

by Dave Whitworth
PRE-EMPTIVE BIDS

In order to play winning bridge it is necessary to make the most of every hand or to put it differently to minimize your losses. The pre-emptive bid is a specialized bid usable only with freak hands designed to do exactly that. It's success is due to the relatively high level which it forces the bidding too early in the auction cutting down the opponents bidding room so that they may bid too high or get into the wrong contract. The other possibility is that they may stay out of the bidding entirely and miss a game or slam.

As a general rule a seven card suit and an outside Ace is requisite for a pre-emptive bid. Also the hand should contain less than ten high card points or not more than two defensive tricks. When sitting first or second hand it is generally better to open light than to pre-empt if there is any doubt. The hands given below illustrate the above.

S—K J 10 9 5 3 2; H—10 8; D—A 3 2; C—5

S—Q J; H—A 3; D—Q J 10 8 7 5 2; C—8.

S—8; H—J; D—K Q 8 7 6 4 3 2; C—5 3 2.

S—7; H—K Q 10 9 8 5 3; D—; C—Q J 10 9 5.

Hands one and two are perfect non-vulnerable pre-empts. They contain a seven card suit and an outside Ace, also they are not worth more than two defensive tricks. Hand three, although lacking the outside Ace has an extra diamond; defensively it is doubtful if it is worth a trick. With an outside Ace or an extra diamond a four bid could be justified. Hand four may be opened one heart if non-vulnerable as thirteen points can be squeezed from it. Vulnerable either a one heart bid or a three heart bid is acceptable depending on your partner and opponents.

In responding to (raising) your partner's pre-emptive bids three quick tricks are required unless you have made some previous arrangement with your partner. Unless your own suit is self supporting don't mention it, your partner is not looking for a fit.

There can be no exact rules telling when to pre-empt or no exact requirements for a pre-empt in terms of cards. Such factors as your position at the table, previous bidding if any, your partner and your opponents. The best bet is to try to determine how much you stand to lose if your opponents double and what they're likely to gain by playing the contract in their suit. If the former is greater than the latter, stay out of the bidding as you may give them the best place to play the hand or you may give them the information required to make a shakey contract.

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COSMOPOLITAN

by STEVAN D. KARON

ON SEPARATISM:

Many people dismiss this subject before they really look at it. I mean that many fail to realize that separatism is Quebec nationalism.

Canada's largest province does have its own nationalism due to its early settlement. That is the vast majority in that province are French speaking Roman Catholics, who possess their own history and even a kind of culture. What makes their brand of nationalism complete is that they live in one area. Not forgetting of course the other French-Canadians living outside Quebec, but they have been under English pressure for so long now that in a way they are different. Besides these Quebecers are the ancestors of the mightiest French colony in North America—New France.

Now the conquering British did not completely subject them as it was customary and even dealt with them very "fairly", guaranteeing them their difference of customs, language and religion. In this way they did not really lose anything in their defeat of 1763. This British attitude is explained nowadays by that nation's need for friends rather than enemies in a time when the clouds of revolt were forming in the South. For this aim their policy worked and the newly acquired New France remained British.

And in the year of Confederation this Quebec Act of 1774 still remained, in that way helping these ancestors of New France to remain different from English Canadians. As long as they were a large minority and in Canadian affairs, things worked out by dualism. But as the English speaking majority grew especially as the English were

born capitalists as to the French agrarian heritage things came to a head. Especially so in Quebec where most of the business and therefore the money was in the hands of a small minority of English-Canadians living in Montreal. By controlling business the province's natural resources fell into their hands. This was the kernel of the trouble as Quebec was traditionally French. And now to get ahead especially in Montreal, the centre of Quebec's industry and money English was needed rather than the traditional French.

The French Canadians wanted to be left alone and go on in their peaceful manner. They did not want to be bossed by the English-Canadians. They showed this in Papineau's uprising which was much more successful than the Mackenzie's. But once more they were subdued by British power.

Again nowadays they are second class citizens because they speak French and hold to different customs than their English counterparts. This becomes very humiliating for them as Canada is supposedly bilingual and as such a Canadian speaking French should be able to achieve the heights an English one can gain. But in fact this is not so. In other words the guarantee of bilingualism in the B.N.A. is just meaningless. Many examples can be given in this respect. For one and a pressing one at that; are our ambassadors to foreign nations especially U.N. bilingual as representatives of a bilingual nation? Can a French-Canadian citizen travel across Canada speaking French?

This language barrier keeps them from being active Canadians or playing a role in Cana-

dian affairs. And yet in Quebec they can do this. In Quebec they are among their own kind. They might not be as wealthy as we are but they can proudly speak their language.

Quebec is a different community than the rest of Canada. And rather than remain second class citizens they would like to be first class ones or at least equals. They have a right to, they are human.

Fortunately for us English-Canadians and unfortunately for them, the Montreal French-Canadian intellectuals have become so accustomed to the English way of life by virtually living on English money, becoming dependent on it. In this way some of them have been Anglicanized (not religiously). To make their cause complete the support of this wealthy intellectuals is needed. And as long as this Montreal group stays neutral Separatism won't come about. And so I feel that this Separatism will die out. But we can not say that they don't have a rightful beef nor that they are the wrong ones. We are the ones. The paradox of this is that there is no solution to this problem. For how can we suddenly transform them from secondary citizens to our equals when they don't share our customs, religion and language.

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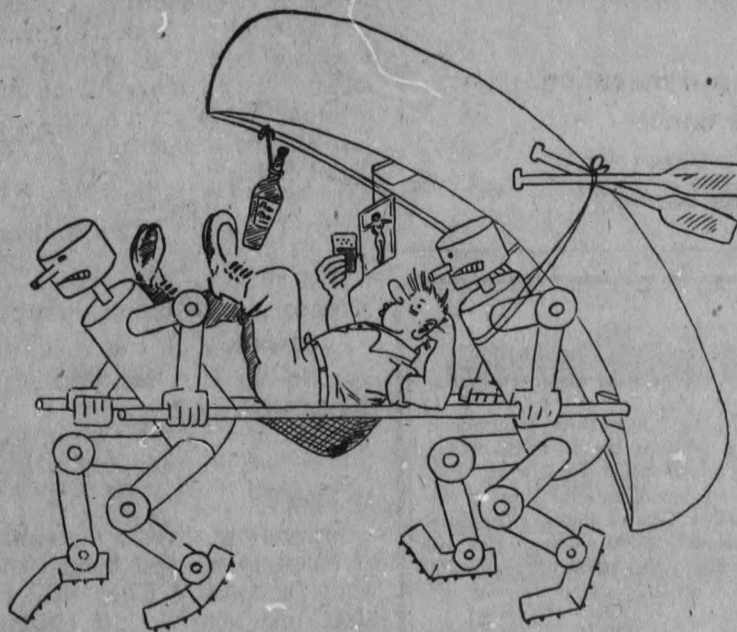
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