

# CHESS

(Address All Communications, Solutions, Etc., to CHESS EDITOR, SAN FRANCISCO CALL.)

In making our bow to the Pacific coast chess public, a brief foreword of our aims and ambitions may not be out of order. Chess has been quiescent on the coast for the last several years, one reason for which being the absence of a regular weekly column devoted to the various branches of the game. Therefore, the action of The Call management in adopting a chess column as a Sunday feature is a step which should be appreciated by all lovers of the royal game, not only in San Francisco, but also of the Pacific coast.

The design of this column shall be to boost the pastime in California by publishing games of merit played in the various clubs, by encouraging the formation of new chess circles and generally creating an added interest in chess matters.

A word as to the personnel of those who will have the fortunes of the column in their hands. The editor has a large acquaintance among the eastern chess sharps, and numbers Lasker, Napier and Marshall among his personal friends. He has a love for chess and an ambition to make The Call chess column a winner.

The Call chess players are to be especially congratulated on the collaboration of Mr. A. J. Fink, who will have charge of the problem department. Fink has a remarkable talent for problem composition, and already has inscribed his name high among the leading problem composers of the United States. He has an extensive acquaintance with the "poets" of the chess board, who will contribute original matter for his department. We plan to start a problem solving contest in a fortnight, with suitable prizes for the winning solvers.

About a year ago the chess fraternity of San Francisco welcomed to its circle a young Viennese enthusiast, whose forte is end game studies. Mr. Edward Kunz will be a frequent contributor to this popular branch of the game, and will discuss the various schools of end game composition, under the signature "E. K."

In conclusion, we ask the co-operation of all chess players in the west in making The Call column a success.

The following was played in the recent Western Collegiate Chess league tournament, composed of the universities of Michigan, Illinois and Chicago. The league was formed solely through the energy and perseverance of Elmer W. Gruer, who is taking a post graduate course at the latter university. Gruer is a Californian and a member of the Mechanics' Institute Chess club of San Francisco. Therefore, it is with much pleasure that we give this game the post of honor. Gruer's opponent was captain of the University of Michigan team:

### Game No. 1

#### EVANS GAMBIT DECLINED

White.	Black.
Goodehow.	Gruer.
1. P-K4	P-K4
2. Kt-KB3	Kt-QB3
3. B-B4	B-B4
4. P-QKt4	B-Kt3
5. P-B3	Kt-B3
6. P-Kt5	Kt-R4
7. Kt x P	Castles
8. P-Q3	P-Q3
9. Kt-B3	Kt x B
10. P x Kt	Kt x P(a)
11. Castles	B-Kt5
12. Q-Q3	B-K
13. Kt-Q4	B-KR4
14. B-K3	"-Kt3
15. Q-Q	B-K2
16. P-QR4	"-QR4
17. R-B2	Q-Q2
18. R-K2	QR-K
19. KR-K	Kt-B4(b)
20. Kt-B3	Kt-Q6
21. R-B	Kt-K4
22. R-Q2(c)	P-KB3
23. P-KB4	Kt-Kt5
24. B-B2	B-B2
25. K-R	"-B4
26. Kt-B2	B x P
27. R-K	B-Kt6
28. Q-B(d)	Kt x B ch
29. R x Kt	QB x Kt
30. Q-B2 ch	K-R
31. Resigns(e)	

#### NOTES

(a) Recovering the pawn with the superior position.

(b) A double threat—B x Kt or B-Q6—winning a pawn. White's game is already decidedly inferior.

(c) White is kept busy making harmless rook moves to avoid loss. Gruer handles the cavalier with much skill.

(d) This "loses a lost game" offhand. The agony could have been prolonged by 28 R x R.

(e) A smart little game on the part of the former University of California champion.

We have the Poet's word for it that "to gild refined gold, to paint the lily, to throw a perfume on the violet," etc., is ridiculous. However, in presenting the following game, played in Paris, December 30, 1912, one can not help but praise the skill of the world's champion and the wonderful precision of his play. Every move, one feels, is the right one. The game will be of special interest just now, with Capablanca bowling his opponents over one by one in the National Masters' tourney at New York, and looming up as an interrogation mark to the champion. This game seems to show that Lasker is still Lasker! (The score and annotations, abbreviated, are from Lasker's New York Evening Post column.)

