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OLD BACKGAMMON STAGES A COMEBACK; REVIVAL OF THE GAME SPREADS TO HOMES

Croquet was one of the genteel diversion of young ladies who wore trains out of Godey's Lady's Book. An then a rowdier generation seized upon the game and made it into the cross between golf and personal assault that is played on Long Island lawns today. Now backgammon which most of us consider as exciting a tiddle-de-winks seems threatened at the hands of a reckless generation to whose love of gambling nothing it seems is sacred, says the New York World.

Backgammon boards have always been provided in the men's clubs and at this season it is quite usual for two of the older men to play a few fireside games before wrapping up in their mufflers and going home. It is a game of great skill, played with long pauses and knitted brows but it has never been considered the sort of game that broke up friendships. This fall however two young men returned from a quiet summer vacation filled with enthusiasm for the game which they had learned in some sleepy little town in the South. It was far more exacting than horses or minaroot or parchesi they declared with the backgammon player's contempt for these flimsy imitations. It was all science and skill but provided plenty of thrills and it was one of the very few

games meant for two players.
Craze Spreads.

The craze began to spread. The clubs which had gone along peaceably for years without adding to their backgammon equipment found the card room surging with impatient men who had been waiting two hours for a chance at the tables. An they were young men! At the Racquet Club the play is said to run into large money—sometimes \$50 or more a game is the stake and a game is usually shorter than the average bridge rubber. At the Knickerbocker and University Clubs an eager gallery may be found about the tables and from four in the afternoon until late at night. Backgammon it appears is a fine game for the kibitzers.

But it is in the private homes at week end parties and after the theatre that the craze is most evident. It is just as hard work as the old word and question games and more expensive. The sporting shops alarmed at the sudden increase of orders have been making up boards at a great rate and besides the common \$7 type there are now elaborate affairs of inlaid wood and ivory.

How Game Is Played.
The game is played on a board with triangles known as points, along both sides. The fold down the

middle divides the board into two tables, the inner and outer. On one table each player sets up eight men on the other seven, and three along the proper points. One player moves all his men to the right according to the throws of the dice, the other player to the left, so that the men of the opponents are constantly passing each other. As in checkers a man overtaken by an opponent's man may be sent to the bar (corresponding to home) but if there are two or more men on any point the points is covered and must be jumped by the opponent's men.

It is the object of the player to move his men from point to point in order to get them all into his home table the side of the inner table nearer him. Once there they are taken off table according to throws of the dice and the player who gets all of his men off the table first, scores a hit, or game.

Two ordinary dice are used for the throws and the numbers that show may be applied separately one to each of two men or both to moving the same man the combined number of spaces. If a player throws doubles he has twice as many moves as the numbers on the dice indicate. If a player gets all of his men off the board before the opponent has any men off the game counts as a gammon or twice a hit. If none of the opponent's men has reached his side of the table by the time the winner's men are all off it is a backgammon or triple game.

It is after the host has scored a backgammon that the old cry of "James my hat and stick" will be

14,500 DEER AND 67 HUNTERS KILLED IN THE PENNSYLVANIA WOODS DURING PAST SEASON

(Harrisburg Patriot.)
Pennsylvania hunters during the past season bagged more deer than in any other year, according to preliminary reports received by the State Game Commission. There were about 14,500 deer killed or approximately 3000 more than in 1926.

Twenty-five elk were killed, the greatest number since an open season was declared on these animals several years ago. There were 319 bear shot, compared with 660 in 1926, the decrease being assigned to early hibernation of the animals.

Combined with other figures on game killed, it was announced that the past season has been one of the best on record.

Estimates on the kill of other animals and birds were: Rabbits, 3,300,000, compared with 2,700,000 in 1926; squirrel, 1,200,000, about the same as in the 1926 season; raccoon, 20,000, a decrease of about 50 per cent, the falling off being ascribed to an increasing scarcity of the animals; wild turkey, 9500, on which there was a closed season in 1926; ruffed grouse, 300,000, about the same as in 1926; ring-neck pheasant, 180,000, an increase of approximately 100 per cent.; bobwhite quail, 200,000, an increase of more than 40,000, and woodcock, 40,000, a

most often heard in Park avenue apartments during the coming year.

decrease of about 20,000, due to the season which was shortened in 1927 by one month.

Sixty-Seven Fatalities.
There were sixty-seven fatal accidents among hunters, compared with forty-seven in 1926, reports to the Commission disclosed. Non-fatal accidents totaling 317, compared with 244 last year. The majority of the accidents occurred during the small game season, John B. Truman, executive secretary, said. He declared that he was unable to explain this condition unless it was due to a concentration of hunters, on account of the short season on some game and increasing carelessness in the handling of firearms.

The Commission visited Governor Fishel and informed him that it would have approximately \$200,000 to spend during the year, ending May 31, next, for the purchase of game refuges and public hunting grounds. The Commission has now about 61,000 acres of land under contract and estimates that the money which would be available for this purchase during the present biennium would approximate \$400,000, permitting the purchase of more than 100,000 acres during the two-year period.

Ross L. Leffler, of McKeesport, was elected president of the Commission, and Jared M. B. Reis, New Castle, vice-president. John B. Truman, was re-elected executive secretary.

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