How to play Bridge AUCTION and CONTRACT

by Wynne Ferguson

Author of "PRACTICAL AUCTION BRIDGE"

ARTICLE No. 32

One important point about Auction and Contract that most players overlook is that when you bid, you are trying to buy something. It is really an auction and the privilege of playing the hand is what you are bidding for. Once that point is firmly fixed in your mind, let your bidding mean something, let it be backed by common sense and good judgment. If you attend an auction sale, you go with the idea of getting something for your money and with that end in view you exercise good judgment.

The same business judgment should be applied to the games of Auction and Contract, and you will soon get the good results. Don't make wild bids or take chances unless the angle warrants it. To illustrate: at a void score, don't overbid your hand if game is in no danger; on the other hand, if game is in danger, then it is advisable to overbid. Take no chances of being doubled unless the penalty that you may incur is more than offset by the game saved.

The odds are always against the rash bidder unless he follows the rule just given. On the other hand, don't allow the risk of losing a trick or so to keep you from bidding, when game is in danger. Then you have the proper angle and with any proper justification, "Let there be bidding."

The following hand illustrates the value of the shut-out bid either at Auction or at Contract when properly used:

Hearts—Q, J, 10, 8, 6, 5, 2
Clubs—K, 10, 8, 4, 2
Diamonds—7
Spades—none

Hearts—A, K, 7, 4, 3	Y	Hearts—none
Clubs—3	A / B	Clubs—6, 5
Diamonds—Q, 2	Z	Diamonds—K, J, 10, 8, 4, 3
Spades—A, Q, J, 7, 4		Spades—K, 10, 9, 8, 2

Hearts—9
Clubs—A, Q, J, 9, 7
Diamonds—A, 9, 6, 5
Spades—6, 5, 3

No score, first game. Y dealt and bid four hearts. B had a freak hand, but hardly felt justified in bidding either four spades or five diamonds, so passed. Z passed and A had no choice except to double, setting Y's contract by two tricks. If either A or B had bid spades, they could have made five odd against any defense and a little slam if hearts were opened. The value of bidding four rather than three hearts with a freak hand of this type is well exemplified. A three-heart bid would have been overbid by B, either with diamonds or spades and thus have given A B a chance for game. In case of any overbid, Y would certainly bid four hearts, so why not bid it at once and have a better chance to shut out the spade bid?

In case of a three-spade bid by B at Auction, A would be in a ticklish position if Y should bid four hearts. His hand is so strong in hearts that it would be a great temptation to double, but a four-spade bid would be preferable. The bidding should indicate a freak hand and that he cannot hope to set the contract more than two tricks. On the other hand, he has a sure game in spades. Under such conditions, he should bid four spades, rather than double.

At Contract, Y should either bid four hearts or pass. A three-heart bid would be very unsound.

The following hand is a good example of what happens to players who are too much influenced by four aces:

Hearts—A, 8
Clubs—A, 5, 4, 2
Diamonds—A, 9, 8, 7, 5
Spades—A, 6

Hearts—K, Q, 10, 6, 5	Y	Hearts—9, 4, 3
Clubs—K, 8	A / B	Clubs—Q, J, 10, 3
Diamonds—Q, J, 10, 4	Z	Diamonds—3
Spades—Q, J		Spades—10, 7, 5, 4, 3

Dealer
Hearts—J, 7, 2
Clubs—9, 7, 6
Diamonds—K, 6, 2
Spades—K, 9, 8, 2

Z dealt and passed, A bid one heart and Y correctly bid one no trump. One hundred aces are nearly always worth a bid of one no trump unless the hand is so badly distributed that a suit bid is preferable. B and Z passed and A bid two hearts. At this point, Y should pass and let A play the hand, either at Auction or at Contract. There is no chance for A to make game and therefore no reason for Y to risk a big loss by bidding two no trump or three diamonds. Under such conditions, the angle is against an over-bid. With careful play, A can make two hearts. If Y bids two no trump and is doubled, he will lose his contract by two tricks. If he bids three diamonds, he will also lose his contract by two or possibly three tricks.

This hand is a fine example of two good points: first, don't overbid unless the angle is in your favor; second, don't overbid merely because you hold four aces.

