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CUBAN READY FOR BATTLE.

(FROM THE GAME FOWL MONTHLY.)

While pure Trans-Atlantics are entirely too large for the Cuban method of cocking, you will find that the most successful strains on this island are those which contain Trans-Atlantic blood and plainly show these characteristics in their make-up.

RULES

OF THE

COCK PIT.

Compiled by
H. P. CLARKE, A. M., M. D.

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Gamecock Trans-Atlantic.
Four-time winner

H. B. Clarke,
Indianapolis.

Pit Rules of America.

In several of the old books on cock-fighting it was the custom to devote page after page to the different sets of pit rules. Many of the sets were very similar and some exactly identical, yet all were given in full. Sometimes the same set would be repeated under another name, and oftentimes the same thing would be told over and over again with very little variation. Now the compiler has here attempted to arrange and condense all the different rules into a small space, so that they

may be in a convenient, handy form, and still so thorough that a man may grasp the essential features of the whole outfit in a moment's time.

There are in the United States and Canada three distinct systems or plans of pit rules:

THE NEW YORK

set and its variations, used in New York, New Jersey and parts of the New England States.

THE SOUTHERN,

used in most of the Southern States east of the Mississippi.

THE WESTERN,

used in nearly all the balance of the states and also in Canada—by far the largest territory on the globe employing one system of pit rules. Within the past eight or ten years this latter set of rules has been largely supplanted by, or changed so as to conform to, the Indianapolis or "New Western." These are practically the same as the Old Western in general arrangement, but are more thorough and also provide that the referee shall act as director or dictator to tell the handlers exactly what to do and what they may not do. In many places, (Indianapolis as well as elsewhere) hack fighting is often carried on without any referee, or with one who does not direct the handlers, in which case the rules are identical with the "American Rules" used abroad. In some parts of the Western States they use the exact Indianapolis rules except that they count four tens and forty, instead of three tens and twenty. Some other places also have local changes of a minor nature.

There is one exception to Article Seven of the Indianapolis rules which should be noted here. In case a cock is hung in himself or in the pit, the handler is naturally expected to grab his bird at once without waiting to be told by the referee. But in any case, the birds must not be handled unless they are known to be hung.

Indianapolis Rules.

1 The two pitters shall choose a time-keeper and a referee. It shall be the duty of the former to keep time between rounds, and notify the handlers to "get ready" at twenty-five seconds, then call "time" at thirty seconds. The referee shall pay close attention to the handlers and birds, and see that the following rules are strictly adhered to:

2 All birds under 6-4, weighing within two ounces of each other, are matched, except stags and broken-bill and blinker cocks, which shall be allowed four ounces against sound cocks. Sound cocks weighing 6-4 and upwards shall be fought as shakebags and matched regardless of weight.

3 All gaffs shall be round from socket to point; no others will be allowed.

4 After the birds are heeled they shall be weighed by the referee, who will call out their respective weights. He shall also examine the birds' gaffs.

5 Upon entering the pit the handlers shall let the cocks peck each other three or four times; they shall then step to their respective scores, (which scores shall be four feet each way from the center,) set their birds squarely on their feet and instantly release them.

6 It is no fight unless a blow is struck while both cocks show.

7 It shall be unfair for a handler to touch either cock except as directed by the referee.

8 The referee shall order a handler to give his cock a wing when necessary, or turn a bird that is on its back. These directions may be given only when the cocks are not touching each other.

9 The referee shall call "handle" whenever a cock is fast in his antagonist, in himself or in the pit, (except during a count, in which case the birds are not to be handled until the end of the count,) also at the end of "counts" and "minutes," and at other times when necessary.

10 The handler of the gaffed cock shall draw the heels, catching the leg of his opponent's bird below the hock joint. The birds must not be raised from the pit floor until after the gaffs have been drawn.

11 Thirty seconds is the time allowed in all handlings, time to commence as soon as the cocks are lifted off the floor of the pit.

12 Between pittings it shall be fair for the handlers to wash their birds' heads, give refreshments, and help their cocks in any other way possible, but they must be ready to pit promptly on call of time.

13 As soon as one cock ceases fighting, the referee shall call to the handler of the fighting cock, "Mr. A., count;" whereupon that handler shall count ten in an audible tone. After being handled the cocks shall be pitted again and so continue until three tens in all have been counted. After the third count and handle, the cocks are to be placed breast to breast on the center score, when the pitter having the count shall count twenty and the fight is ended in his favor.

14 The count can be broken only by a peck or blow from the cock which is being counted out, or by the death of the cock having the count, or by that cock showing unmistakable evidence of wanting to run away, in which cases the referee shall call "count broken."

15 If the cocks should both cease fighting at the same time, or should refuse to meet at the beginning of a round, the referee shall call for one minute's time, at the expiration of which the cocks are to be handled and again pitted. If they refuse to meet after the second minute, they are to be handled and pitted again, until the expiration of the third minute, and then they are to be handled and breasted on the center score. And if they still refuse to fight at the expiration of one

minute, a fresh cock is to be brought to the pit. If one combatant shows fight and the other does not, the battle is given to the fighting cock. If both fight or both refuse, it is a drawn battle.

16 If both cocks die, neither having the count, the longest liver wins. If the cock having the count is dying and the other cock wanting to run, the former wins the battle even though he dies before the expiration of the count.

17 The referee shall watch all movements of the fight and confine the handlers strictly to the above rules. He may overlook what he believes to be an unintentional error, but must decide the battle against any handler who plainly and wilfully violates the rules.

The Western System.

INDIANAPOLIS NO. 2.—(Referee not directing handlers.)

Exactly like preceding except that the referee does not direct the pitters. They handle when hung, count when entitled to same, give wings and turn cocks when necessary.

A handler having the count, must take it when requested. If he refuses or neglects to do so when called upon, his opponent may take it.

These are the articles which are known abroad as "American Rules," used in international matches. A French translation of same may be found in GAME FOWL MONTHLY, June, 1894.

