

A Consideration of Ethics at the Bridge Table

By WALTER MALOWAN

Member of the 1933 All-American Championship Team, and Secretary of the International Contract Bridge Union

UNETHICAL conduct at the card table is not as rare as outright cheating and is caused, in most cases, solely by ignorance. Contract bridge is no game for the dishonest card player. Even though he might have the ability to deal himself a few additional aces and kings, he could use this talent only once out of every four deals, and this would not make up for the possible superior playing skill of the opponents. On the other hand, should the gifted dealer be an expert player he would have a sufficient advantage without adding to it dishonestly. Private signals between partners could be very profitable if it were not for the fact that no pair using them would survive more than one session without arousing suspicion.

Many players believe that there is nothing wrong with using poker tactics in bridge and with trying to deceive the opponents with gestures, verbal or facial expressions, and similar play-acting. One of the most common offenses of the inexperienced player is his hesitation, in the play, when holding a singleton in the suit led. This will frequently mislead the declarer into taking a finesse the wrong way, but such tactics are not condoned by the rules of ethics, and in tournament play would draw a sharp reprimand or penalty from the referees.

Unintentionally slow passes also come under the category of common offenses by the near-novice. It gives the partner the valuable information that the hand contains nearly a bid. Good players never pass too quickly, avoiding, thereby, telling the other side when their hand is very bad, and preventing any reproach on a doubtful hand. Of course, there are certain bedeviled hands on which it is hard to make a decision. In such cases, it is common practice, after an unduly long hesitation, to make some kind of bid. However, if a pass is finally decided on, then the partner is expected to pass, too, unless his hand is so strong that there is no doubt about his having a bid.

No Rules for Slips

No rules or penalties are, nor can be, provided for such slips. It is usually sufficient to tell the decent player what action is expected from him, in order to prevent a recurrence. The consistent offender would soon be barred from clubs and tournaments.

The universally accepted laws of contract bridge impose penalties only for unintentional errors in the mechanics of the game. The American introduction to the laws is very clear on this subject. It states: "The laws are designed to define correct procedure and to provide an adequate remedy in all cases where a player accidentally, carelessly, or inadvertently disturbs the proper course of the game or gains an unintentional, but nevertheless unfair, advantage."

"The laws are not designed to prevent dishonorable practices; consequently there

are no penalties to cover intentional violations either of the laws of the game or of the principles set out in the supplement."

It is difficult to devise, for infractions, laws and remedies which on certain freakish occasions would not become tools in the hands of a trickster. The penalties provided in the laws are strictly meant for unintentional violations. Every intentional infraction, even when the violator is willing to pay the penalty, is dishonest. Revokes occur frequently. If discovered, a revoke is penalized by two tricks won by the revoking side being transferred to the other side at the end of the hand. The offending player does not need to call attention to the revoke if he should note his error. However, to revoke a second time for the purpose of covering up the first revoke is "tabu."

Player Barred

Until last year's changes in the laws, the partner of a player making an insufficient bid (bidding a number of tricks insufficient to overbid the preceding bid) was barred from further participation in the

♠ 7 5	♠ A K 9 8 4 3	♠ Q
♥ A K 3	♥ J 7 4 2	♥ 9 8 6 5
♦ K 9 5	♦ 8 6	♦ A Q 7 4
♣ A J 10 5 2	♣ 4	♣ Q 9 6 3
	W N E	
	S	
	♠ J 10 6 2	
	♥ Q 10	
	♦ J 10 3 2	
	♣ K 8 7	

auction. Some sophisticated players tried to put this rule to their use when bidding a psychic. Holding, for instance,

♠ A K Q x x x x ♥ x ♦ x x ♣ x x x the non-vulnerable player would bid two hearts after an opening bid of one no-trump by the dealer to his right. This would be done for the purpose of preventing the other side from bidding hearts. There might follow a two no-trump bid to the left, overcalled with a three heart bid by the partner of the psychic bidder, provoking a double from the dealer. To bid three spades now would be the natural course to follow, but—what if the partner should not understand and bid four hearts? An intentionally insufficient bid of two spades will silence the partner who, in accordance with the law, would be barred from further bidding. After having corrected his bid to three spades, the offending player would probably draw a gleeful double from the opponents and save a game or a possible slam with an insignificant set.

