CHESS

By E. J. CLARKE

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SAN FRANCISCO-CHICAGO TELEGRAPHIC CHESS MATCH FOR WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Edward Lasker, leading figure in Chicago chess circles, upon his return to that city from a visit to New York, immediately got into touch with Bernardo Smith, acting secretary of the Mechanics' Institute Chess club in the matter of the telegraph chess match between the two cities for Washington's birthday. As a result of several telegrams exchanged, it is possible to give practically complete details regarding the match.

Through the generosity of McDonnell & Co., whose leased wire has been placed at the disposal of the leading chess clubs of the two cities, the San Francisco team will make its headquarters for the day in the Palace hotel offices of McDonnell & Co., while the Chicago players will assemble in the offices of Lanson & Co. in that city. Owing to the difference in time, it will be necessary for the Chicago players to foregather at 7:30 a. m. On the other hand, the San Francisco experts may observe 'bankers' hours" and be ready for operations at 9:30 a. m. Play will continue till 4 p. m., San Francisco time. Arrangements have been made with the officials of the Mechanics' Institute for the use of the club chess tables and chessmen, which will be transported to the McDonnell & Co. offices. The match will be on twelve boards. For Chicago the following will take part: E. Lasker, S. Factor, H. Hahlbohm, G. Gessner, E. Bull, A. Wagner, P. J. Mow, W. Gordon, F. Starr and J. Nitschke. For the Mechanics' Institute, E. W. Gruer, G. E. K. Branch, B. Smith, A. J. Fink, W. Smith, R. F. Lyon, G. Hallwegen, A. B. Stamer, J. F. Smyth, C. Woskoff, A. W. Ryder and E. J. Clarke, Dr. H. Epsteen, substitute.

A description of the modus operandi of a chess match by telegraph may be of interest to such as have never witnessed one. First, a referee for San Francisco in Chicago is appointed, and one for Chicago here. Then the lineup of each team is sent from 1 to 12. Then a coin is tossed for the "move" on Board No. 1. The winning captain has the choice, after which the "move" alternates down to twelfth board. Each player is supplied with a small perforated pad, numbered in red, to correspond to the number of the board he is playing In sending a move a player writes 1P-K4, tears off the page and hands it to a "runner," who inturn hands it to the telegrapher, who immediately flashes it over hill and dale, mountain and plain, to the Chicago office. Incoming moves are handled by the keyman in this manner: He is provided with twelve pads, duly numbered from 1 to 12, in black figures. Upon receiving a move from, say, board No. 1 in Chicago, he writes it down on that numbered pad, paces it on a file, whence it is instantly delivered to the San Francisco player at board No. 1. The local player notes the move and makes it for his 2000 miles away opponent on the board in front of him; and the written move is then filed for reference in case of a possible error in transmission. The system of the different colored pads is the invention of Bernardo Smith. By this method there can be no confusion as to incoming and outgoing moves. Accuracy is most essential, and care is taken to avoid the slightest ambiguity in outgoing moves.

While every board is equally important, it is safe to say that keen interest will be taken in the battle at board No. 1, beween E. W. Gruer, California chess champion, and E. Lasker, western champion and challenger of Marshall for the United States championship.

The Mechanics' Institute Chess club is certainly stepping out to tackle Chicago; but having defeated successively Los Angeles and Portland, it was but following a famous example in seeking new worlds to conquer.

Admission to the match will be by card only, which may be had by applying to Bernardo Smith, Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post street, chess room.

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World's Champion Jose R. Capablanca made a wonderful record at Cleveland on the occasion of his recent simultaneous exhibition in that city. The Cuban wizard encountered 103 opponents, and in spite of the incentive offered them in the way of valuable prizes for defeating Capablanca, not one of the 103 was able to beat the master. In short, Capablanca won 102 games and allowed but one drawn game. Marvelous! The exhibition began at 9 p. m. and lasted until 4 o'clock next morning.