### Game No. 2

#### RUY LOPEZ

White.	Black.
Janowski.	Lasker.
1. P-K4	P-K4
2. Kt-KB3	Kt-QB3
3. B-Kt5	P-QR3
4. B-R4	Kt-B3
5. Castles	Kt x P(a)
6. P-Q4	P-QKt4
7. B-Kt3	P-Q4
8. P x P	B-K3
9. P-B3	B-K2(b)
10. R-K	Castles
11. QKt-Q2	Kt-B4
12. B-B2	B-Kt5
13. Kt-Kt3	Kt-K3
14. Q-Q3	P-Kt3
15. B-R6	R-K
16. QR-Q	B-KB
17. B x B	B-B4
18. Q-Q2(c)	B x B
19. Q x B	R x B
20. Q-Q2	Kt-K2
21. KKt-Q4	Q-B
22. Q-K3(d)	P-QB3
23. R-Q3	K-Kt2(1)
24. Kt x Kt ch	P x Kt
25. Kt-B5	Kt-B4
26. Q-Kt5	R-R2(e)
27. R-B3(f)	QR-KE2
28. P-KR4	P-KR3(g)
29. Q-Kt4	K-R2
30. Q-R3	P-QR4
31. P-KKt4(h)	Kt-Kt2
32. KR-K3	Q-B2
33. R x R	Q x R
34. Kt-Q3	P-R4(i)
35. P-B3(j)	Q-B2
36. K-B2	P x P
37. Q x P(k)	Kt-B4
38. After a few more moves White resigned the hopeless game.	

#### NOTES

(a) This is the defense that has now become

the fashion. But P-Q3 is also an excellent move.

(b) Formerly the bishop was preferred at QB4, and this maneuver has by no means been proven unsound. But the development followed by black stands now under discussion, and it was therefore worth while to try it. The idea of the move is to guard the point KKt4 and to leave QB4 open for the Kt.

(c) Of course, not Q x P, on account of B x B. (Lasker's ingenuity in avoiding the loss of the QP must have slightly irritated the Parisian.)

(d) White prevents P-QB4, which would permit black to establish an excellent center.

(1) Forced. If P-QR4, Q-R6, P-QB4, R-R3 and wins.

(e) The forces are now balanced. The QR takes the KB file and exerts a strong pressure which is equivalent to that of the white Kt. The Kt on B 4 is also well placed.

(f) P-KKt4 would have been premature. Black would have replied with P-KR3.

(g) Black could not permit P-R5. White would then have exchanged the pawns and established his Kt in a formidable position on KB4.

(h) The black Kt is excellently placed, but to drive it away is risky, since the white pawns are weakened thereby. From no point of view could the move be considered as aggressive, for, if Kt-Kt2, R x R, R x R, P-R5, P-Kt4, Q-Q3cb, K-Kt, Q-Kt6, black would open a smashing counter attack by R-B5.

(i) This brings the Kt back into the game, because white can not keep the KtP on its post.

(j) A mistake, due to the eagerness of white to maintain his P on KKt4. But black would in any case have had the best of it.