A most naive question on ethics was submitted to me a few weeks ago in a letter from the South. It concerned a hand which the writer had played in a doubled four hearts contract. After nine tricks, all but four trumps had been played; the declarer

had lost three tricks, and the following cards were left:

The Declarer:

Hearts J 10

Diamonds Q (the high Diamond)

The opponent at the right:

Hearts 7 6

Clubs J

The knave of diamonds was led at the left of the declarer, the dummy's play was of no consequence, and third hand hesitated, not remembering, at once, whether his partner's card was high. Noticing this indecision, the declarer shrugged his shoulders in apparent impatience and played a trump. The other player, knowing that now one of his hearts was good for the setting trick, discarded the knave of clubs. Thereupon, the declarer calmly took back his trump, played the queen of diamonds and took the balance of the tricks, fulfilling his doubled contract. I was asked to decide whether he was entitled to the rubber, as he had done nothing against the letter of the law. My answer was affirmative, but was clad in such language that it was probably of no use to the ingenious inquisitor.

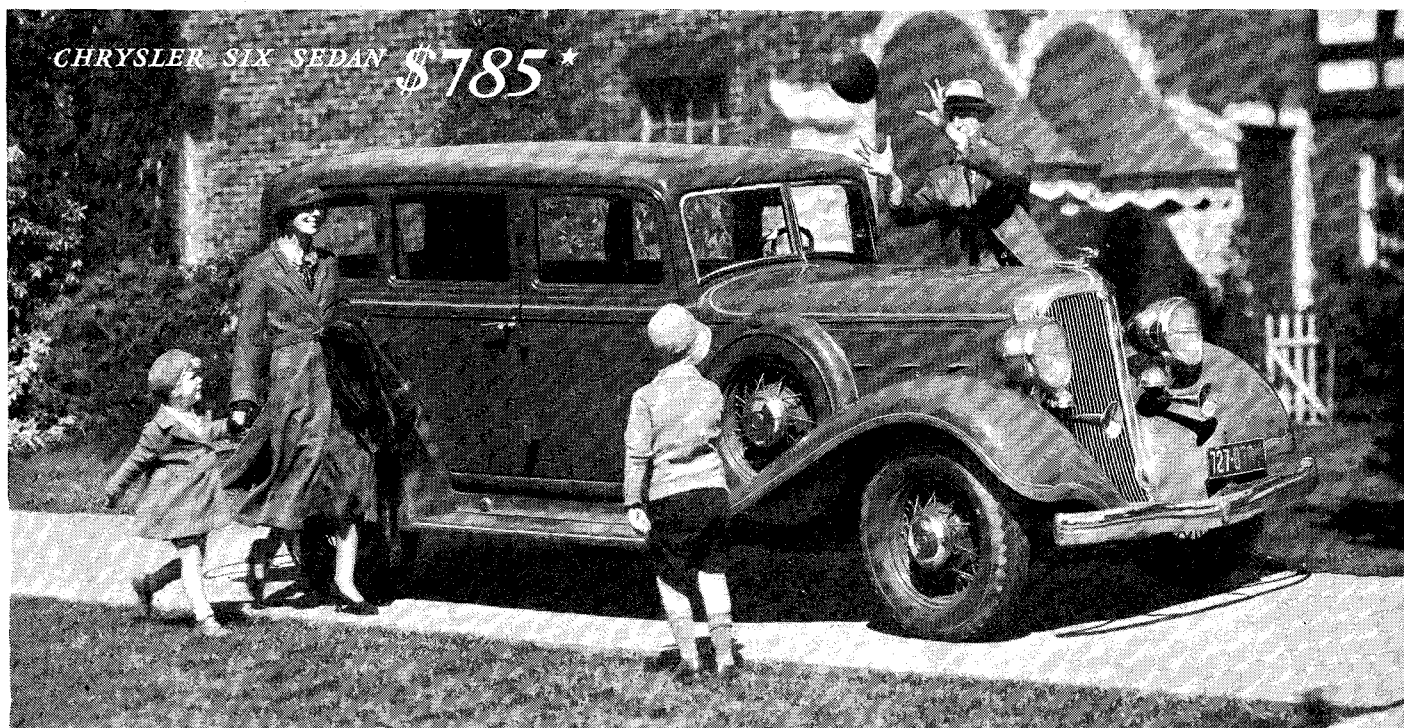
At times the "wise" player traps himself. I once watched a bridge game on a train. The dealer hesitated a long time before passing a worthless hand. Probably he considered the advisability of bidding a psychic. His partner misinterpreted the delay, and holding a fair hand, tried to take advantage of the information he thought he had received. He started bidding freely and lived to rue the day.

While the rules are intended to provide remedies, where a player unintentionally infringes on the proper procedure, Fate sometimes turns the penalty into a reward. Such was the case with the hand dealt during the recent Individual National Championship Tournament, and represented in the accompanying chart.

Led Out of Turn

West was playing the hand at a five club contract, and South carelessly led out of turn. This permitted West to name the suit North was to lead, and he called for a club. The four of clubs was covered with the queen in the dummy, and South, being on the alert, played the seven. When another club was led from the dummy, and South followed with the eight, West was in a quandary. He finally played the ace, hoping to drop the king from the North hand, and was set one trick. Had North led normally, West would have made his contract, as he would have had no choice but to try the club finesse.

