

# "Dealing Out" Some American History



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

WAY back in the Seventeenth century to the Cardinal Mazarin was entrusted the task of preparing a young prince for his future career as king of France, that career which was to make Louis Quatorze (Louis XIV) forever famous as the "Sun King" and "Le Grand Monarque." Mazarin found that his royal pupil was not nearly so much interested in the studies which should fit him for his high position as he was in other activities, which later were to make the French court notorious and which were to lead eventually to the downfall of the House of Bourbon.

One of the young prince's favorite diversions was to "play at cards" and the cardinal decided that he might as well take advantage of that interest by introducing an educational element into the pastime. So he ordered a maker of playing cards to devise some cards from which the prince could learn such things as geography and history while he was playing the game. Soon there was delivered to the cardinal two sets of cards, one was a historical set and bore the pictures of famous queens and the stories of their careers. The other was a geographical game, each card representing some country with a short description of that land and illustrated with a symbolic figure, dressed in the native costume.

Among the countries depicted there were certain parts of North America, two of which, Virginia and Florida, are shown in the illustrations (No. 7 and 8) accompanying this article. Naturally, the symbolic figures of these two are Indian maidens, but it is interesting to note that the "native costume," as shown on these cards printed back in 1664, is not so different perhaps—at least, in one case—from those of today. Take a look at "Florida" above and, except for the bow and arrow, you might almost think that you were looking at the picture of a bathing beauty at Palm Beach, Miami or some other seaside resort!

It is perhaps futile to speculate upon how much the young prince learned from these educational cards and it might be jumping at conclusions too hastily to ascribe to them the awakening of his interest in foreign countries which made him an imperialist and led to France's colonizing experiments in the New world. But the fact remains that "of all the French monarchs of the Seventeenth century Louis XIV was the first and only one to take an active and enduring interest in the great crusade to the northern wilderness. He began his personal reign about 1660 with a genuine display of zeal for the establishment of a colony which would by its rapid growth and prosperity soon crowd the English off the new continent . . .

and this zeal kept on to the end of his reign."

Although these cards of the French king, which are preserved in the museum of the United States Playing Card company in Cincinnati, Ohio, were perhaps the first thus used to inform Europeans about the New world, they were not the only ones. In the same museum is another set which "deals out" some American history to the visitor. It is a geographical card game made in England in 1675. (No. 1 and No. 3 in the illustrations above.) On one of them (No. 1) is given the following quaint description of New England:

New-England by some is Counted a Part of the Great Region Canada. It is bounded with Virginia on the South, where is the Late Conquests of the New-Netherlands, at present Called New-York, with a good City of that Name here is Maryland where is the town of Baltimore and Carolina where is Charles-Town Vc but the Capital of this government is Boston and other Considerable Towns are New-Plymouth, Bristown, Barnstable Vc the Church government is Presbytery Vc this Country abounds with all sort of Fanatickes where they may find Room to Plant in. Especially towards the West it being a Country not well discovered full of Woods Vc Savage Inhabitants therefore not bounded when their Forces have strength to advance. Other Plantations belonging to the English toward the North are New-Foundland Whose Chief Town is Torbay most Considerable for the Fishing Trade North Wallis South Wallis, the Isle of Cumberland Vc are great Regions Inhabited to the English but are little inhabited as yet.

In a country "abounding with all sorts of Fanatickes" one would naturally expect to find the "blue-noses" frowning upon such frivolous things as playing cards, but the fact is that they were manufactured in this country, even in Puritanical New England. Isaiah Thomas, in his "History of Printing in America," mentions James Franklin as a Boston printer and tells how he printed "upon cards" verses that the youthful Benjamin had writ-

ten about Black Beard, the pirate. Ben himself, afterward, refers to them as "miserable ditties" but at that time they had a large sale.

No less interesting than the historical material to be found on the faces of the playing cards is that found upon the backs of the cards. In the Colonial days it was the custom to use the plain backs of the cards for various things. In the Cincinnati museum are cards with the backs printed and used as cards of admission to entertainments, lectures and classes at the University of Pennsylvania, from 1765 to 1771, and as invitations to teas and assemblies and balls. Some also bear directions for figures of square dances and others various patriotic games. One of the most interesting is that shown in No. 2. It is a silhouette portrait of Joseph Hopkinson by the famous artist, Charles Wilson Peale.

In 1824, when Lafayette came back to visit the country whose independence he had helped to gain, a New England card maker, Jaz H. Ford, issued a set of playing cards in honor of the distinguished Frenchman whose portrait, surrounded by symbolic designs, was printed as the ace of spades, as shown in No. 4.