OLD WESTERN. Same as preceding except that the rules provide for two judges and a referee, the latter being also the timekeeper. Sections fifteen and sixteen, and the latter part of section fourteen of the Indianapolis Rules, were not included in the Old Western, but now used almost everywhere. They should be applied to all other rules of this system where local provision has not already been made to cover those points. The count is four tens and forty.

NEW ORLEANS, CANADIAN, and DALLAS. Exactly the same as the Old Western.

CINCINNATI. Same as the "American." A cock on his back must be turned when requested, provided birds are not touching. Handler must never close his hand on an opponent's cock. (This is really taken for granted under all rules.) If one handler "makes an attempt" to handle, the other has a right to handle. These "attempts" are now practically abolished, and birds are handled only when hung.

It is customary in Cincinnati, after cocks have once been breasted, for the two pitters to agree to fight without rules, breast to breast at each handling till one or the other is killed. It prevents drag fights.

One timekeeper and one referee.

BALTIMORE. Two judges and one referee.

Neither bird fighting for thirty seconds, to be handled and repitted twice, allowing thirty seconds each time, then breasted thirty seconds. If both refuse, draw fight. Dying bird having count, wins. Otherwise same as American rules.

DETROIT. Two judges and one referee. Hackles must be trimmed. Stag allowed five ounces. Count: four tens and forty.

PHILADELPHIA. Hackles must be trimmed. Heel with paper and water. Count: five tens and twenty.

CHICAGO. Two judges and one referee.

Blinkers get six ounces.

Stags classed as cocks after May 1st.

Count: four tens and forty.

Indianapolis rules Nos. 8 and 15 not used here. There is no "minute's time." Cock which fought last, takes the count.

In close decision, referee may declare side bets off. Referee decides all points not covered by rules or articles of agreement.

MILWAUKEE. Hackles not trimmed. Gaffs, one and one-half inch. Sockets to have straight face, not over seven-eighths inch drop nor more than five-eighths inch deep.

Handler must remain on his own side at least three feet from center of pit, except when handling.

Count: four tens and forty.

Neither cock fighting, the last fighter has count. Count may be cut short by the fighter hanging in other cock, but it goes same as if finished to ten. Not handle during the long count.

Dying bird having count, wins.

CLEVELAND. Count: four tens and forty. Fifteen seconds for handling.

Bird on back must be turned with one hand.

TOLEDO. (Carew) Count: four tens and twenty. Hackle not trimmed. Wings to be cut square across, not pointed.

Birds delivered with one hand.
One and one-quarter inch Regulation heels.
Sockets less than one-half inch in height and depth.

Bolstering not allowed.

Handler may count at any time if his bird caught last.

Refused count changes, but cannot be forced on both cease fighting.

During count, draw heels when fast, loose bird to same place and go on with count.

Neither cock fighting thirty seconds, the judge makes count. If both refuse, fresh cock, etc.

On back, turn when requested.

Bird having count, loses it by walking away from antagonist, also by leaving the pit.

Both cocks dying during count, the longest ever wins whether he has the count or not.

OLD "NATIONAL." Two judges and one referee.
Count: four tens and twenty.

Full feather except tail and wings.

Long sockets and bolstering prohibited.

Fowl on back must be turned when requested.

Runaway at once returned to pit. If other cock goes down, to be breasted. If either refuse the second time, he loses.

Neither cock fighting, either handler may call "time," which shall be three minutes. Handle for one minute; then two more single minutes; viz: three, one, one, one, breast. Fighter wins. If both refuse, fresh cock, etc.

If fall apart, again breasted every thirty seconds.

Dead cock wins from a runaway.

"KENTUCKY AND INDIANA SPORTING CLUB" OF LOUISVILLE. Count: four tens and twenty.

Stags classed as cocks after May first.

Blinkers get six ounces.

Two judges and referee; timekeeper.

Local rules as to pit scores, black board, betting, etc.

The handlers of Louisville nearly always raise

cocks from the pit floor, about waist high, before drawing the heels. But this is not a rule only a local bad habit.

It is here customary for timekeeper to start the "minute" as soon as fighting ceases, without waiting for handler to call it.

CALIFORNIA. (Furnished by Capt. Anthony Greene.)

Stags are so classed all through the cocking season following their birth.

Trimmed hackles allowed, but not shorter than one inch in length.

Regulation $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch heels; sockets not over inch length.

In handling, cocks not raised more than knee high. Handle and deliver at once. Remove feathers nor blood. Nursing prohibited. Cock not turned. No wings given.

Count: forty, than six tens, breasting at both the third and sixth ten.

There is no "minute's time." Both cocks refusing, neither having the count, both are to be counted out and the battle declared a draw.

NORTH-WESTERN STATES AND BRITISH COLUMBIA. (Furnished by Wm. Belond.)

Two judges and one referee.

Stags classed as cocks after May 1st.

Regulation $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch heels.

Full hackle and square-cut wings.

Count: five tens and twenty.

Cock may be turned or given wing, when not touching. Must be done with one hand.

No "minute's time." Last fighter counts.

BOSTON. (Furnished by Frank P. Casey) These rules, used all through the New England States, are in plan much like the "Old Western" differing only in having a count of ten, instead of thirty seconds time, between pittings.

The count is five tens, breast, again five tens, breast, twenty.

Fowl on back, may be turned.

No "minute's time;" last fighter counts.

New York Rules.

1 The pit shall be circular in shape, at least eighteen feet in diameter and not less than sixteen inches in height. The floor shall be covered with carpet or some other suitable material. There shall be a chalk or some other mark made as near to the center of the pit as possible. There shall also be two outer marks which shall be one foot each way from the center mark.

2 The pitters shall each select one judge who shall choose a referee. Said judges shall decide all matters in dispute during the pendency of the fight, but in case of their inability to agree, then it shall be the duty of the referee to decide and his decision shall be final.

3 Chickens shall take their age from the first day of March and shall be chickens during the fighting season.

4 It shall be deemed foul for any of the respective pitters to pit a cock or chicken with what is termed a foul hackle, that is, any of the feathers left whole on the mane or neck.