Some players will erroneously think that this outcome served West right because he had tried to take advantage of South's honest mistake. Of course, a tournament player is obliged to enforce the laws and penalties, but even rubber bridge should be played strictly in accordance with all rules and regulations.



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"I'm proving that we were awfully smart to buy that Chrysler, Jim. It just seems to service itself . . . and it uses no more gas than smaller cars we've owned."

Hitler and the Peace of Europe

(Continued from page 5)

the eyes of Europe at least, back very near to the place that it occupied during the days of the war. That place may have been unjust. But it was certainly unenviable. Yet the restoration of Germany to that

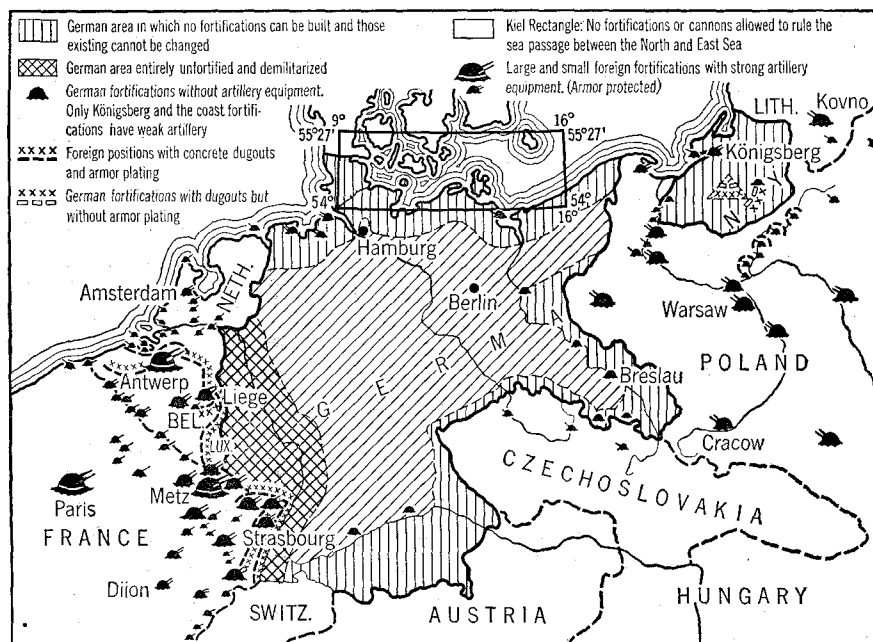
ally of all the forces of righteousness. This accumulated good-will the Nazis never recognized, and now have lost.

This was particularly true in the case of England. One of England's most famous editors remarked to me in London that,

menace to him than the worst that he saw in prewar Germany.

The Nazis, some months ago, sent a distinguished emissary to London as an official apologist. He was Count Bismarck, heir, at least, to a distinguished name. He got short shrift at the hands of the British public. The more he talked the greater the antagonism he aroused. He went home, again, a liability. Later, Hitler chose another representative for a somewhat similar task. This time it was Herr Rosenberg, the man who, behind the scenes, is said to direct the Nazi foreign policy. Rosenberg fared no better. Verbally, at least, he was halved and quartered by the British public. And he, too, beat a hasty retreat—with British hisses to speed his going.

Now the corollary of this feeling is a new support for France. For ten years liberal opinion in Europe, as well as in the United States, has condemned French policy with unanimity and enthusiasm. There has been unquestionable basis for this condemnation. France underestimated the strength of the democratic movement in Germany, and refused, until too late, to come to its support. The story is told that at least two years before Hitler came to power, Dr. Bruening, then Chancellor, came to France to plead



Types of posters now being displayed everywhere in Germany as part of the National-Socialist campaign for rearmament. Above, "The Ring of Steel Around Germany." Right, "The Menace to Germany by Air"

place is, to date, Hitler's major international achievement. He has chalked up plenty of blunders in the last nine months. Nowhere have his blunders been on so grandiose a scale as in the field of foreign affairs. Prussian heavy-handedness in the business of diplomacy never had a better exponent.

A distinguished French politician remarked recently that the French people, throughout their history, have been peculiarly blessed and periodically saved by their saints. In a very early period Saint Genevieve came to the rescue of the land. At a later date it was St. Joan who brought sudden salvation. "Now," he said, "in this modern day, with France again in need, a new saint has appeared to spare the people: 'Saint Germanicus Stupidicus.'"