Author of "Golden Age" Passes at Seventy-two

The death of the British author, Kenneth Grahame, at the age of seventy-two, at Pangbourne-on-the-Thames, recalls the appearance thirty-seven years ago of "The Golden Age," a delightful little book which then obtained and still retains a wide vogue among people of taste. In it the author wrote with sympathetic understanding and unexcelled charm regarding children and their attitude towards their elders. "These elders, our betters by a trick of chance, commanded no respect, but only a certain blend of envy — of their good luck—and pity—for their inability to make use of it. Indeed, it was one of the most hopeless features in their character that, having absolute license to indulge in the pleasures of life, they could get no good of it. They might dabble in the pond all day, hunt the chickens, climb trees in the most uncompromising Sunday clothes; they were free to issue forth and buy gunpowder in the full eye of the sun—free to fire cannons and explode mines of the lawn; yet they never did any one of these things. No irresistible energy hailed them to church o' Sundays; yet they went there regularly of their own accord, though they betrayed no greater delight in the experience than ourselves. . . . For them the orchard (a place elf-hunted, wonderful!) simply produced so many apples and cherries. They never set foot within fir-wood of hazel copse, nor dreamt of the marvels hid therein. The mysterious sources—sources as of old Nile—that fed the duck-pond had no magic for them. They were unaware of Indians, nor recked they anything of bisons or of pirates (with pistols), though the whole place swarmed with such portents. They cared not about exploring for robbers' caves, nor digging for hidden treasure. Perhaps, indeed it was one of their best qualities that they spent the greater part of their time stuffily indoors."

When these grown-ups met in the presence of their children they always talked over the children's heads. There was, however, an uncle called the White-Washed Uncle, who was persona grata to this particular family of youngsters, because he treated them seriously as equals and bashfully gave them money to spend as they liked. They were so pleased that they hoped he would die that very night so that he would go straight to heaven, and, finally, they christened the piebald pig after him.

Perhaps the best chapter in the book is that entitled "The Roman Road," in which one of the youngsters comes upon an artist at an easel who also treats him as an equal, and talks with him of the celestial city. In the long run, the artist promises to come and visit him, when they both get to Rome. "Upon this contract we parted and I went downheartedly from the man who understood me to the house where I never could do anything right."

Curiously enough, Mr. Grahame was a brilliant mathematician, and for a long time secretary to the Bank of England. He is said to have turned to writing as a change from his official duties, and to satisfy his love of children and sense of humor. He was one of those numerous Old Countrymen who have more than compartment to their minds, and who excel in diverse departments of life. We recall the author of the life of the great American Alexander Hamilton, whose business in London was that of dry goods merchant, and many public men who, besides being men of practical affairs, were or are men of letters in a creative sense.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Summer Complaint

"I have found Baby's Own Tablets the best of all children's remedies for *Summer Complaint*, Colic, Teething and Constipation," writes Mrs. George Walker, Thomasburg, Ont. Certificate of SAFETY in each 25c package. More than 1,250,000 packages sold in 1931. 242

Dr. Williams'
BABY'S OWN TABLETS

INDIAN MAIDEN GREAT ATHLETE

Liza Commander, pretty Indian maiden and outstanding athlete of the French River country, plans to be right up in the front at the finish of the Marathon Swim at the Toronto Exhibition this year. She is a daughter of Peter Commander, famous Ojibway Guide at the Canadian Pacific Railway's French River Bungalow Camp. Liza is training for the contest by packing heavy bags of golf clubs around the French River course, and by spending long hours swimming. She is seen above with Mrs. Jack G. Strathdee, wife of the manager of the Bungalow Camp.

Gold Boom

Leads to Prosperity

Canada is in the throes of a mining boom and one of the factors in this boom is the rather remarkable record which the producing gold mines of Northern Ontario have created during the past three years. In that period, when the bottom was falling out of security markets, company earnings were falling to nothing and dividends were slashed right and left, the gold securities stood firm, the earnings of these companies yearly set up new records, while in the past year every one of the large operations either increased its dividend or paid a bonus, and in addition, several new dividend payers were added to the list.

To-day the public is becoming gold minded. No wonder. It is the one product that has a fixed ready market with no selling cost or marketing worries. Many new mining camps are coming rapidly to the front to take their place with Porcupine, Kirkland Lake, the Rouyn. The next rich produring area will be Matachewan. This camp fortunately fell into the hands of some of the country's finest pioneer exploration and development operators with the result that it has come to the front rapidly, and this fall Mining Corporation of Canada, one of the last Cobalt companies to survive, will bring its very rich property, the Ashley, into production. The construction of the mill is now being rushed.

Headed by leading mining men who brought along the initial producers in Kirkland Lake, an influential group has Matachewan's outstanding gold showings and attention is focused on the Tyrrell McNeely find, which is coming to the front as an outstanding syndicate because of the rather remarkable consistency of its ore body, which is so shot with free gold, that some samples assayed by the Ontario Government laboratories, ran as high as $2774. Tyrrell Township McNeely syndicate is the name of this venture, and the backers of it say that the property is the best they have seen since they pioneered the Kirkland Lake camp, the home to-day of Lake Shore, Teck Hughes and others, noted as outstanding in the world for the richness of the ore and the great profits per ton of ore treated which accrues to the operators. It is being freely predicted that the Ashley in Matachewan, when it comes into production, will set the pace for the others by rivalling Kirkland Lake in high values.

