-Q-J-8-7-4-3
H. K-Q-6
D. A-10
C. 4

WITH the above hand, given in last week's Collier's, a little interesting bidding would take place in both Auction and Contract. In Auction, South doubtless would feel too strong to deem a preëmptive Spade bid necessary. In this case, South would bid one Spade, West two Clubs, North and East would pass. South would cheerily bid two Spades, West and North would pass, and East would bid three Clubs. South would willingly bid three Spades, West and North again would pass, and East would have the strength to justify a second raise.

East's four-bid would not be in accordance with South's fancy; he would be willing to bid three Spades, but not so keen to bid four. Had the adversaries been bidding Hearts, he would have a "free" double of their four; but a double that is not free is a dangerous declaration, so South would doubtless take the lighter risk and bid four Spades which would obtain the contract.

At Contract Bridge, South would be too strong to start with a bid of only one Spade which might be left in by a partner who had strength enough to produce a game at Spades, but not strength enough to raise a one-bid. I believe that a dealer should bid three when he wants his partner to raise one on one probable trick; should bid four if willing to try for game even with a weak partner.

In this case, South should start by bidding three Spades. West of course would pass, and North—although weak—has one probable trick in the King of Spades, and consequently should bid four. As West has not shown any strength, East would not dare to double, so in either game the contract would be four Spades.

The Play

West would start by leading the King and Queen of Clubs, and South would trump the second trick. The Declarer now could see that he was sure to take seven Spade tricks and one Diamond; he also is sure of one Heart trick, but can make it two if he can lead Hearts twice from North and if East holds the Ace. One Heart trick will leave him one short of his game and contract, so he naturally will seek a chance to make two.

The King of Spades is dummy's one sure entry; but if West holds the Spade Ten, North's King-Nine is good for two Spade tricks and consequently two entries for two Heart leads. It is hardly probable that one Heart lead will suffice, as East would not play the Ace on the first lead unless he suspected that South had a singleton King—hardly to be looked for in view of the fact that South already has shown up with a singleton Club.

Clearly Declarer should not bank on East's covering a small Heart with the Ace on the first trick, and must figure that his best chance for game lies in playing upon the basis that West holds the Spade Ten and East the Heart Ace. If South leads a small trump and North plays the Nine after West has played small, it will cost a cold trump trick if East has the Ten, and in that event Declarer would be down two. So the situation is this: If South plays a low Spade and North takes the elephantine finesse, Declarer sacrifices a trick and is down two if East has the Ten; the experiment neither gains nor loses, and Declarer is down one if West has both the Spade Ten and the Heart Ace; if East has the important Ace and West the still more important Ten, Declarer gains a trick and makes his game and contract.

When North's Nine of Spades wins, the rest of the play is easy. North leads a small Heart which South wins (if East ducks) and leads another small Spade, and then a second Heart from dummy.

It matters not at what time East elects to cash his Ace of hearts; East and West win only one Heart, one Diamond and one Club.

Next week's hand is given below; make up your mind how you would bid and play it before you read next week's description.

North
S. J-10-8
H. 10-8-2
D. 5-4-2
C. Q-J-9-7

East
S. 9-7-4
H. J-6-4
D. K-J-10
C. 10-6-5-2

West
S. A-K-Q-6-5-3-2
H. None
D. 9-7-6
C. 8-4-3

South
S. None
H. A-K-Q-9-7-5-3
D. A-Q-8-3
C. A-K

The Skin Game

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little according to the type of skin in general they are the same:

1. Protect it from dirt
2. Protect it from drying
3. Protect it from irritation
4. Supply it with fluids

Let's stop a minute to look at the structure of the skin and note its own remarkable equipment for obeying these very rules.

We must look on the skin as a structure in a constant state of change—it is wearing off and being replaced from its lower layers every day of our lives. The outer layers of the skin are really dead tissue, protecting the living layers beneath. That the outer layers slough off constantly is in itself a protection from dirt.

Civilization's to Blame

The oil, which is secreted by the oil glands in the middle layers of the skin and which spreads out in a fine coating over the skin, also absorbs some dirt and is sloughed off with the dead skin, and it protects the skin from drying to a great extent. So does the sweat which is automatically produced when the skin becomes too hot and has a tendency to dry out. The layer of inert, flattened cells which makes up the outer layer of the skin protects it from much mechanical irritation, and the hairs have a similar function.