5 The pitters shall let each cock bill each other three or more times, but this is not to be construed that the pitter of a cock has a right to bill with his opponent's cock for the purpose of fatiguing him.

6 No person shall be permitted to handle his fowl after he is fairly delivered in the pit unless he counts ten clear and distinct, without either cock making fight; or shall be fast in his adversary, or fast in the carpet, or hung in the web of the pit or in himself.

7 Any cock that may get on his back shall be righted again by the pitter, but not taken off the ground he is lying on.

8 Whenever a cock is fast in his adversary the pitter of the cock the spurs are fast in shall draw them out, but the pitter of the cock has no right to draw out his own spurs except when fast in himself or in the carpet, or in the web of the

pit.

9 When either pitter shall have counted ten tens successively, without the cock refusing fight, making fight, again breasting them fair on their feet, breast to breast and beak to beak, on the centre score or mark, on the fifth ten being told, and also on the ninth ten being told, shall have won the fight. The pitters are bound to tell each ten as they count them, as follows: Once, twice, etc.

10 No pitter after the cocks have been delivered in the pit shall be permitted to clean their beaks or eyes by blowing or otherwise, or be permitted to squeeze his fowl or press him against the floor during the pendency of the fight.

11 When a cock is pounded and no person takes it until the pitter counts twenty twice, and calls three times, "Who takes it?" and no person takes it, it is a battle to the cock the odds are on; but the pitter of the pounded cock has the right to have the pound put up, that is twenty dollars against one dollar. If this is not complied with, the pitter shall go on as though there was no poundage.

12 If a cock is pounded and the poundage is taken, and if the cock the odds are laid against should get up and knock down his adversary, then if the other cock is pounded and the other poundage not taken before the pitter counts twenty twice, and calls out, "Who takes it?" three times, he wins, although there was a poundage before.

13 It shall be the duty of the respective pitters to deliver their cocks fair on their feet on the outer score or mark, facing each other, and in a standing position, except on the fifth ten being told, and also on the ninth ten being told, when they, the two cocks, shall be placed on the center score, breast to breast and beak to beak in like manner. Any pitter being guilty of shoving his fowl across the score, or of pinching him, or using any other unfair means for the purpose of making his cock fight, shall lose the fight.

14 If both cocks fight together, and then both should refuse until they are counted out, in such cases a fresh cock is to be hoveled and brought into the pit, and the pitters are to toss for which cock is to set-to first. He that wins has the choice. Then the one which is to set-to last is to be taken up but not carried out of the pit. The hoveled cock is then to be put down to the other and allowed to fight while the judges, or one of them, shall count twenty. The same operation shall be gone through with the other cock and if one fight and the other refuse, it is a battle to the fighting cock; but if both fight, or both refuse, it is a drawn battle.

15 If both cocks refuse fighting until four, five or more or less tens are counted, the pitters shall continue their count until one cock has refused ten times, for when a pitter begins to count, he counts for both cocks.

16 If a cock should die before they are counted out, he wins the battle if he fights last. This, however, is not to apply when his adversary is running away.

17 The crowing or raising of the hackle of a cock is not fight, nor is fighting at the pitter's hands.

18 A breaking cock is a fighting cock, but a cock breaking from his adversary is not fight.

19 If any dispute arises between the pitters on the result of a fight, the cocks are not to be taken out of the pit, nor the gaffs taken off until a decision has been made by the judges or referee.

20 Each cock within two ounces of each other shall be a match, except blinkers when they are fighting against two-eyed cocks in which case an allowance of from three to five ounces shall be made. When blinkers are matched against each other, the same rule to apply as to two-eyed cocks.

21 All matches must be fought with heels, round from the socket to the point, not exceeding one and a quarter inches in length unless otherwise agreed upon. Drop Sockets, Slashers and twisted heels shall be considered foul.

22 Previous to heeling the cocks in fighting mains, the four spurs of same pattern and size shall be placed together and the pitters shall toss for choice of them.

23 In all mains, at the end of each battle the judges shall order the spurs to be changed, i. e., the spurs of the winning cock must be placed on the loser's next fowl and changed at the end of every battle.

24 Any person fighting a cock heavier than he is represented on the match list, shall lose the fight, although he may have won.

25 In all cases of appeal, fighting ceases until the judges or the referee give their decision, which shall be final and strictly to the question before them.

26 When a bet is made, it cannot be declared off unless by consent of both parties; all outside bets to go according to the main bet.

27 Each pitter when delivering his cock on the score shall take his hands off him as quickly as possible.

28 Any person violating any of the above rules, shall be deemed to have lost the match.

The New York System.

ALBANY. Much similar to New York, but not quite so complicated.

Count: five tens, breast, thirty, then twenty.

When a cock is pounded and not taken, the pitter counts twenty and that wins.

WESTERN NEW YORK. One judge, who calls "Handle" and "Count," same as in Indianapolis.

Blinkers allowed three to five ounces.

Spurs, one and one-quarter inch; to be exchanged after every battle.

Count: five tens and twenty.

On fifth "ten," count can be broken only by a blow, not by a peck.

No removing feathers nor blood during handle.

Poundage, same as New York.

Both cocks refusing, bring in fresh cock, etc.

Southern Rules.

NOTE. On the morning the main is to commence the parties decide by lot who shows first. It is to be remembered that the party obtaining choice generally chooses to weigh first and consequently obliges the adverse party to show first, as the party showing first weighs last. When the show is made by the party, the door of the cock house is to be locked and the key given to the other party, who immediately repairs to his cock house and prepares for weighing. There ought to be provided a pair of good scales and weights as low down as half an ounce. One or two judges to be appointed to weigh the cocks. Each party

by weighing the cocks intended for the show a day or two beforehand and having all their respective weights, would greatly facilitate the business of the judges. There ought to be no feathers cut or plucked from the cocks before they are brought to the scale, except a few from behind to keep them clean, and their wings and tails clipped a little.

2 As soon as the cocks are all weighed, the judge, the writers and the principals of each party and as many besides as the parties may agree upon, are to retire for the purpose of matching. They are to make all even matches first, then those within one ounce, and afterwards those within two ounces; but if more matches can be made by breaking an even or one ounce match, it is to be done.