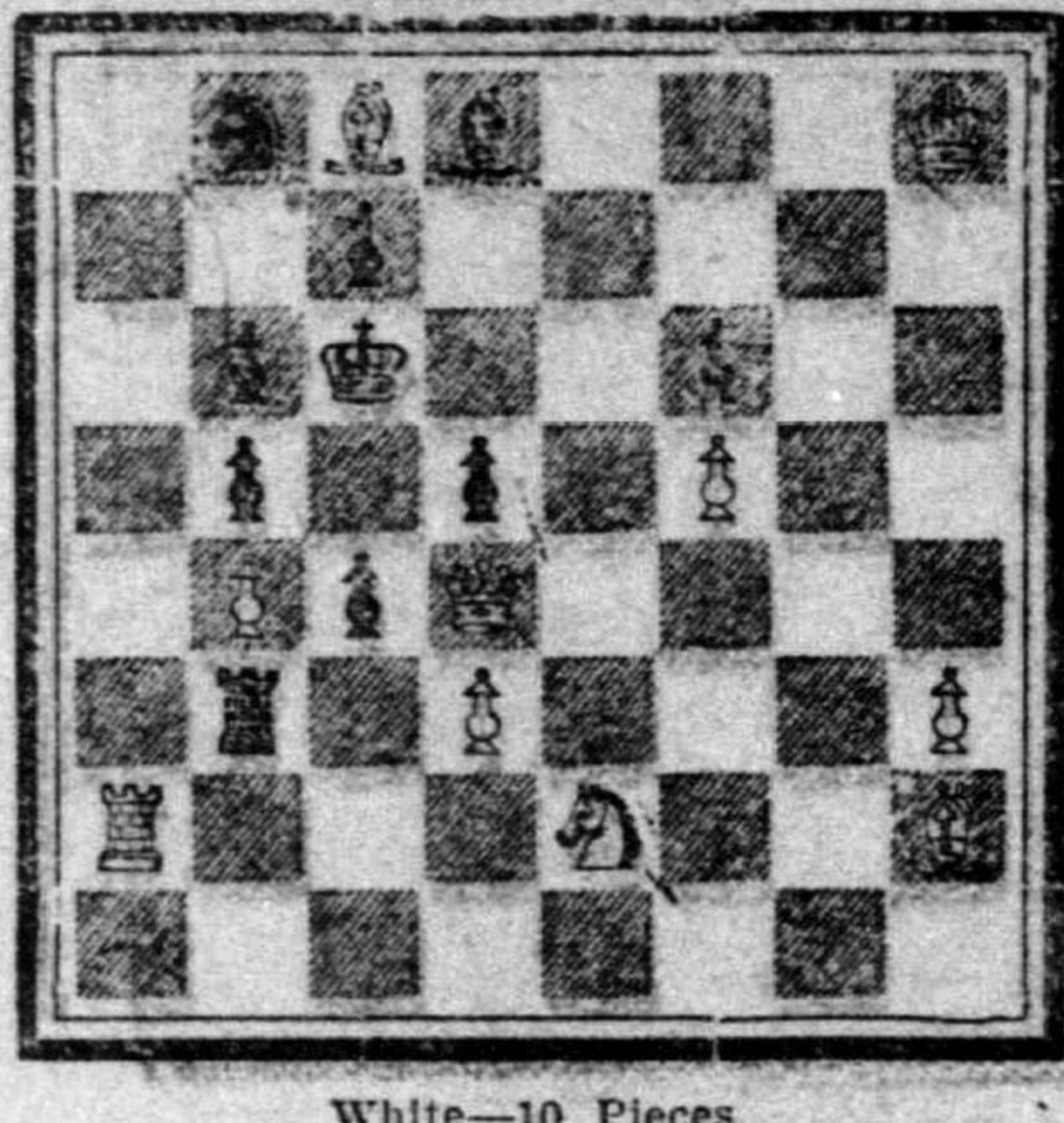
(k) The Q must now recapture, after all.

# PROBLEMS

CONDUCTED BY A. J. FINK

PROBLEM NO. 1. BY D. PRZEPIORKA.

Black—10 Pieces.