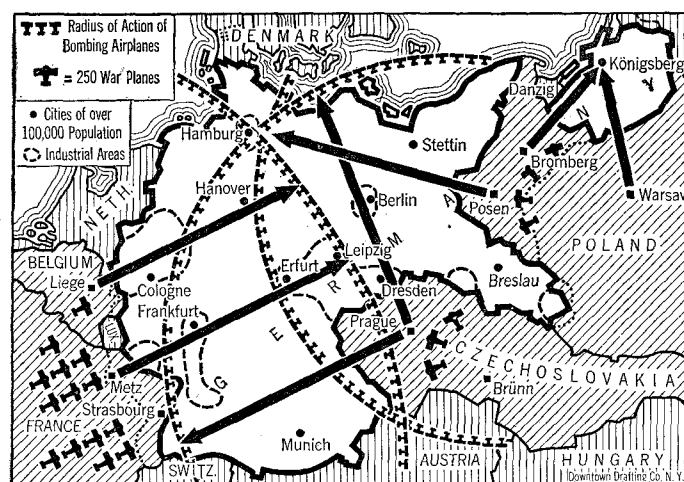
Certainly Nazi stupidity seems to have done just that. The now reviled German Republic did at least one thing which National-Socialist Germany will, of course, not admit, and probably does not even recognize. Under Republican leadership, the German nation won the confidence and the active friendship of most of the Western world. France, with whom most of these Western nations had been allied in the war, steadily lost ground during the years that followed it. Germany, the enemy of the period of 1914 to 1918, loathed, outlawed and hated as few nations have been, steadily gained ground during the same period. In fact, by January 1, 1932, an outsider, unfamiliar with the history of the past two decades, would have allotted to the French the place which Germany held in the war, and classified Germany, doubtless, as the

prior to Hitler, Great Britain was, easily, three-fifths pro-German. The English Jewish community was pro-German, all the liberal groups, labor, the church, and a large number of the less-starchy Conservatives. This pro-German attitude went back at least as far as the French occupation of the Ruhr.

"Since March 5, when Hitler took over," this man declared, "there has been a complete reversal. It is not that England has yet gone actively pro-French. But it has certainly ceased to be pro-German."

The House of Commons, during last July, devoted at least one sitting to the Nazi Government. I doubt if the debate of that day can be matched in any Parliament in recent years. There was condemnation from every quarter of the political compass. The shades of England's democratic prophets were passed in eloquent review. The building and the peculiar qualities of England's free institutions were retold. And against this England's politicians placed Nazi Germany, a threat to it all.

Now the condemnation which ran that day through the House was echoed and still echoes, some say with increasing clarity, through the streets of Britain. One gets the feeling that the man in the street sees something in the Nazi régime that is more of a



for support for his moderate policy: immediate action on reparations and rearmament. His request was a warning.

"The alternative to this support," he is reported to have said, "is Adolf Hitler."

But the French, who had been warned before, only laughed at him.

"Hitler," they said, "is a mountebank; a madman. He will never be more than amusing."

But he has ceased now to be amusing. And Dr. Bruening, from his quasi-monastic retreat in Berlin, has ample time and opportunity to observe the truth of his prophecy.

Misjudgments of this sort were a major factor in boosting Hitler to power. The pro-Germans of the last fourteen years have not been wholly wrong. But whether right or wrong, the question itself has become academic. Hitler is no longer an excuse to those who cry "wolf, wolf." He has become a reality, the hardest reality with which post-war Europe has had to deal. It is no longer a matter of who is to blame but,

rather, of "What's to be done?" And when that last question appears there seems to be nothing for it, in the minds of an increasing number of Europeans, but to stand with France.

This has become clear at the sessions of the still-alive, but far-from-lively disarmament conference. Eighteen months ago, when that conference settled down to business under the benevolent chairmanship of "Uncle Arthur" Henderson, the peace hopes of the world were centered upon it. But no one whom I have met believes that the prayers which still are lifted for the success of this gathering are likely to have a very significant answer.

They are not likely to have an answer, not only because Germany has withdrawn, but because the Europe of November, 1933, is a vastly different place from the Europe of January, 1932. The whole issue of disarmament has taken on a new form since Adolf Hitler hung up his hat in the German Chancellory. France, eighteen months ago, appeared at Geneva in something of the rôle of devil's advocate. In that capacity her representatives apparently blocked effective action. Now the world, or the European sector of it, at least, has very largely gone over to the devil. At least, they have gone over to the conviction that military force may have some use in Europe in the immediate future which, in large measure, rules out the possibility of disarming.