3 On the day of the showing, only one battle is to be fought. It is to be remembered that the party winning the show gains also the choice of fighting this first battle with any particular cocks in the match. Afterwards they begin with the lightest pair first and so on up to the heaviest, fighting them in rotation as they increase in weight. The first battle too, will fix the mode of trimming.

RULE 1 When the cocks are in the pit, the judges are to examine whether they are fairly trimmed and have fair heels. If all be right and fair, the pitters are to deliver their cocks six feet apart (or thereabouts) and retire a step or two back; but if a wrong cock should be produced, the party so offending forfeits that battle.

2 All heels that are round from the socket to the point are allowed to be fair; any pitter bringing a cock into the pit with any other kind of heels, except by particular agreement, forfeits the battle.

3 If either cock should be trimmed with a close, unfair hackle, the judge shall direct the other to be cut in the same manner, and at the time shall observe to the pitter that if he brings another cock in the like situation, unless he shall have

been previously trimmed, he shall forfeit the battle.

4 A pitter when he delivers his cock shall retire two paces back, and not advance or walk around his cock until a blow has passed.

5 An interval of ten minutes shall be allowed between the termination of one battle and the commencement of another.

6 No pitter shall pull a feather out of a cock's mouth or from over his eyes or head, or pluck him by the breast to make him fight, or pinch him for the like purpose, under penalty of forfeiting the battle.

7 The pitters are to give the cocks room to fight, and are not to hover and press on them so as to retard their striking.

8 The greasing, peppering, muffing and soaping a cock, or any other external application, are unfair practices, and by no means admissible in this amusement.

9 The judges, when required, may suffer a pitter to call in some of his friends to assist in catching the cock, who are to retire immediately when the cock is caught, and in no other instance is the judge to suffer the pit to be broken.

10 All cocks on their backs are to be immediately turned on their bellies by their respective pitters at all times.

11 A cock when down is to have a wing given him if he needs it, unless his adversary is on it, but his pitter is to place the wing gently in its proper position, and not to lift the cock; and no wing is to be given unless absolutely necessary.

12 If either cock should be hanged in himself, in the pit, or canvas, he is to be loosened by his pitter; but if in his adversary, both pitters are to immediately lay hold of their respective cocks, and the pitter whose cock is hung shall hold him steady while the adverse party draws out the heel, and then they shall take their cocks asunder a sufficient distance for them fairly to renew the combat.

13 Should the cocks separate and the judge

be unable to decide which fought last, he shall at his discretion direct the pitters to carry their cocks to the middle of the pit and deliver them beak to beak, unless either of them is blind; in that case they are to be shouldered; that is, delivered with their breasts touching, each pitter taking care to deliver his cock at this, as well as at all other times, with one hand.

14 When both cocks cease fighting, it is then in the power of the pitter of the last fighting-cock, unless they touch each other, to demand a count of the judges, who shall count forty deliberately, which, when counted out, is not to be counted again during the battle. Then the pitters shall catch their cocks and carry them to the middle of the pit and deliver them beak to beak; but to be shouldered if either is blind as before. Then if either cock refuses or neglects to fight, the judge shall count ten, and shall call out "once refused" and shall direct the pitters to bring their cocks again to the middle of the pit and pit as before; and if the same cock in like manner refuses, he shall count ten again and call out "twice refused," and so proceed until one cock thus refuses six times successively. The judge shall then determine the battle against such cock.

15 If either cock dies before the judge can finish the counting of the law, the battle is to be given to the living cock, and if both die, the longest liver wins the battle.

16 The pitters are not to touch their cocks whilst the judge is in the act of counting.

17 No pitter is ever to lay hold of his adversary's cock, unless to draw out the heel, and then he must take him below the knee. Then there shall be no second delivery, that is, after he is once delivered he shall not be touched until a blow is struck, unless ordered.

18 No pitter shall touch his cock unless at the time mentioned in the foregoing rules.

19 If any pitter acts contrary to these rules, the judge, if called upon at the time, shall give the battle against him,

The Battle Royal.

In the pit of the Indiana Cocking Club this is a popular method for disposing of crippled cocks, strainers and other birds which are unfit for regular match battles.

- 1 Any number of cocks may be put in.
- 2 No limit as to age, condition, or weight.
- 3 Use any kind of round-blade gaffs.
- 4 Entry fee for each bird to be placed in stakeholder's hands before the fun begins.

5 All being in readiness, cocks arranged around the pit an equal distance apart, with heads touching the cushion and tails toward center of the pit, all must be liberated at the referee's call of "Go."

6 The referee, (or any other one man chosen for the purpose,) will draw heels for all birds as fast as they get hung, without changing position of birds or helping them in any way. With this exception the cocks are not to be touched until a "handle" is called.

7 Any cock which jumps the pit, shall be immediately returned. If he leaves the pit three times, he is out for good.

8 Dead cocks and unmistakable runaways are to be removed as fast as they occur.

9 If the fighting ceases while three or more live birds are in the pit, the referee shall call for a minute's time, and if the minute is not broken by fighting being resumed, the referee shall call "Handle," when each pitter shall have 30 seconds for nursing his bird.

10 After handling, the cocks are to be pitted beak to beak, all in a bunch, in centre of the pit.

11 When only two cocks remain, the contest shall be fought out under regular Indianapolis Rules, the survivor being entitled to the battle-royal purse.

The Welsh Main.

Sixteen men each enter one cock of the required weight, (or shake-bag,) accompanied by an entry fee of the stipulated amount. They draw lots for numbers.

In the first round, No. 1 fights against No. 2; No. 3 against No. 4; 5 against 6; and so on.

Second round. The eight winners again draw lots and fight as before.

Then the four winners of the second round fight in two pair, which makes the third round. Then these two last winners fight the final battle, (fourth round,) after which the victor, who is now the sole survivor of the sixteen, is awarded the purse.

The Concourse.

