

2) which he knows—from memory—is just shy of being enough to jump a one-bid to three. So South sighs dutifully and bids two hearts.

West does not consider a shift, but he counts his hand and finds it totals thirteen, just enough for a one-trick raise. West therefore bids two spades.

NORTH maintains a solemn mien as he considers the situation. He realizes, so well did he learn his lesson, that a suit-bidder who has been jumped by his partner should pass when his original bid was a minimum. But North knows that he has better than the minimum requirements for an original bid of one trick. He has "other elements of strength": a singleton, a four-card suit headed by the queen, and another topped by the king, jack. Feeling solid ground under his feet, North bids three hearts. East also finds "other elements of strength," and he bids three spades.

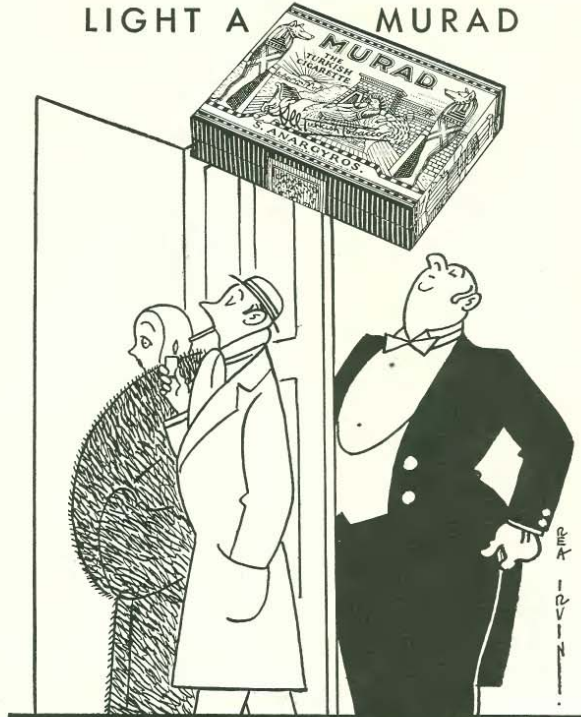
It is up to South, but South, never a brilliant scholar, is at last at a loss. He wishes now that he had stayed away from that movie and spent more time on the last pages dealing with card valuation and suit-jump assets. Shamed, he raises pleading eyes to his partner, only to find that North, too, is perspiring from his futile gropings for a further rule to go by. East and West, South sees, are no better off. There is a pregnant pause as the players look at each other.

"Oh hell," remarks South at length, and by unanimous consent they all go back to first principles. South figures he has a lot of help for North if North has enough sense to use it properly, so South bids four hearts. West, who was doubtful of his strength at the time

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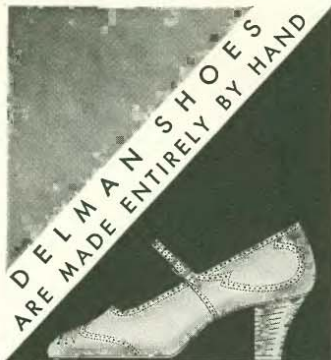
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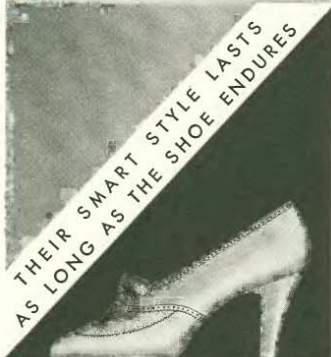
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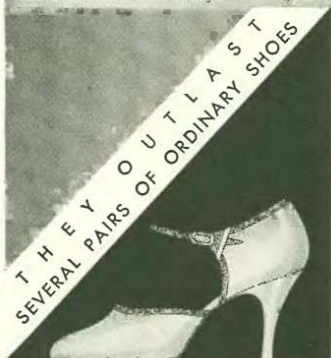
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he made his raise of East's first bid, in spite of what the book said, is glad to pass. North also passes, but East is stubborn and bids four spades. South takes the bit in his teeth and bids five hearts—after an exchange of looks with North—and the others pass, North being timid about going to a little-slam bid.

EAST leads off with his king of spades, but North brutally trumps with the trey of hearts from dummy and takes the trick. The ace of clubs from dummy takes the next trick, whereupon North leads the four of the same suit from the board. West knows that either North or East is short so he plays his seven, and North takes the trick in his own hand with the eight of trumps. North leads his seven of spades, hoping to dislodge the ace, but East holds it back and dummy trumps to take the trick. Leading the five of clubs from dummy, North pulls the king from West, but his jack of trumps is topped by East's queen. East regrets the playing of his queen of hearts as soon as it is on the board, but not sooner. However, it all works out about the same, for East leads the deuce of trumps and forces out North's ace, and puts it up to North to lead. North leads his eight of spades but East again holds back his ace, dummy taking the trick with its last trump.

The queen of diamonds, led from dummy, is taken by East's ace. East kindly leads back his eight of diamonds and North takes the trick with his king. He also takes the next one with his jack of diamonds, but his following lead, the six of diamonds, is trumped by East. East now leads his four of hearts and North takes it with his king of hearts, but this leaves North with a spade lead, the queen, and East's ace takes the trick. North is set two tricks.

"I don't think much of those bidding rules," remarks North, more in sorrow than in anger. "According to the book we had at least a four-trick bid, and we only made three-odd."

"But you bid five," reminds East. "Yes, and I'll bet I could find a rule to justify it, too," snaps North. "Those rules don't work except in a book."

—JOHN C. EMERY

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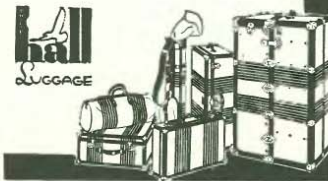
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