Our skin might have a fair chance of taking care of itself if it were not for the conditions of civilization. But it simply cannot work fast enough to take care of coal dust, road dust, powder dust, and applied cosmetics of various sorts. We have got to do something to help it out.

1. Keeping the skin of the face clean. Let us be honest with ourselves: we are keeping clean for the looks of it, more than for the health of our skin. There is all the difference in the world between a superficially washed face and a thoroughly cleansed one.

The person blessed with a moderate but sufficient supply of oil can use almost any cleansing method with impunity. The face can first be cleansed with cold cream, and then washed with soap and water, or it may be washed with soap and water alone if the environment is not too full of coal dust. Nobody disputes nowadays that the use of a cream to absorb the worst of the gritty dust of cities is one way of saving wear and tear of the face.

The use of a mild astringent after the soap and water washing—and no astringent is better than a good toilet water made with pure alcohol—removes traces of soap which may not have disappeared in the rinsing, and a light application of vanishing cream afterward takes away the somewhat tight "pulled" feeling skin often has when it has been so thoroughly washed that all the natural oil has been temporarily removed.

The very dry skin may not be able to tolerate the use of soap and water at all, in which case after the first and dirtiest cream has been removed, another application should be made and thoroughly removed, just as one would rinse the face with fresh water after using soap.

In the case of the very oily skin, extra oil in the form of cleansing cream may not be necessary, but I think that a little helps.

One thing must be remembered about keeping the face clean: no face can continue to look clean long after it is washed if the hair is not clean. Especially must the person with the oily skin and scalp remember this. Oil from the scalp, especially if it is excessive, spreads down over the face in a thin layer which carries dirt from the scalp with it and gives the face a muddy appearance. Although it isn't practicable for most of us to wash our hair as often as we wash our faces, the hair must be kept reasonably clean if the face is to be, and look clean.

In washing the face with soap and water the best results are obtained if the water used is warm, not hot, and if the soap used is very mild and lathers freely.

2. Protecting the skin from drying. Excessive drying of the skin has a twofold effect on its appearance. It makes the skin rough, and the roughness increases its ability to collect dirt.

The prevention of drying is simple enough, even for a skin deficient in oil. A very small amount of oil may have to be applied at times between cleansing, and the application of cleansing cream and vanishing cream should not be neglected. If the tendency to dryness is localized around the forehead and eyebrows, one should be suspicious of facial dandruff, examine the scalp for dandruff, and treat the two conditions as one.

Normally a dry skin is driest on the sides of the cheeks and on the chin.

The person with a dry skin should use powders sparingly, should use rouge paste rather than rouge powder, and should use astringents with great caution. Dryness of the skin, like dryness of the scalp, is sometimes an index of general conditions which are best treated by a doctor.

3. Protecting the skin from irritations. Here we must give chiefly negative advice. Our rules are a series of don'ts:

If you must have your hair dyed, don't let the dye reach your face.

If you use powder don't use one with any metallic element in it.

If you use rouge and lip-stick don't use one with anything but vegetable dyes in it.

When you wash your face with soap be sure that your soap is simple and pure and lathers well. A calm skin is much less likely to acquire infections than one which has been irritated with disinfectants.

If you use perfume don't apply it to the skin always in the same place, or too often in any place.

Don't try to close up naturally large pores with patent astringents. You won't accomplish your purpose, but you will irritate the skin.

A Use for Water

Don't scratch. Rub the itching spot with alcohol and cotton and follow it with a little cold cream.

Don't use very hot water when washing your face.

4. Supplying the skin with fluid is not, of course, a part of the local treatment of the skin. To supply the skin with fluid, we must keep up the fluid content of the body by drinking water.

Any tissue of the body is improved in function and in appearance by having all the water it needs. Normal tissue will not take up more. In any infection the maintenance of a proper amount of water in the system helps to combat the disease. Similarly, in health, if the tissues are to be at their best, they must be plentifully supplied with fluid.

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After the Honeymoon

By THE GENTLEMAN AT THE KEYHOLE

PRESIDENT HOOVER has been in office long enough so that opinion about him has begun to form. People begin to think they know how his mind works, what his strength and weakness are.

The process of judging him has been expedited by the presence in Washington of Congress in special session. Congress throws a great deal of light upon the Executive.