Among the interesting exhibits in the museum are the playing cards of the Civil war period in which the patriotic motif is strong. Instead of having the usual suit signs of spades, clubs, diamonds and hearts, flags, shields and other patriotic emblems were used. An example of this is No. 6 of the illustration above in which the bewiskered general is the "king" of whatever suit is designated by the flag up in the corner. The "queen" of the flag suit was the symbolic figure of Columbia. Another card of this same era is shown in No. 5, in which the figure of the Moai, famous for its victory over the Merrimac, was substituted for one of the conventional suit symbols.

## A Silly Handshake

When King Edward VII was prince of Wales and on a visit to Paris he suffered from a carbuncle which forced him to lift high his right elbow when shaking hands. All the courtiers and dandies of his day immediately copied this gesture and some people today still believe they are smart when they hold their arm high in that way.

One night while he was attending

a first night at the Comedie Francaise and was talking to a group of people a dandy asked him: "Prince, how did you like the play?"

The prince turned around a bit and dropped a chilly, "Sir, I did not think I had talked to you."—Detroit News.

## Monarch's Vanity

King Henry VIII, who was proud of his own broad shoulders, set the fashion in garments to accentuate this breadth. You will see this indicated in the many portraits of him by Holbein.

## You Know the Type

Not a bad sort of nifty comes from the London Humorist, which speaks of a certain blunt, outspoken man—in fact, one who as a bridge partner calls a spade three spades.—Kansas City Star.

## Takes Many to Handle Liner

The crew of a large Atlantic liner numbers about 880 members. Six hundred of this number are in the steward's department and in the strict sense of the term are not sailors.

# ATWATER KENT RADIO

## NEW BATTERY SET!

### Screen-Grid Electro-Dynamic

Greatest Improvement in Years!

HEAR IT—SEE IT—READY NOW!

## His Powers a Mystery

### to Master of Figures

William Strong, the man who could compute figures with the speed and accuracy of an adding machine—and never knew how he did it—is dead. He would stand beside a railroad track as a long freight rolled by, observing the car numbers, and when the caboose flashed past he would announce the total as correctly as the tabulator with paper and pad who stood beside him.

Merchants employed him at inventory time in place of using adding machines. He would tell engineers how many bricks would be needed for a wall, compute cube root; give exact ages the instant a birth date was given him. Always to the question, "How do you do it?" he would answer, "I do not know." Strong, who was fifty, died recently on a railroad viaduct in Bartonville, England, where he was in the habit of going daily to perform the feat of totaling box car numbers, "just to keep in practice," he said.

## You and Me

Little Charles was learning the alphabet. "Now, this is big U," said his mother, pointing to the capital letter, "and this one beside it is little u. Can you remember that?" "Oh, yes," the child replied confidently. The next day his mother pointed to the same letters again. "Can you tell me this morning what these letters are?" she asked him. Charles's face beamed with pride as his chubby little finger pointed to the bold letters in his book. "This," he said, "is big me and this is little me."

## A Crying Need

Oh, where is there a shady tree, a really shady tree, where I can hide from all this sun, the whole scorched length of me? Oh, where is there a sunless spot, a really sunless spot, where I shall not find everything uncomfortably hot? Oh, where is there a swimming hole, where one can swim and prance without the formal nuisance of a pair of swimming pants?—E. A. in Farm and Fireside.

## City Man's View

The Pullman car traveler watched a tractor turning over the soil in a field along the railroad track. "No wonder farmers nowadays are always growling," he groused. "They don't get enough exercise."—Farm and Fireside.

If men sewed on their own buttons the consumption of thread would be a double.

## Australia Pictured as

### "Land of Opportunity"

An American salesman, who has spent several years in Australia, says that it is no uncommon thing for a man by farming to accumulate sufficient money to warrant his retirement in that country in ten years. The land is the asset of Australia. Farmers can start with little or no capital and in ten years can amass sufficient competence to retire, he said. He can take up 2000 acres at 50 cents to 85 per acre, and can get advances from the National Agricultural bank with which to make the improvements.

The farmer has 30 years to pay off his farm, and the interest is only 5 per cent. The first five years he is not required to pay any interest at all. No man can take out more than 2,000 acres in his own name, but he is allowed to take out that much for each of his sons. The great problem of the country, however, is labor. The native labor is of a very indifferent character, but this is largely overcome by the use of agricultural machinery, and the machinery from the United States is the most favored by the farmers of Australia.

## Pa in 'Em

Lewis O. Chasey, secretary to Governor Leslie, tells this story: A visitor at a home heard an unusual commotion in an upstairs room. "Say, sonny," he said to the youth with him, "what is that terrible noise upstairs? It sounds like the house was falling down." "Oh, that is just ma dragging pa's pants around," replied the lad. "Why, dragging a pair of pants around wouldn't make that much noise would it?" "Yeah, 'cause pa's in 'em," the lad replied.