In the Welsh Main a man has only one cock and continues to fight that one bird again and again until it is either killed or wins the purse. A concourse is conducted on the same plan except that fresh cocks are used in each round.

This form of amusement is quite popular in some parts of France and Belgium, where their "grand concours" often have as many as sixty-four entries and take from early morning till late at night to decide.

The Hexagon.

Weights and heels being agreed upon, six men show five cocks each. Then every man fights one cock against each other man. Of the fifteen battles thus fought, the man winning greatest number is entitled to the purse or prize.

A uniform amount for battle money is usually decided upon in advance, also an entry fee for the purse, all of which are required to be in stakeholder's hands before festivities begin. This is to insure every match being fought through.

Rules of England.

1 That every person show and put his cock in-
to the pit with a fair hackle, not too near shorn,
or out, nor with any other fraud.

2 That every cock as he is first shown in the
pit, without shearing or cutting any feathers
afterwards, except with the consent of both the
masters of the match.

3 When both cocks are set down to fight, and

one of them runs away before they have struck three mouthing blows, it is adjudged no battle to the persons who bet.

4 No persons to set-to but those who are appointed by the masters of the match.

5 When a cock shall come setting-to, and both cocks refuse to fight ten times successively according to the law, then a fresh cock shall be hoveled, and the masters of the match must agree which of them shall turn the cock down; after that, if both fight, or both refuse, to be deemed a draw battle; but if one should fight, and the other refuse, the battle to be allowed won by the fighting cock.

6 After the person appointed by the masters to tell the law shall have told twice twenty, the cocks to be set-to, beak to beak if they both see, but if either be blind, then the blind cock to touch; and on their refusing to fight, the person appointed as before is to tell ten between each setting-to, till one of the cocks has refused to fight ten times successively.

7 When ten pounds (£10) to a crown are laid on the battle, and not taken, after twice twenty is told, the battle is determined as won by that cock the odds are on.

8 That no person shall make any cavil or speech about matching of cocks, either to matchers or owners, after the cocks are once put together.

9 A master of a match has a right to remove any person out of the lower ring.

10 No person can make a confirmed bet void without mutual consent.

11 Bets to be paid on clear proof by creditable witnesses, even though they have not been demanded immediately after the battle is over.

12 It is recommended that all disputes be finally determined by the masters of the match, and two other gentlemen whom they shall appoint; and in case the four cannot agree, then they shall fix on a fifth, whose determination shall be final.

Rules of France and Belgium.

1 A cock down (off its feet) three minutes, has lost.

2 The minute of interval exists.

3 Three minutes without fighting, the cock which is on its feet, wins. If both are up, it is a draw fight.

4 If both cocks go down, the one which after the minute is the last up, will be the winner. (Which is to say, that if one cock goes down, and stays down, and after a minute's time, the other cock goes down, the latter wins. On the other hand, if the two cocks fall together, or if the second cock goes down before the expiration of one minute, it is a draw fight.)

5 A cock struggling in the throes of death and making one or more jumps in the struggle, will not be considered as being up.

6 Every cock which does not stand completely up, will be considered as being down.

7 With a cock up, one may accuse his adversary, (of wanting to run away,) and win. With a cock down one may make a draw fight. In every case the accusation must be made before two minutes and a half, (from the time the first cock went down.)

[For example. A's cock falls. B's cock is still upright. Under ordinary circumstances, B's cock wins. But in case B's cock, though on his feet, shows signs of wanting to run away, Mr. A may so "accuse" him. Then if the accusation proves good, it is a draw fight if A's cock remains down. If A's cock gets up within the three minutes and B's cock runs, Mr. A. wins.]

8 One cannot accuse of flight a cock that is down, but one may accuse in case the cock raises himself before the end of three minutes.

9 In accusing a cock of flight, a sum of fifty francs must be placed in the hands of the President. If the accusation proves false, the said sum goes to the owner of the cock accused.

10 The cock, to be considered as fleeing, must turn away (refuse to face) at the presentation. Otherwise the accusation is false.

11 A cock which is so badly wounded that he cannot longer fight, nor even peck, may be accused under these conditions and if he does not turn away at the presentation, will be considered as fighting.

12 Every cock showing flight, even though not squawking, may be accused by his adversary. Upon the demand of the latter the time will be taken immediately and at the end of three minutes the cocks will be presented according to Articles nine, ten and eleven.

13 If, in this case, it happens that the cock accused, returns to fighting at the presentation, the accusation by this will revert to the adverse party and the battle will continue in full force. The pitters must then retire from the pit (and let the cocks fight).

14 Every cock which runs away squawking has immediately lost provided his opponent is up or is able to get up during the three minutes. It is not necessary in this case that the latter remain up during one minute.

15 If on account of a brain blow a cock happens to yell and fly the pit, it will not be considered as a runaway. The handler has the right to put his cock back in the pit, and if it runs again, put him back. If he runs the third time it will be considered as flight.

16 When a cock is accused, as soon as the regular minutes expire, the two cocks must be placed face to face, and at the presentation the handler of the cock accused has the right to make his bird touch the feathers of his opponent. It is well understood the cocks, in case of accusation, must not be submitted to any manipulation, that is to say, the handlers must present them without having touched the birds' heads or aroused them in any way.

17 Except in case of contrary agreement, one does not detach from any side. [This means

that the heels are not to be drawn nor the birds touched, from the time they are set in the pit till the battle is finished.]

18 The duration of a battle is fixed at twenty minutes. Passing this delay, one cock down, the other up, the latter wins. If it happens that a cock shows flight at the end of twenty minutes, an accusation made a half-minute before the time expired, will be admitted.

19 Every cock placed in the pit will be considered as fighting. If one refuse, the battle will be won by his opponent, but the bets on that battle will be declared off. [This applies to concourses only. The owner of the runaway loses his place in the concourse but does not lose outside money bet on this battle.]

20 A cock presented without having fought, will be placed in the hands of the judges, to take no further part in the concourse. [We have never seen an occasion to carry this rule into effect, but the idea of it is this: Suppose two friends come against each other in a concourse. They arrange between themselves that one shall put in a cock which will not show fight, in order to enable the other to win his round without a battle. The runaway cock in this case is taken charge of by the judges, to prevent him being again used by someone else for the same purpose.]