Here, for example, is the new-born State of Czecho-Slovakia. Dr. Bénéš, perennial Czech Foreign Minister, has been front and center among those who have believed that disarmament was possible. No responsible Czech politician could actively sponsor such a conviction now. Germany is too close. The Nazi movement among the three million Germans in Czecho-Slovakia is too menacing. The Nazi propaganda across the Czech border is too grave a threat. The Czechs, now as never before since the war, are keeping their rifles clean and their powder dry. Peace is a popular slogan in this most democratic of Central European nations. But survival is more important than peace. And rightly or wrongly, Adolf Hitler is looked upon as a threat to survival.

The same goes, as I have said, for England. England is not out for trouble with Germany. But the average Englishman is enough aware of what Hitler stands for to be unwilling to cut seriously into the national defense while he is still at large.

A year ago Russia was on friendlier terms with Germany than with any other Western nation. Russo-German trade was booming. German technical advisers were scattered throughout the Soviet Union. Hitler's advent reversed the picture. To-day, the German experts have been bundled up and sent home, their places taken, chiefly, by Frenchmen. Russo-German trade is steadily falling. A few weeks ago, owing to a long succession of provocative incidents, Russia recalled all her newspaper correspondents in Germany and expelled Germany's correspondents from Russia. The Soviets are not only suspicious of Hitler. They are determined to have no more dealings with him than are absolutely necessary.

Thus, the National-Socialist international policy has resulted in surrounding Germany

with a ring of suspicion and distrust. The spirit of concession which had begun to dominate the Powers a year ago has largely disappeared; the ground for friendly agreement has been largely swept away, and Germany is isolated.

This, of course, the Nazis profess not to regret. I heard of a prominent Nazi military leader who remarked, after some of the foregoing facts had been recounted to him, that:

"All this merely adds to our determination. Here in Germany we do what we will. We will continue to do what we will, and the world can like it or not."

That short-sightedness and naïveté is probably characteristic not only of party leaders, but of Hitler, himself. His lack of sophistication in foreign affairs is notorious. Prior to coming to office he had had no contact whatsoever with the business of international relationships, and his own background was provincial. Mussolini, in contrast, had been schooled, through years of

Adolph Hitler and the Jews!

What is the basis of the anti-Semitism of Germany's Nazi rulers? How is the drive against the Jews carried forward? Has it been moderated? What is the future of the Jewish population of Germany?

These widely discussed questions are answered in Mr. High's article in next week's issue of *The Literary Digest*.

Marxianism, in a laboratory of internationalism. He became, to be sure, something of a swashbuckler. But he none-the-less knew his way about in the world beyond Italy. Hitler has no such knowledge. Every problem, whether it be anti-Semitism or union with Austria, is a German domestic problem and, therefore, no business of anybody else. Right now, there is good evidence that the definiteness with which everybody else seems to have made these matters their problems has both confused and enraged him. He demands that Nazi Germany be left alone to work out its own destiny. He has not yet learned the extent to which that destiny, on the lines on which he is working it out, makes it increasingly difficult for him to be left alone.

Europe, confronted with Hitler, is not jumpy or feverish. But it is decidedly gloomy. The shadow of things to come stretches darkly across the continent. Governments are uncertain what to do. In their uncertainty they will probably do nothing. But they look into the next five-year period with anxiety and foreboding. There are still die-hard optimists with faith enough left to believe that Europe may be spared the catastrophe which appears, now, to be in the making. But even the optimists concede that there is scant basis, in fact, for their optimism. The new order, such as it was, has failed and is being abandoned. The old order is being restored in its place. And men and nations which, apparently, have been powerless or too short-sighted to prevent that development, look, now, with a fear born of a knowledge of history, upon the consequences that may follow in its train.