The President, starting out as new Presidents normally do, controlling the spotlight himself from March to December, can largely shape opinion about himself for that whole period, for the executive branches operate behind closed doors, giving out what information they choose.

Besides, Congress affords one of the tests of a President. We judge the occupant of the White House somewhat by how he handles the men on the hill.

As a matter of fact, of course, no President really passes this test one hundred per cent. And Mr. Hoover is unfortunate in having his party worse split than any of his predecessors have had. The election did not mean what it seemed to mean.

The West did not vote for Mr. Hoover so much as it voted against Governor Smith. It was ready at the first opportunity to exhibit its discontent. And the special session afforded it the opportunity. The juxtaposition of farm relief and tariff revision in a simple special session was bound to be unfortunate.

Farm relief legislation was sure to show that the Administration and the Republican party were unwilling to go as far in the aid of agriculture as farm organizations and the political leaders of the farmers demanded that they should, while tariff revision was equally sure to reveal the Republican party as willing to do the utmost bidding of Eastern industry. The contrast was unfortunate.

Certain Differences

It is questionable whether anyone could have handled Congress any better than the President has done in such a situation as the special session created. But it is to be noted that Mr. Hoover does not know how to make the deals with Congress that more politically minded Presidents make. His mind revolts somewhat from these deals. But because he does not make them Congress looks down on him as impractical.

And Mr. Hoover does not get on very well with the professional politicians of his own party outside of office. He has ideals that are not entirely compatible with politics.

Differences with Congress and with the politicians have never in themselves injured a President with the country. On the contrary they have often contributed to his popularity, for both Congress and the politicians are themselves unpopular. However, a gift for dramatizing such enmities always helps, and Mr. Hoover has not yet shown that gift.

If on the whole things go well with the Hoover Administration it will probably be to his advantage that Congress has been unruly and that the politicians privately cuss him out. It is only when things begin to go badly that the dislike of the politicians becomes serious.

A certain reaction has set in, at least in the West, if one may judge by the result of the recent special election to fill a congressional vacancy in the Minneapolis district. This district has not been carried by the Republicans in the last six years by less than 20,000 plurality. The Republican candidate in the special election barely won.

The Great Fact-Finder

Mr. Hoover preserves his equanimity. He has remained unruffled, except perhaps at the Republican votes in the Senate in favor of the debenture plan of farm relief.

This occasions some surprise, for Washington expected him to show the impatience which executives not politically minded exhibit amid the harassments of politics.

He does not take trifles too seriously, seems to be perfectly sure of where he is going, keeps his eye on the main ends of his Administration, aware, probably, that what seems important today is likely to be forgotten tomorrow. He never speaks until he has the facts before him.

He is the greatest fact-finding President we have ever had. No one knows the exact extent or scope of his investigating organization. He has an insatiable appetite for facts, figures, reports, plans and diagrams, the consequence of his own scientific training. He usually sits, pencil in hand, drawing imaginary graphs and curves.

His habit of mind fits him for constructive work but it militates against a quick and intuitive weighing of the imponderables of politics. He is patient in seeking compromises and that is a valuable quality in office.

He has a great opportunity in the coming naval conference to win applause and popularity. And that conference will not fail for lack of the personal attention of a man who doggedly seeks practicable ends. And he has with him the good will of the country.

Bumping the Umps

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with all of this rigmarole, the fans would be urging him on: "That's the boy, Bill. Give 'im hell!"

Wallie Pipp, former first baseman of the Yankees, used a "horning-in" version of the same racket. When there was a big row between the umpires and the players, Wallie would horn in, shake his fist in the ump's face, kick up dirt with his feet and gesture wildly with his arms, all the time remarking in a sane and gentlemanly voice, "You were absolutely right, old boy. You called that play exactly right."

One day Hank O'Day called Wallie on this gag. "You've been getting away with this a long time," roared Bill. "I'm on to you. You're just trying to get the crowd on me."

But the fans thought Wallie was a fightin' fool, who wasn't any more afraid of an umpire than he was of a grasshopper.

Have It Your Own Way

The old-time umpires had to institute authority and enforce it themselves; the modern boys have it much easier. They are invested with authority and with no more than a sweep of the hand they can clean out a whole bench.