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Here is a game from the California state championship tourney held recently. Woskoff plays brilliantly against A. J. Fink:

GAME No. 61

GIUOCO PIANO

C. Woskoff white	A. J. Fink black	C. Woskoff white	A. J. Fink black
1—P-K4	P-K4	18—P-K5	P-B4
2—S-KB3	S-QB3	19—P-B3	R-Q2
3—B-B4	S-B3	20—QR-Q	KR-Q
4—P-Q3	B-K2	21—Q-S4	K-R
5—Castles	Castles	22—P-KR4	R-KS
6—S-B3	P-Q3	23—P-R5	S-B
7—P-Q4	P-S5	24—SxB	RxS
8—PxP	SxP	25—RxP	P-QS3
9—B-K2	SxS	26—KR-Q	P-B3
10—BxS	BxB	27—Q-S3	P-KR3
11—QxB	S-Q2	28—R-Q6	PxP
12—S-Q5	S-K4	29—PxP	S-Q2
13—Q-KR3	P-QB3	30—B-B4	KR-K
14—S-K3	Q-B2	31—BxP	SxP
15—P-KB4	S-S3	32—B-B4	Q-S
16—S-B5	QR-Q	33—R-Q5	S-S5
17—B-K3	P-Q4	34—QxS	Resigns

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R. J. B., Redding, Cal.—The American Chess Bulletin, a monthly publication, covers the field. Address H. Helms, 150 Nassau st., New York city. "Terms and Themes of Chess Problems is probably about the book you have in mind. Carried by American Chess company, same address.

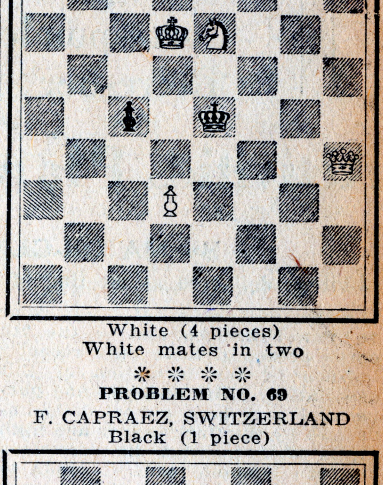
Problems

A. J. F.

PROBLEM NO. 68

H. WEENINK, HOLLAND

Black (2 pieces)



White (4 pieces)

White mates in two

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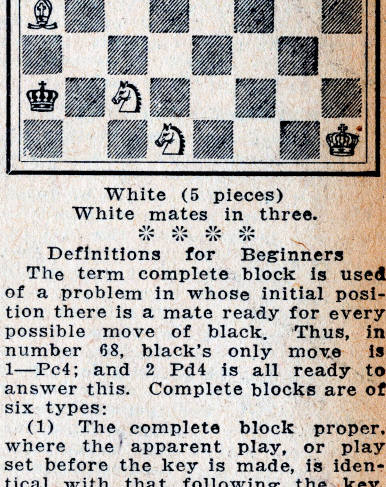
PROBLEM NO. 69

F. CAPRAEZ, SWITZERLAND

Black (1 piece)



White (5 pieces)

White mates in three.

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Definitions for Beginners

The term complete block is used of a problem in whose initial position there is a mate ready for every possible move of black. Thus, in number 68, black's only move is 1—Pc4; and 2 Pd4 is all ready to answer this. Complete blocks are of six types:

(1) The complete block proper, where the apparent play, or play set before the key is made, is identical with that following the key, known as the real play.

(2) The changed mate block, where the real play is different from the apparent play, but the number of variations is unchanged.

(3) The added mate block, where the real play contains a greater number of variations than the apparent play.

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Solutions: No. 66, R-Ksq, mate after P-B5, changing to B-Kt sq mate. No. 67, Kt-Q7, if KxKt then Kt-B8, if RxKt then K-Kt4, etc.

Solvers: S. L. Jackson, Dyerville; A. E. Bary, city; "Floy," Visalia; B. Chavalas, Oakland.

E. S. Van Camp, city, B-K7, defeated by P-R3, S. A. Winnegar, Mountain View; "D. E. F. E.," city; "A. J. H.," Palo Alto.