She—"The chicken at our church suppers is usually tough."
He—"You mean unusually tough."

Fiction lags after truth, invention is unfruitful, and imagination cold and barren.—Edmund Burke.

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Here's a darling frock with loads of youthful charm.

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The collar is deightful, too. Easy to make and yet so fascinating when finished.

A printed crepe silk with plain crepe is exceedingly wearable.

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Style No. 2666 is designed for sizes 14, 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust. Size 16 requires 3½ yards of 35-inch material with ⅝ yard of 35-inch contrasting for dress with 2¼ yards of 39-inch material for separate jacket.

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Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

The use of extracts from seaweed as a substitute for gelatin in jelly, for desserts, for textile paste, agar-paper, cleansing material; in the manufacture of gelatine for duplicating machines, as a substitute for gum arabic, and as a covering for airplane wings, may yet promote that plant out of the weed class.

The Golden Province of Canada

In the midst of a world of depression, the Gold Mining industry of Ontario has risen to a new record production. The Gold Mines of the Province in 1931 produced precious metal to the value of 43 Million Dollars, which is 20 per cent. in advance of the output for 1930, and four-fifths of the total gold production by the Dominion of Canada.

For Geological maps and exploration reports of specific areas, and for general information, apply to T. F. SUTHERLAND, Acting Deputy Minister of Mines, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Canada.

HON. CHARLES McCREA, Minister of Mines. THOS. W. GIBSON, Deputy Minister.

Owl Laffs

Fulfilment

Man wants but little here below,
The poets still profess,
And, taking things as they are now,
He's getting less and less.

The dashing young daughter of a well-known woman appeared at her home recently wearing an outlandish hat.

Practical-Minded Mother — "Where did you get that hat?"

Daughter—"I bought it."

Mother (sneering)—No, you didn't. They sold it to you."

Do you remember 'way back when mother put a chair alongside the bed to keep you from falling out?

Mrs. Mack—"I'm bothered with a little wart I'd like to have removed."

Dr. Williams—"The divorce lawyer is at the second door to your left."

Our idea of a disappointed wife is one who took her man for better or for worse and found that he wasn't even good.

Friend—"Where are you going?"

Mr. F.—To Dabney with my wife—we are going by air."

Friend—"But there is no air line to Dabney."

Mr. F.—"There will be by the time my wife is ready."

Mountain Guide—"Be careful not to fall here. It is dangerous. But if you do fall, remember to look to the left, as you get a most wonderful view."

Little Theodore was always an inquisitive child. One day Theodore and his mother went to a wedding. As the bride and groom walked stately down the aisle, little Theodore chirped:

Theodore—"Oh, Mamma, why does the bride wear a white gown at weddings?"

His Mother—"Because white stands for purity, darling."

Theodore (after being silent for a moment)—"Ooh, Mamma, then why must the groom always wear black?"

No matter how many clothes your wife has she always buys a lot more the minute you offer to take her on a trip.

Dumb Dora—"Isn't Bill just wonderful? He's already been promoted to field marshal."

Horsefeathers—"What! From private to field marshal in two months?"

Dumb Dora—"Did I say field marshal? Well, perhaps it's court marshal—I know it's one or the other."

Here lies the body of William Brace,
He sure was one fine fella,
He said in his sleep: "I love you, Grace,"
But his wife's name was Stella.

An important position is the result of starting in a small way, doing the little details carefully and well, and then being prepared to accept the greater responsibilities.

Doctor—"Ever have any trouble with dyspepsia?"

Patient—"Only when I try to spell it."

She—"I heard you had some trouble with lumbago."

He—"No, that wasn't her name."

An absent-minded man was unloading his brief case after dinner, preparatory to an evening's work.

His Wife (interrupting)—"Have you seen this? There's a report in the paper of your death."

Absent-Minded Man—"Is that so? We must remember to send a wreath."

There is endless merit in a man's knowing when to have done.—Thomas Carlyle.

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"Treasure Fund" Passes Million

Prague. — Czechoslovakia's "treasure fund" had increased to $1,083,000 at the end of 1931. The fund was created by voluntary gifts of gold, coins and other valuables and is held as a national reserve. It was begun immediately after the establishment of the republic.

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and all the little flies

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