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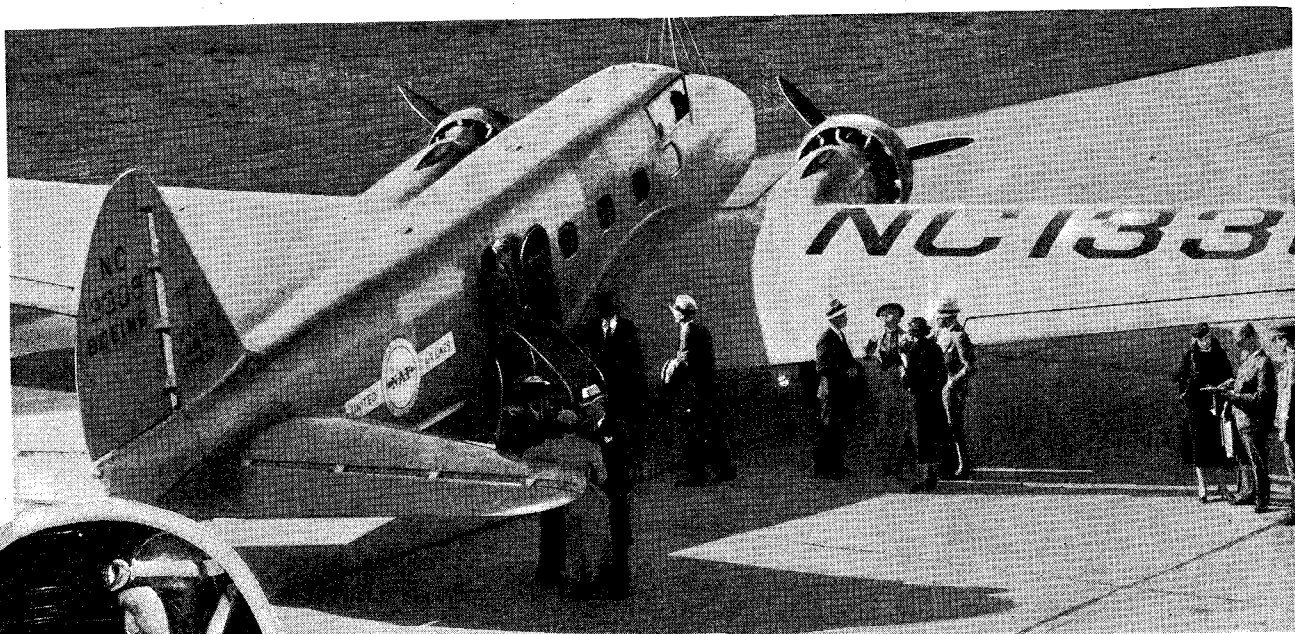
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Studebaker has gone to the skyway for the dramatic aerodynamic lines of these startling new cars. They're the world's first standard production cars that really approximate the air-curve design of speed monarchs of the

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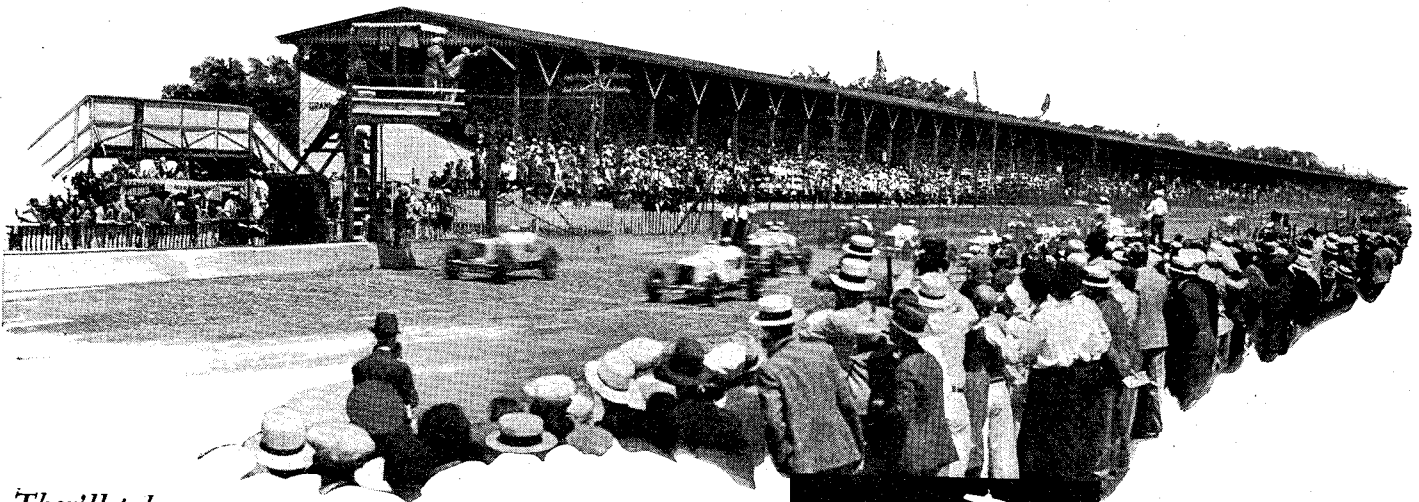
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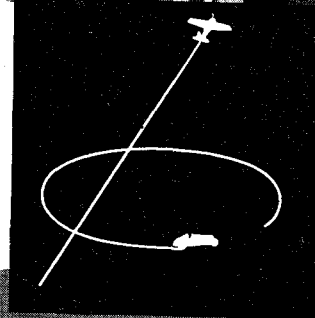
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You've seen the forerunners of the stamina of these Studebakers if you witnessed the last Indianapolis Speedway race where seven of the first twelve winners were Studebaker powered—and where five 85% stock Studebakers went through the entire 500 grueling miles without a single mechanical adjustment or repair!