Back in the old days Tim Hurst called Kid Elberfeld—known as the Tabasco Kid because of his pep—out at the plate one day. Elberfeld jumped up after his slide and walked toward the bench, thinking he was safe. When he discovered that he had been called out he whirled around and charged at Hurst like a mad dog. Hurst figured that a fight was coming so he beat the Kid to the punch. He jerked off his mask and smashed Elberfeld in the face with it, knocking out several teeth and lacerating the Kid's face frightfully. "I'll Tabasco Kid you!" he roared.

Tim was umpiring behind the plate when Wid Conroy, a third baseman of the old New York Highlanders, was at bat.

"Strike one!" bawled Tim after the first pitch.

The next one shot past, and Tim howled, "Ball one!"

"What's the idea?" snarled Wid. "It was in the same place."

"All right," came back Hurst. "Strike two, it is."

In a game at Birmingham, Harry Steinfeldt, the great third baseman of the famous old Cubs of Frank Chance's day, took his whole quid of tobacco out of his mouth and threw it into the face of the umpire. Steinfeldt was lucky to get out of town alive, and for years afterward, whenever the Cubs played an exhibition game in that region Steinfeldt had to duck the club.

There are many peculiar accidents that get umpires started in the racket. Many years ago Rigler was working in a bush league when one night while making a jump from Grand Rapids to Fort Wayne the train he was on collided with a cattle train. Only a few people were hurt, but there was havoc among the cattle. The injured steers were bellowing sickeningly, and nobody seemed to know what to do. Rigler smashed the glass in the case containing the tools for use in emergencies and went through the cattle cars putting the poor mangled beasts out of misery.

As he was walking back to his car a stranger tapped him on the shoulder and said, "You're the only man who showed any common sense. What's your name?"

"I'm an umpire in the Central League," Rigler replied. "My name's Rigler."

"So?" the stranger replied. "I'm an official of this road, and I happen to know Harry Pulliam, president of the National League. I'm going to write him a letter about you."

Several weeks later, Pulliam watched Rigler work in a bush-league game, and immediately afterward signed him for the majors.

Umpires have their weaknesses and eccentricities just the same as players. Some umpires favor the pitcher on low balls on the inside, calling them strikes where other umpires would call them balls; while others give the pitcher the edge on outside balls. Rigler gave the pitcher many strikes on low balls, for instance, while Klem was weak on outside balls and strong on outside strikes.

McGraw always claimed, "There are no good umpires." He loved to burn them up, and nothing he could think of could cut an umpire as much as his crack, "Well, I see you got your team picked to win the pennant now all right."

Connie Mack is suave, as always, when arguing with an umpire. "Now I won't talk any further," he'll say. "I've tried to talk to you like a gentleman, and I consider the incident closed."

Some catchers, Gabby Hartnett of the Cubs and Bill Killefer, former Phillies' star, for instance, occasionally step aside when they see a fast one coming at the right spot to sock the umpire behind the plate and let it hit him a terrific blow.

Killefer used to have a sign for the "umpire killer." "It's a good thing to shake him up once in a while," Bill would say. "Put a little life in him!"

When a spit-ball pitcher was working, Bill spent most of the afternoon flinging dirt back on the umpire. "Sorry to have to do it," he would lie. "But you got to do it. Can't hold these fellows without it. See?"

The players often pick on Quigley in a mean, backhanded way, too. Quigley officiates in a good many football and basketball games during the off season, and he is particularly sensitive about cracks about his work in them. The surest way to get thrown out of a game in which Quigley is working is to remark, "What's this I hear about you costing Notre Dame that big football game last fall through one of your bum decisions?"

Divided Honors

So the ball players probably give the umps no better breaks than the arbiters deal out to them. They used to call Bob Emslie, "Blind Bob," and advise him to "get that wig out of your eyes," yet Bob really had remarkable eyesight, being an expert trapshooter and holding championships in that sport.

All in all, it's about tit for tat in the grand old side-line sport of the national pastime—namely bumping the umps.

The umps usually are able to take care of themselves in almost anything the players care to start—even in wisecracking, at which many ball players think they are strong.

Zimmerman came up to bat one day when Bill Byron was umpiring.

"Lemme see that bat," demanded Byron, noticing that Heinie was trying a trick bat, which he knew was hollow.

"What's the matter with the bat?" snarled Zim.

Byron waved it in the air and then tapped it on the plate.

"Hollow!" he replied. "Like your head!"

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