## Some Fine Forest Land

The outstanding forest in New England is the White Mountain National forest. During seventeen years, since 1911, the federal government has purchased forest land in the White mountains. It has acquired now 514,000 acres, or 803 square miles. Much of it is virgin forest, says Nature Magazine. There are 61,000 acres in which an axe was never used.

## Ideal Duet

"What did you think of the entertainers who did that duet?" "Ideal! He played the piano so loud in places you couldn't hear her sing; and she sang so loud at times you couldn't hear his playing."

From the darkest, dreariest, dirtiest, littiest depot you can start on a journey around the world.

## Civilization Hits Menagerie

In a few generations the elephant, the tiger, the lion and the rhinoceros will be extinct and found only in museum exhibits. Such is the prediction made by Alexander Barns, a British explorer, who recently visited America. Civilization will crowd these animals out of the jungles just as the bison was exterminated from the plains of the United States. "Science," says Barns, "is harnessing the world and controlled life is part of the process."—Pathfinder Magazine.

## The Answer

Candidate's Supporter (gradually winding up)—So, I ask you, how much longer are you going to put up with this bunkum?

Chairman (sotto voice)—You've got exactly another five minutes, Mr. Woolfe.—Passing Show.

# BISMET

## The Snow White Healing Antiseptic Compound

A valuable preparation in treatment of Infections, Eczema, Piles and Skin Eruptions. Large industrial plants, doctors and hospitals use BISMET also for scalds and burns, cuts, boils, felonis, etc. Apply it direct to affected parts and PEEL IT HEAL. Sold under a positive guarantee of satisfaction or money gladly refunded. READ CIRCULAR CAREFULLY FOR USES and simple directions. Price 75 cents. Will send C. O. D. if desired. Please send us name of your druggist.

ROBINSON SHIELDS CO., Inc.  
Dept. E - Schenectady, N. Y.

Worms cause much distress to children and anxiety to parents. Dr. Peery's "Dead Shot" Vermifuge removes the cause with a single dose. 50c. All Druggists.

**Dr. Peery's**  
Dead Shot for WORMS  
Vermifuge

At Druggists or 372 Pearl Street, New York City

**Kill All Flies!** THEY SPREAD DISEASE. Kill all flies, mosquitos, house flies, and all insects. Kills all flies, mosquitos, house flies, and all insects. Kills all flies, mosquitos, house flies, and all insects.

**Daisy Fly Killer**

HAROLD SOMERS, Brooklyn, N. Y.

**MEN \$10.00 to \$20.00 A DAY**

Do an authorized Watkins Distributor. Best business automatically brings added profits to you. Enjoy outdoor work, be your own boss. Our products have been internationally known, used and advertised for 40 years. This is your chance to join in as a representative for a Ten Million Dollar Corporation and handle Products of International award recognition. Good income for life assured. Write today.

District M. Manager  
**THE J. R. WATKINS COMPANY**  
225-230 Johnson Ave. - Newark, N. J.

**SPLENDID 300 ACRE FARM**

Loudoun County, Virginia, near Leesburg. Necessary outbuildings in good condition; desirable tenant houses. Lovely ten room residence of stone and frame construction, secluded from the cement highway by a small tract of magnificent trees, through which the road winds. Air and view unsurpassed.

**W. S. HOGE, JR., REALTOR**  
601 C Street S. W. - Washington, D. C.

Save This for Future Reference.  
**A GOOD PLACE TO STAY WHILE IN WASHINGTON, D. C.**

**SCOTT INN**  
(Mrs. Kate L. Scott)

DESIRABLE FURNISHED ROOMS by the Day, Week or Month. Within two blocks of downtown business district and places of interest. 2000.

40 ROOMS  
1221-K K Street N. W., Washington, D. C.  
PHONE METROPOLITAN 1515

PLAIN MACHINE SEWING, steady legitimate work, whole or part time; weekly pay. No selling. Write today. Enclose stamp. Tempo House Dress Corp., 152 W. 24th St., N. Y.

Health Giving  
**Sunshine**  
All Winter Long

Marvelous Climate - Good Hotels - Tourist Camps - Splendid Roads - Gorgeous Mountain Views. The wonderful winter resource of the East.

Write Croo & Chetty  
**Palm Springs**  
CALIFORNIA

W. N. U., BALTIMORE, NO. 20-1929.

# FREE FROM FLIES!

**2 EASIER WAYS TO KILL INSECTS!**

**KILLS—Flies—Mosquitoes—Bedbugs—Roaches—Moths—Ants—Fleas—Waterbugs—Crickets and many other insects**

Write for educational booklet, McCormick & Co., Baltimore, Md.

# Bee Brand INSECT POWDER or Liquid Spray

If your dealer cannot furnish, we will supply direct by Parcel Post at regular prices.

Liquid—50c, 75c and \$1.25. Gum—30c  
Powder—10c, 25c, 50c and \$1.00  
Gum—25c