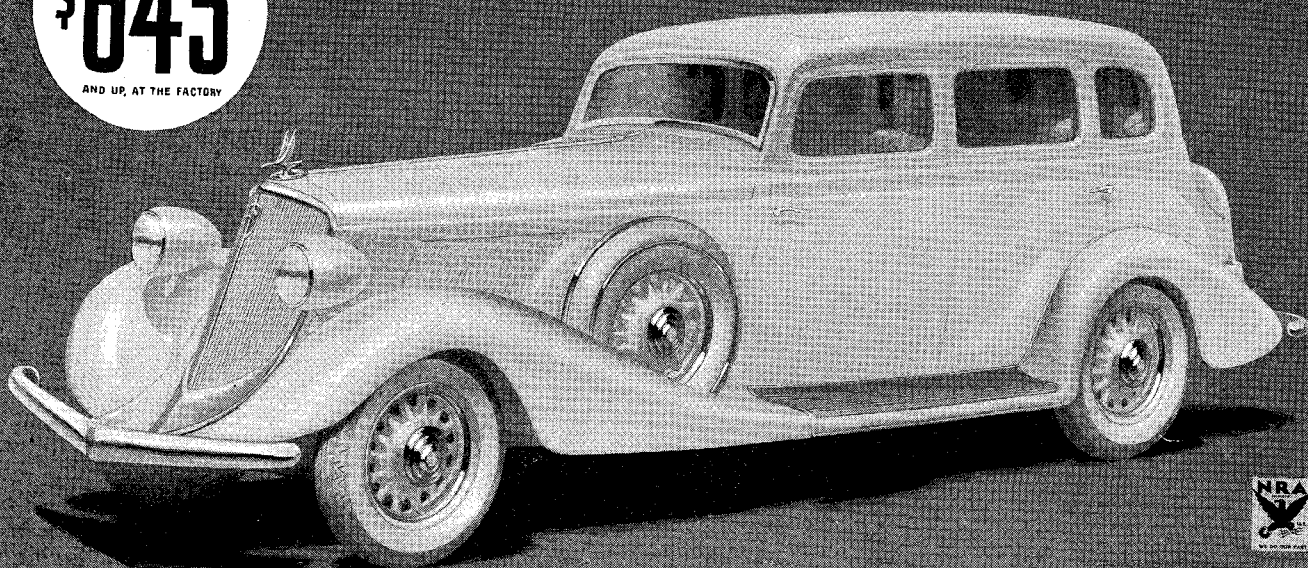


FROM THE SPEEDWAY
COMES THEIR STAMINA

FROM THE SKYWAY
COMES THEIR STYLE

\$645

AND UP, AT THE FACTORY



DICTATOR \$645 and up, at the factory **COMMANDER \$845** and up, at the factory **PRESIDENT \$1045** and up, at the factory

NEW STUDEBAKERS OF 1934

From Our Readers to Our Readers

Negro Education in Florida

To the Editor of *The Literary Digest*—Sir:—You have given publicity to a letter from Coelestina Bachman concerning the educational facilities for Negroes in our State. In fairness to Florida, I ask you to correct the erroneous impression given by that letter.

While I am not directly connected with the educational field here, I chance to know that in our County the schools provided for the colored race are just as adequate in construction, equipment, teaching staff, etc., as those for the whites. I also know from personal contact that the A. & M. College for Negroes at Tallahassee, maintained by our State, is one of the most complete and finest of its kind in the country. Its campus and buildings are equal in every way to those provided at other State institutions and superior to many colleges which enjoy wide, if not national reputations.

If the Southern Negro was as anxious to take full advantage of our educational facilities as we are to provide them, the race might, in time, become as erudite as the whites in Minneapolis. Miami, Fla. L. W. FAHNESTOCK.

Is the Blue Eagle Red?

To the Editor of *The Literary Digest*—Sir:—I would very much like to know why the Soviet eagle is selected, that bears electricity in its talons, and is placed here and there and everywhere, instead of our American eagle, carrying an olive branch, and which is shown on the obverse side of the great seal of the United States.

Queen City Park, Vt.

P. H. HATCH.

Pulaski's Name in America

To the Editor of *The Literary Digest*—Sir:—Tucked away in the corners of newspapers recently have appeared short paragraphs about Casimir Pulaski, the Polish patriot who spent his last two years fighting as a brigadier-general in the American Revolutionary Army, and was mortally wounded at the battle of Brandywine.

Is it generally known that Americans have honored him by giving his name to seven counties, fifteen towns, twenty-three streets, four avenues, one place, one pike, and two alleys? These statistics were given in a speech by Alexander J. Wall, historian, New York Historical Society, at a gathering of the Pulaski Military Club.

ARTHUR G. DRAPER.
New York City.

