

loud remarks about some of the actors and actresses were received with some degrees of coldness by the people around. It was a little unfortunate, too, that the main theme of the picture dealt with an American GI who spent most of his time on sanitary fatigues.

But all in all it hadn't been a bad day, Simkins reflected as he climbed

aboard the Limited, not bad, that is, for Wellington. And tomorrow he would be able to begin all over again. He did hope the people of his home town would be a little more cosmopolitan, and be able to understand a little more than basic English. He felt confident ——— would not let him down. But then Taranaki people were different in many ways.

## CONTRACT BRIDGE

### *Requirements for Penalty Doubles:*

Double a vulnerable overcall of 1 No Trump or two of a minor suit over a partner's opening one bid in a suit holding:—

- (1) About  $2\frac{1}{2}$  HT.
- (2) Preferably a doubleton or fewer in partner's suit. (Three is an absolute maximum.)
- (3) Qxx or better or 10xxx or better in opponent's suit.

This is a good policy even though you yourself hold a biddable suit. Supposing partner opens One Spade and it is overcalled with two diamonds, double holding S.xx H. AKxxx D. Qxx C. Q10x. But if opponents are not vulnerable bid the suit, or on a hand without a biddable suit, two No Trumps. It is clear from the bidding that your opponent's partner must have practically a blank hand. The double of two is still more devastating when the opponent overcalls your partner's opening One No Trump. And you hold about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  HT, no long suit, and three or four of the opponent's suit. As partner holds  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4 HT, and no long suit 3 No Trumps is unlikely, but with 5 HT and six or seven of the opponent's suit in the two hands he can hardly fail to come crashing down from a great height.

In valuing your hand for a penalty double count:—

- (a) Honour tricks outside the trump suit.
- (b) Guarded honours in the trump suit.
- (c) Certain ruffing tricks.
- (d) Minimum HT in partner's hand

as shown by the bidding.

But under certain circumstances this valuation may lead you astray. In doubling a No Trump bid it must be remembered that the bid may be based on one long suit and stoppers in all the others. To take an extreme case you might hold S. KQJ H. KQJ D.xxx C.KQJ10, but it would not stop a grand slam in No Trumps if your opponent had the other ten diamonds and the Aces of the other three suits. In other words if your opponent has time to make his contract before you get in, Honour Tricks will be a snare and a delusion. Again, against a suit bid Honour Tricks may prove useless owing to shortages and consequent ruffing. So be wary of putting much faith in HT's heading a very long suit.

A penalty double except at a very high contract should not be made merely on account of a good holding in the opponent's suit. It must be based on HT strength. It is a bid, and should give definite information to the partner. If it may indicate  $2\frac{1}{2}$  HT and on the other hand may merely mean five or six of opponent's suit to an honour your partner has no information on which to decide whether to take out or leave the double. Either way the result is apt to be disastrous.

*Redoubles*—the answer is usually *don't*. Redouble only on a cast-iron certainty where the opponents have no escape suit, unless your opponent is one of those unteachable idiots who double on principle.