21 In order to avoid all disputes, and in the interest of the sport of cock-fighting which we mean to uphold, all gaffs will be refused which are of the new forms and dimensions American, (Drop Socket) half American (Half Drop) or others. None will be allowed except the old-fashioned ordinary gaffs such as we have employed for many years, of which the maximum length must not exceed fifty millimetres, (about one and thirty-one thirty-seconds inches), measure taken in a direct line from the base of the spur at the socket, to the point. The curve of blade must not exceed two millimetres in all its bearing, this would carry the length of the blade

to fifty-two millimetres, (two and one-sixteenth inches) following the curve, measured underneath. Sockets not longer than eleven millimetres, (seven-sixteenths inches) front to back. Calibre not exceeding twenty-one millimetres, (thirteen-sixteenths inch). [See Gaff Catalogue, No. 35. The International Standard]. The heelers will examine each other's gaffs and in case of suspicion, the matter will be referred to the judges who have the right to exclude anyone who presents gaffs not according to rules.

22 It is, moreover, strictly forbidden to present spurs coated with any kind of grease. There must be no unfair advantage taken. Each must engage with honor to fight fairly.

[Another rule, so well understood among the French that it is not considered necessary to include it with the rest.—The handler must set his bird squarely on its feet and not push nor toss the cock toward the middle of the pit.]

The above set of rules, excepting the comments and explanations in parentheses, is a translation of the rules of the Grand International Concourse. But many of the articles given above apply only to the concourse. The essential features of the whole system may be found in the first six articles. These are the old original Flemish pit rules, intended at first, I believe, only for natural spur fighting. They are now used among the steel spur cockers of Northern France and Southern Belgium, among the natural and horn-spur fighters of Northern Belgium, and also, to some extent among the naked-heelers in the United States—many of whom are Belgians. The rules in regard to “accusing” a cock of wanting to run, are very seldom brought into use, for the reason that the actions of a quitter are usually so manifest that no “accusation” is necessary. Out of several hundred battles fought under these rules, I remember to have seen only two birds which were formally “accused.”

Rules of Cuba.

Furnished, (in the original Spanish,) by Corporal F. W. Hammer of the United States Army, now stationed in Cuba, formerly a resident of Illinois and a breeder of Trans-Atlantics.

Ordinary translation is sufficiently difficult, but the task of turning "cockpit Spanish" into "cockpit English," without having had any practical knowledge of the former, is labor indeed. So if any errors be found in the following articles, I hope my Cuban friends will kindly correct them.

NAKED-HEEL FIGHTING.

1 Cocks fought in this pit will not be permitted to have the head trimmed and the hackle all of the same height, of half an inch in length, for the purpose of making the opponent and part of the public believe that it had an advantage over the other.

2 It will not be permitted that inside of the circle there remain any other person than the Judge, if in the meanwhile there is no trial; and if it should result that both cocks are hung or half dead, the handlers will immediately proceed to loosen them, returning to occupy their places, without permitting themselves to stay over the cocks, during the trial but separated, that both may work with freedom. The trials will be given in the center of the pit at the indicated place. The handlers will not be permitted to approach the cocks, even when they are disabled, or to come between them. When both cocks are blind or disabled, and they do not continue the fight, they are to be put beak to beak in all of the trials, not given in the air, but with the feet at the mark. A handler is only allowed to clean the bird's bill and its spurs with a piece of linen or a handkerchief provided for this purpose, without touching with the nails or

fingers in any part of the body, but the bird must not be wet with water nor saliva whilst the fight lasts, nor (must the handler) blow the breath with the mouth on the cock's head nor on any part of the body, though enabled to give them heat with the handkerchief.

3 When one of the cocks ceases fighting, the opposite handler may call him to count, intimating that the other will not fight in the last trial, with an outside cock. They are then breasted for the space of a minute and given opportunity to peck, and if it should not peck it will loose his contest. The cocks that are fought with zapatonos, (artificial spurs like Scottish "haips,") will not be able to take them off, even though they (break loose and) hang down the leg. All cocks that are pitted with zapatonos will be examined by the handlers and the Judge to see if they are legal; because after the loss of the fight there will be no reclamation whatever, for they have to satisfy the public as well as the loser.

4 No fight can be made a draw while both contestants are up and fighting, and when they become in a state of prostration, the Judge may propose to the handlers to make it a draw. If these do not agree, they will give a trial and will send them to the "vallita" (secondary pit) provided for such cases, leaving clear the "valla" (main pit) for another fight.

5 The fights will be called at half past six in the afternoon, and at said hour there will three trials be given, and the one that fails to try and the one fails to peck, will lose his contest. And if both should peck, it will be declared a draw.

6 No owner of a cock or any other individual whatever will be able to exact of any of the handlers that he should make any fight a draw; because from the moment that the handler takes charge of a cock, he alone will be responsible for the circumstances of the case.

[From a sand-glass sent by Mr. Hammer, it is evident that thirty seconds are allowed for

handling, though this subject is not mentioned in the above rules.]

SLASHER FIGHTING.

Four lines will be made; two at half a yard and two at the extremity of the circle, serving the first ones to pit the cocks on. The trials will be given where it is wished that the cocks should fall, to avoid by this means the delay that can be brought by the malice or distraction of the handler. There will be cases of trial when the cocks cease to fight. The trials will be done with the feet of the cocks on the mark, because the handler that gives the trial in the air will not gain, and to avoid ill feelings that at times occur, the handlers will be able to catch the cocks by both sides of the body to immediately put them with the feet in the saw-dust, taking the hand off of the head if any of them should be disabled to be able to peck, giving them half a minute. The loser will be able to make as much of this in his reach to make them peck and if any one should be dead will have to lift it by the head, grasping it by the hackle, that the opponent can peck it.

[This last paragraph is an exact literal translation, but if you can tell what all that means, you are ahead of me.]

Rules of Mexico.