It Was an Imaginary Crime

To the Editor of *The Literary Digest*—Sir:—In my letter of recent date outlining a condition of helpless misery on the part of the unemployed in this country I gave the details of an imaginary crime, which would not have been confessed if it had been done. What I wished to call attention to was the fact that the entirely inadequate help given to the victims of the depression is creating criminals who are driven to crime in order to survive.

The crime described was, however, one about which I read in the daily press, and I put myself in the position of the man who committed it. If the conditions are not remedied very soon there will be an outburst of violence that will stagger the nation, and most of those who are thus driven by their condition will consider it a private war against a society malignant in its treatment of the helpless.

C. E. SHOLES.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Should Married Women Give Up Jobs?

To the Editor of *The Literary Digest*—Sir:—Married women workers with other means of support can render a patriotic service to our President and the NRA during this economic crisis by withdrawing from the field of gainful employment.

This would result in several millions of people being self-sustaining, who are now dependent upon charity, and those giving up the jobs would not be deprived of any of the necessities of life.

RUSSELL L. TURNER.
Houston, Texas.

The Tax Burden on Trucking

To the Editor of *The Literary Digest*—Sir:—In your issue of *THE LITERARY DIGEST* for October 14 we note an article "Speeding Up the Railroads," by Lawrence Sullivan of the *Washington Post*. We are fully aware that Mr. Joseph B. Eastman is working very hard to solve the transportation problems of the United States. We feel, however, that Mr. Sullivan has not been altogether fair to the trucking interest, and that his article tends to unduly influence the general public, and neglects to present the side of motor transportation.

Kindly compare the following figures with those of rail operation as quoted in Mr. Sullivan's article:

First, personnel per truck unit, one driver and one helper.

Second, initial cost for Chevrolet truck, van-body, \$1,320.

Third, gross revenue for one year's operation, \$6,746.88.

Fourth, repairs and maintenance for one year, \$445.16.

County tax	\$9.20
City tax	4.02
State franchise (based on per ton mile)	435.06
State highway license	91.90
Gas tax for the year	373.80
Oil tax for the year	3.12

Total tax for the year 917.10

The total taxes for the year equaling approxi-



WHICH FACE?

—Pease in the Newark Evening News

mately 13.6 per cent. of the gross revenue against 9 per cent. paid by the rail lines as quoted in Mr. Sullivan's article.

Consider that we employ two persons per truck in addition to extra labor to handle freight at terminals, also with rare exceptions the truck lines do not benefit by Section 1 of Rule 27 of Consolidated Classification, specifying owners to load and unload carload shipments. Consider that the highways are used by private motor vehicles which are paying for the use of the said highways in the form of a six-cent State tax and one-cent Federal tax per gallon on gasoline and four cents per gallon on lubricating oils. Also consider the various industries benefited by the construction and maintenance of motor trucks as compared with that of railroad rolling stock and trackage, and we are sure that you will find them more than matched in proportion.

C. P. JAMESON, President,
Inland Waterways Transportation Company.
Georgetown, S. C.

Perils in Stock-Market Legislation

To the Editor of *The Literary Digest*—Sir:—"Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf?"

The happy ending of Walt Disney's comedy is no doubt partly responsible for its popularity. Another big, bad wolf, man created, but not so popular, is also attracting nation-wide attention. And instead of enjoying the success of Mr. Disney's creation, it may prove to be the worst tragedy in history.

This other "wolf" is the country's economic system and its leaders, whose past offenses are being "shown" in the theater of public opinion as a stimulant to recovery. Unfortunately, its producers have neglected to include a happy ending, altho they promise to provide one in the near future. That is the chief reason it may become a real tragedy, because the audience is very sick and scared, and the theme of first exposing this "wolf" to the public's gaze without its evil fangs removed, may scare the audience to death. Better not tell a patient, whose life is in danger, what made him sick, before you can assure him he is out of danger and getting well.

That confidence, based on assurance of future security, is the most vital ingredient to real recovery, most everyone will agree. But, on the question of how to restore such confidence, many disagree. The Senate's investigation of Wall Street offers a striking example of what many regard as a major effort by our national leaders to restore confidence. But throwing the searchlight on Wall Street may lead us from the frying-pan into the fire.

Its exposures may result in Federal legislation to regulate the stock market, which many believe encouraged the reckless speculation that led to our present economic ills. But, legislation against gambling will be as futile as legislation against drinking was. You can not legislate against human nature—and it is human nature to gamble. Life itself is a gamble.

If enacted, such legislation would not only be as difficult to repeal as the Eighteenth Amendment, but the methods and institutions created as a result might cause a greater national calamity than either Prohibition or Wall Street ever produced. It would be the height of stupidity to make the same blunder trying to curb gambling that was made trying to curb drinking. So beware the searchlight's glare does not blind us from a bigger and worse tragedy than the one it seeks to throw the spotlight upon.

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