

C H E S S

By E. J. CLARKE

Address all communications to Chess Editor, San Francisco Chronicle

Mechanics' Institute to play Telegraphic match with Chicago.

Arrangements are being made for probably the largest match by telegraph since the contests for the Newnes trophy by cable came to an end. Through the generosity of McDonnell & Co., who have offered the use of their leased wire, negotiations are under way for a telegraphic match with the Chicago Chess Club, 2000 miles from San Francisco. While the match will not take place till the first holiday in the new year, probably Washington's birthday, the novelty of the undertaking justifies the early announcement. Details later.

The P-KB4 Attack in Ruy Lopez, etc. (Continued).

Last week some suggestions on the above move were printed from a letter to the chess editor from Edgar Norris of this city. Following is another installment, containing further suggestions and an outline of a possible "universally applicable system of defense" by Norris. It will be found interesting, whether or not the "system" is sound analytically. It has been suggested that a tourney be held at the Mechanics' Institute at the conclusion of the state championship tournament to test the P-KB4 counter attack in the Ruy Lopez.

GAMBIT ACCEPTED
1. P-K4, P-K4; 2. Kt-KB3, Kt-QB3; 3. B-Kt5, P-KB4; 4. PxP, P-K5; 5. Q-K2, Kt-KB3; 6. P-Q3 or Kt-QB3, then P-Q4, leading to a routine formation, Black always defending his KP while developing.

These positions were arrived at in an attempt to find the fewest variations with which Black could play a universally applicable system of defense, it being assumed that an opening is completed when both bishops have either moved or are free to move over the K's and Q's third squares.

In every instance except the Ruy Lopez this system leads at once to some variation already to be found in the books, though there they have no discoverable relation to each other, for they are widely scattered under the usual book classifications. So the system has to be extended to include the Ruy Lopez, or else discarded entirely as a chimera.

It is understood, of course, that the whole idea is intended only as a chess curiosity. It not only automatically eliminates the close Black defenses, but declines all gambits that seek a hasty concentration of White forces. Its initial plan in every case is to retain a fair share of control of the center of the board, which it must also concede to White, until all its forces are available for concentration upon some more effective plan, offensive or defensive.

Incidental and essential to this plan, it aims to avoid the two dangers of blocking his own forces with his own center pawns, and the early posting of his KB at QB4, to be harassed by white Q side pawns.

It is not to be expected that Black can prevent White from adopting an erratic style of play. In such cases, some side-stepping cannot be avoided. Black, then, will rely upon the principle that erratic play can cause nothing worse than a mutual weakness, and whoever starts it should have the greater difficulty retrieving his lost time.

As I wrote last week, the formula in every instance, except the Ruy Lopez, leads to some variation already recognized. Possibly White's third move in that opening verges close upon the erratic class. Whether sufficiently so to justify the side-stepping moves suggested, can perhaps only be determined by more complete analysis. The formula follows:

Black's first move is always PK4. Next his key move, until further notice, is P-Q4, it being understood that so long as there is no threat whatever against his orderly development, he gives precedence to his pieces, according to well-established rules. (The Falkbeer counter gambit, for example, is an instance under this formula where he plays P-Q4 at once as his second move.) But the moment White threatens to block Black's P-Q4, the key move becomes KB-B4, to be followed as soon as possible by any move of the QP.

(To be continued)

GAME No. 43

In the following game from the

recent international masters' tournament at The Hague, the Russian, Aljechin, outplays the Hungarian expert in the middle game. The partie is featured by a far-seeing combination by Aljechin, who gives up two pieces. But he recovers them, winning the exchange and emerging with a superior position:

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING (Zukertort)

Maroczy white	Aljechin black	Maroczy white	Aljechin black
1—Kt-KB3	P-Q4	18—R-R2	P-QR4
2—P-Q4	Kt-KB3	19—P-Kt5	Kt-R2
3—P-K3	P-B4	20—B-R	Kt-B
4—P-B4	P-K3	21—R-Q	Kt(B)Kt5
5—P-QB3	Kt-B3	22—Kt-Q2	QR-B
6—PxBP	BxP	23—B-B2	BxP
7—P-QKt4	B-Q3	24—BxKt	KtxB
8—B-Kt2	Castles	25—Q-Kt3	R-B8
9—QKt-Q2	Q-K2	26—QxKt	Q-Kt5
10—B-K2	R-Q	27—RxB	QxQ
11—Castles	P-K4	28—RxQ	RxBch
12—PxP	KtP	29—Kt-B	R-Kt8
13—Q-Kt	B-Kt5	30—RxP	R(Q)-Q8
14—P-Q3	P-KE3	31—RxP	R-Kt8
15—P-R3	BxKt	32—K-R2	RxBP
16—KtB	Kt-Kt5	33—B-Q4	P-QKt3
17—B-K4	Kt-R5	Resigns	

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Problems

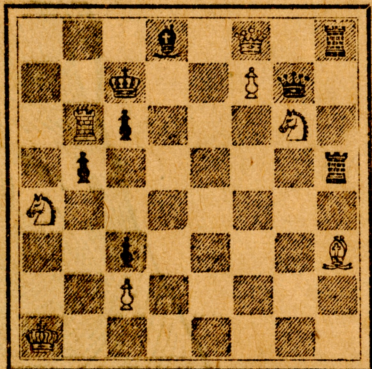
A. J. F.

PROBLEM No. 50

E. L. CHURCH, Ahwahnee, Cal.

(Composed for The Chronicle)

Black (8 pieces).



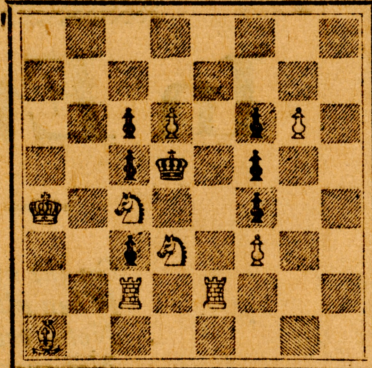
White (8 pieces.)

White mate in two moves

PROBLEM No. 51

G. GUIDELLI, Italy

Black (7 pieces).



White (9 pieces.)

White mates in two moves.

Solutions to No. 48 and 49: Q-KR5 and Kt-R2.

B. H., Richmond—RxQ in No. 43 answered by P-R8 queening.

B-QKt4 defeats Q-B3 in No. 46.

F. H. Mehlhorn, city.

E. S. Van Camp, city.

"Floy," Fresno—Not published and regarding Sam Loyd's book of problems address A. C. White, Litchfield, Conn.

Solutions received by:

J. E. Ford, city.

E. L., Santa Clara.

R. R. Reynolds, city.

R. T. Desmond, Colfax.

B. Chavalas, Oakland.

H. Hall, Merced, answered direct.

H. Howell, Natoma; S. Jackson, Dyerville; J. Fulton, Sacramento;

S. E. Silvius.