Several of my Mexican friends have kindly sent in copies of the pit rules of their respective sections. These various sets of rules are practically alike in principle, but have an almost endless quantity of local variations, many of them as wholly useless as Article No. 18 of the New York rules. Below are to be found the more generally accepted regulations of importance.

1 A center line will divide the diameter of the pit. Two more lines parallel to the center, six feet apart on each side.

2 The pit owner shall name a Depositario

(stake-holder,) the Corredores, (runners,) the Amarradores (heelers) and also the Juez Vedor, (judge overseer,) and will be responsible for the interests which are confided to him.

3 Any kind of navajas (slashers) may be used.

4 Cocks weighed before being heeled. Give or take two ounces, a match, up to 6.4, (in some places, 6.8,) above which they are fought as shakes.

5 First bell ring, handlers show up cocks in center of pit. Second bell, handlers step back to scores, set birds squarely on feet and instantly release them.

6 Handler can call for a handle whenever thread is cut or slasher is broken, also whenever a cock is fast.

7 Handle when hung and deliver at once. (In some parts of Mexico it is the Judge who draws heels.)

8 As it can very well happen that at the replacing the knife or thread to a cock, his Soltador (handler) will do it so slowly that in the meantime the other will become disabled or about to die, the Judge will take care that this manoeuvre shall be made with the most possible speed, and if the Soltador should not do it thus, the Judge shall put in another one that can do it.

9 Handlers not allowed to give cocks any help during fight.

10 As soon as one cock ceases fighting, the Judge shall call to the handlers to try the cock in the same place by letting him stand up, and the fight is ended if the cock can not stand. But if cocks show fight, the handlers step back to their scores, set the cocks on their feet and the time-keeper counts out one minute's time. If birds do not fight, another minute is taken and then they go breast to breast on the center score.

11 At the breasting, the cock loses for moving the head out of line, showing no fight, or death.

12 If both cocks die, the longest liver wins.

13 A dying cock wins over a runaway.

Trimming.

It used to be thought that a cock was not fit to fight until he had been quite thoroughly undressed. Of late years there has been a decided reaction against this excessive trimming, particularly through the Central States where many birds are fought every winter without having had a feather cut, and many more are clipped only a little, as shown in picture on page 4. If your opponent's birds are closely shorn, you will be at a disadvantage unless yours are trimmed after the same fashion. But if you can persuade him not to trim, it will be much better for both of you, when you go to find walks for the birds that have won. Closely shorn cocks are not only difficult to walk, but are in great danger of catching cold after being put out.

Heels and Heeling.

In parts of the effete East, the Regulation style is spoken of as "the only fair heel," but that is simple ignorance. Any gaff is fair which is not directly prohibited by the governing pit rules or articles of agreement.

Disputes have arisen as to what constitutes a true Regulation heel, so I will here state the requirements. 1. Socket must be perfectly round (not oval) in shape, and must have flat face. 2. Blade must be round, extending directly outward and upward from lower part of socket. 3. There must be no part of the upper surface of blade lower than the inner lower surface of socket, although (on account of thickness) the under surface of blade may drop at the base below the under outer surface of socket.

Some sets of rules require Regulation heels to have sockets of a certain calibre and length, but it must be remembered that in mains or hack-fighting such limitations are not to apply except they be definitely stated in the pit rules or articles of agreement. They can not be merely taken for

granted. Remember also: you can not dictate to any man regarding the side-set of his spur-blades nor as to the height of points.

Excepting in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Northern Illinois,—where inch-and-a-half Regulations are in considerable favor,—this style of gaff is very rarely used in any length exceeding one-inch-and-a-quarter. The Cincinnati inch-and-a-half is also in vogue throughout that same section of country and Drop Sockets are often barred out there. In other parts of the United States, where heels as short as $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch are required, they must be of the Regulation pattern, while from $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch upward you may use any style you like.

Regarding the different kinds of heels and how to use them, see my Gaff Catalogue, (sent free upon application,) which contains photographs of the finest collection of Cock Spurs in the world, also full directions for heeling.

“Short-heel fighting” means the use of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch or $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch gaffs. “Long heels” are those which exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and although matches are sometimes made in spurs of exactly two inches, it is a general rule that where one man ties on heels longer than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, the other may use any length he choose or as long as his cock can carry.

In “long-heel” matches what length of gaffs do you require? While this depends to some extent upon the cock’s station and style of fighting, as a rough estimate it is safe to say that the length of heel, expressed in inches, should be just one-half the number of pounds the cock weighs. For example; fight a 4 lb. bird in 2-inch heels and a 7 lb. in $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This, however, is for round-blade gaffs only. In many parts of Mexico ordinary weight Trans-Atlantics are fought in five-inch slashers and said to be wonderfully successful. Senor Barriere of Acambaro has one 7 lb. Trans-Atlantic cock which he fights with a $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch “navaja,” and says this old bird has really won so many battles that he can not remember the number.

A Black Oriental

Which has become quite famous in France. Bred and exported by H. P. Clarke, Indianapolis. The present property of M. Cliquennois, Lille. Original drawing made by a French artist for the Parisian journal, "La Vie au Grand Air."

Handling.

To the beginner I wish to say, always handle your own birds in the pit. Learn how. You will soon find that there is much more enjoyment in handling than in watching some one else. And if you do it yourself, you will know that it is done well, at least to the limits of your ability.

Handle fairly. There is no other one point in the whole field of cock-fighting that I would make more prominent than this. Do not under any circumstances whatever try to take the slightest advantage beyond your right. On the other hand, as long as you can do so justly always play to win, no matter what the temptation might be to act otherwise. It is of the very greatest importance that you establish a reputation which shall be absolutely above suspicion. Never have anything to do with tricky or "slick" cock-fighters if you can avoid it. Shun them as you would the plague. If you unexpectedly find yourself confronted by such an one in the pit, keep a cool head, watch your corners and make the best of the situation, but do not under any circumstances lose your temper. Always be polite. "Sugar catches more flies than vinegar," and even if your opponent be not a gentleman, you may perhaps cause him to assume the part if you treat him as such. If he be positively depraved, (unfortunately that kind does exist,)

do not get "scrappy," but address all your remarks to the referee, abiding by his decisions with patience and resignation. During contest, pay no attention to "coaching" or outside talk.