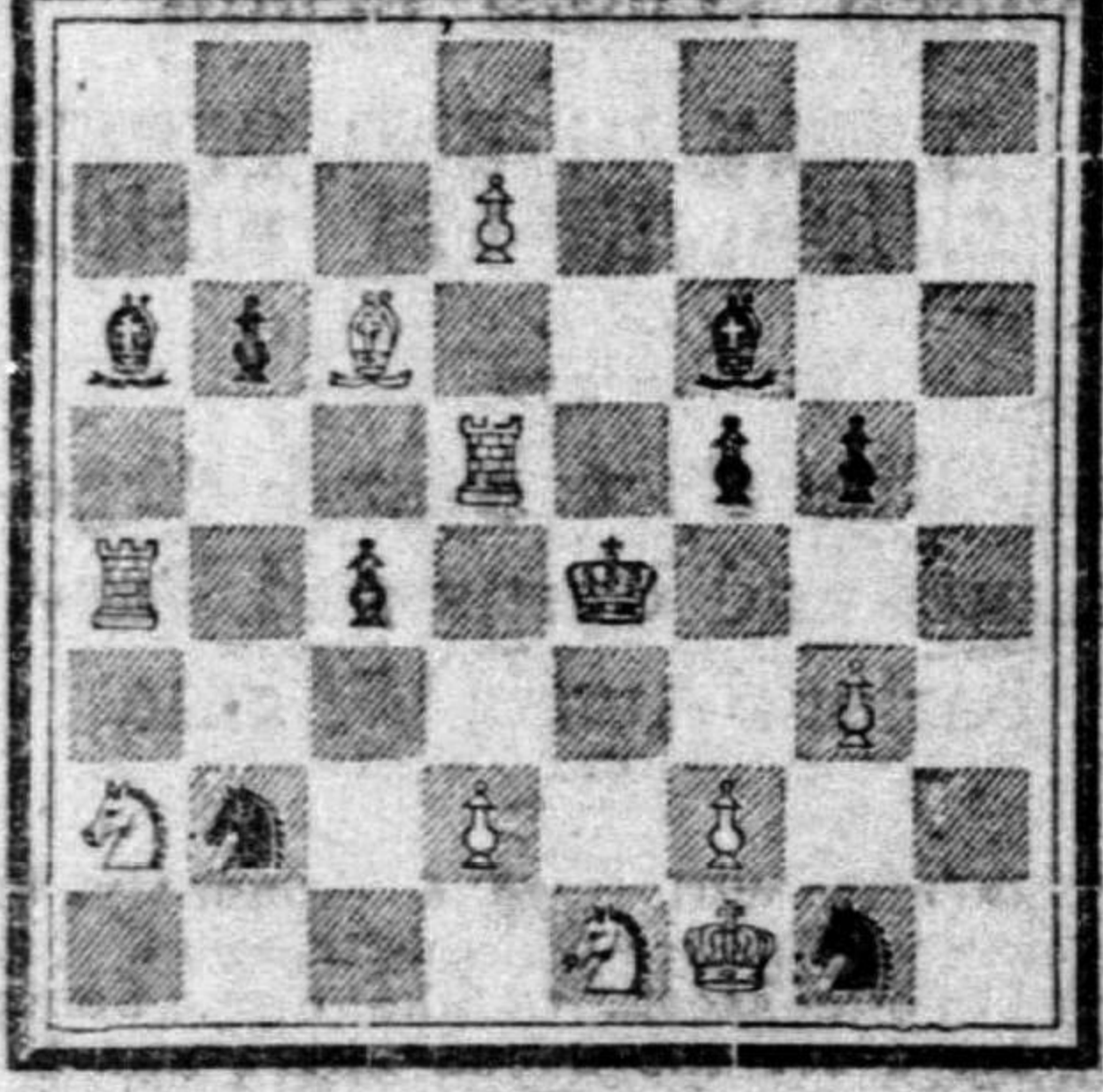


White—10 Pieces.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM NO. 2. BY A. J. FINK.

Black—9 Pieces.



White—9 Pieces.

White to play and mate in two moves.

Send in solutions and comments on problems. Correct solutions will be published two weeks from date of insertion.

## End Game Study

The following position was arrived at in the pending Masters' tourney at New York, in a game between Whitaker (white) and Capablanca (black):

White (8 pieces)—K at KR5; Q at KB4; R at K2; B at K5; Pawns at QR2, QB3, Q4, KKt5.

Black (7 pieces)—K at KR2; Q at KKt8; R at KKt3; B at K3; Pawns at QR2, KKt2, KR6. Capablanca's last move was Q from Q8 to KKt8 (the white Q then standing on Q2). White replied, as per position indicated, Q-B4. At this stage Capablanca sealed his move, and eventually won. The opinion of the New York experts was that Whitaker had slightly the best of it at adjournment. Problem: How did Capablanca win?

## News Items

Portland, Oregon, has a flourishing chess and checkers club. In the championship tourney, now nearing completion, A. G. Johnson, who conducts a chess column in the Sunday Oregon Journal, has a big lead and is the probable winner.

An election of officers for the chess club of the Mechanics' institute, 57 Post street, will be held in the near future, after which the 1913 annual chess championship tourney is scheduled to begin.

Elmer W. Gruer won his first game in the pending championship tournament of the Chicago Chess club in splendid style from W. G. Kent, who was a visitor at the local clubs last year. Gruer played black in an Evans Gambit Declined.