On entering the pit with cock, step up to your opponent and examine his bird's gaffs, at same time showing your own. Under Indianapolis rules and many others, a man who is careless enough to fight against foul heels, has no reclamation afterward.

In billing cocks, let bird rest over your left arm, his legs securely held in your right hand. When held this way he can not flap nor exhaust himself and is ready to pit instantly.

If possible, get your bird down, on his feet and started off just ahead of your opponent, particularly if you have a rusher which will sail in at once.

While cocks are fighting, remain quiet on your own side of pit but watch birds constantly and be ready to handle at first intimation of their being hung.

Hold your cock down to the floor and draw heels gently. Never get in a hurry about this. In the United States and Canada, you draw opponent's heels from your cock. In some parts of England, you draw your own heels from opponent's cock,—a custom which is very hard for an American to follow.

If your cock is distressed and needs wind, and gets knocked over on his back, do not turn him until told to do so.

If your cock is strong, and punishing the other, do not take count until necessary. While if your bird is fatigued and needs refreshing, secure a handle at first opportunity.

If you are at all doubtful about your bird's gameness, do not allow him to cool off, but keep him warmed up and on the go all the time. If you think opponent has a cold streak, reverse the process.

Study rules thoroughly, also ascertain any local customs or peculiarities in applying them.

Nursing.

Rather than fight under rules which prohibit nursing, I should prefer to follow the French plan and not touch cocks from beginning to end. In other words; if I am going to handle at all, I want to do it right. This, however, may be considered a matter of individual taste, as in some parts of our country the pit rules do not allow the handler any privilege whatever except the mere drawing of heels. Where thirty seconds time and the giving of refreshments are permitted between rounds, take care to provide yourself with a cup of clean water, a sponge, and a dry rag. One sometimes sees stimulants used in the shape of whisky, brandy or wine, and there are also various secret and mysterious "enliveners" for the same purpose. These are entirely permissible but in my own experience I have never found anything better than pure cool water, and I do not let the bird drink of that. I wash his head and mouth with it and occasionally dip my finger in the water and insert it part of the way down his throat when necessary to remove feathers or blood. If room be very warm it is always well between pittings to hold cock right down to the floor, and then occasionally put a wet sponge under his wings. A little water on the feet and legs once in a while, in case of long drag fight, is sometimes refreshing, as is also blowing under the wings and tail. In general, try to keep the bird cool and quiet. Do not let him worry himself but hold him turned away from the other cock until time to pit. At "Get ready," arrange his wings and legs in proper order, stroke him down the back with a gentle squeeze near the tail, and at call of "Time," set him squarely on his feet and let him travel. If bird is at all savage or cross in disposition, be sure that his attention is fixed upon the other cock before you turn him loose. Then set him as far in front of you as your reach and the size of the pit will allow.

A few suggestions regarding certain wounds may prove of value to the amateur, as this is a subject which not one of the game books up-to-date has ever touched upon.

BRAIN-BLOW. A common procedure is to bite the comb or the top of the head. My own treatment is to merely scratch head back of comb with the finger-nail.

WRY-NECK. Catch cock by the head and pull neck out pretty hard, twisting it in opposite way from which it is inclined to turn. If a really bad case, there is but little hope of straightening it out.

RATTLE. If a deep lung-thrust, the cock will die in spite of everything you can do. If cut is in throat, you may save him. Grasp bird firmly in left hand. Take hold of his head with your right hand; fore-finger in mouth and thumb back of comb. Now pull straight upward pretty hard, stretching his neck taut. Keep him in this position for ten or fifteen seconds, at same time shaking head a little back and forth. This stretching will elongate the blood-vessels and tend to close any punctures they may have sustained. Blood already collected in throat will go down into the bird's crop. The worst thing you could do is to catch cock by the legs and swing him head downward,—a performance I have often witnessed. Trying to suck blood from cock's mouth and nose, is nearly as bad, to say nothing of the indelicacy of such an operation.

BROKEN WING. You can do nothing in a restorative way. Such a wing is of no earthly use to the cock; it is only in the road. Cut wing-feathers off as short as possible, leaving just that much less to trouble the bird.

BROKEN LEG. Another irreparable injury. The best you can do is to cut the gaff from this leg, so it will be out of the way. If bird is strong in this sound leg, pit him sitting down on that one foot so he will be apt to rise for a bill-hold just as the other cock reaches him. If weak, set him on his tail. Better take chances of having

him knocked over onto his back than on his side.

UNCOUPLE. The Louisville plan is to set cock astride of your knee, take a foot in each hand and pull for dear life. I have always had better success with the old way of putting cock's legs close up under him and then squeezing him good and hard. Rub hock joints and work legs back and forth. This sometimes seems to help in taking the kinks out.

CRAMPED TOES. Pull the toes, rub the legs, and scratch bottom of foot with your finger-nail. If cramp is persistent, cut gaff off.

BLIND. If cock is cut blind in one eye, set him down with his good side toward the enemy, not directly facing the other bird but at right-angles to the line of march. The reason for this is that your bird, when starting off, will be apt to turn part way round, and if directly facing the other bird at first he may turn too far and thus expose to attack his blind side. If cut blind in both eyes, make him sit down and hope that he stays there until other bird comes to him. If both birds are pretty badly used up and yours totally blind, you can usually make him peck (for purpose of getting or breaking a count) by quickly jerking a few feathers from top of his head just back of comb. Then stand him on his feet. If he peck at or toward the other bird after being put down, it will gain the count for him whether he touches the other or not. If you have the other cock cut down and the blind bird though still strong, shows any inclination to go to sleep on your hands, try to induce your opponent to make the battle a draw. And consider yourself fortunate if you succeed, for were he to ever get the count on you under such circumstances, your chance of winning even with a strong cock would be very slim indeed.

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