

Our Chess Corner

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

That Abraham Lincoln, the one hundred and fourth anniversary of whose birth was observed last Wednesday, was a great lover of the royal game will be of interest to followers of chess everywhere. While reading Herndon's splendid "Life," I stumbled upon a sentence, apparently thrown in "en passant," that the effect that Lincoln and a legal friend (a judge, I believe) frequently played chess. I thought this clew worth following up, as it was news to me that this great hearted man be- longed to our fraternity. With the co- operation of the president of the Me- chanics Institute Chess club of the city, I wrote to Robert T. Lincoln, the surviving son of the great war pres- ident, hoping that some chancery game played by Lincoln may have been preserved. But the hope was short lived, as the following interesting letter to the writer will show:

"Hilene," Manchester, Vt., October 9, 1912. My Dear Sir: It is my pleasure to answer the inquiries about my father's chess playing, so far as I know. I do not recall anything about his taking up the game, but I think it was within a few years of the year 1850. He was then in the habit of playing with John G. Nicolay, then assistant to the secretary of state in Springfield, and afterward his own private secretary in Washington. A few years before he left home my father gave me instruction in the game and I often played with him, receiving odds from him, of course. I do not think that he played in Washington.

There is no probability of any record of his playing, for such a thing would have been made public long ago. I do not think that there is any one living that could tell you more than I have done about the subject. Very truly yours, ROBERT T. LINCOLN.

There still was the remote possibility that a game between Lincoln and Nicolay had been scored and preserved among the latter's papers. Unfortunately, no such record remains. Miss Helen Nicolay, the noted author, daughter of the late John G. Nicolay, in answer to a query on the subject replied:

Washington, D. C., Nov. 1, 1912. I regret that I can not shed any light upon the subject of Mr. Lincoln's chess playing. I do not recall ever hearing my father speak of it, nor do I know of any one in Springfield who could give you the information you desire. Very truly yours, HELEN NICOLAY.

Since making the above inquiries a very amusing tale in connection with Lincoln and chess came to notice. According to the story, Lincoln's son, Tad, was sent to his father's law office one day to summon him home. He crossed in a game. Tad was sent back with the message: "In just a minute." This was repeated twice, and on the third trip the lad thought that the "minute" was about up, for on receiving the same reply he suddenly scattered the pieces broadcast and sent the board flying with a well directed kick. The older man, who had his opponent was very angry. But the never failing humor of the former rail splitter asserted itself. Reaching for his hat, he remarked in his peculiar droll manner: "Come on, Tad; I guess it's time to go home." This story is certainly good enough to be true; and, for all I know, it may be. But such a remarkably audacious stroke on the part of "Tad" would certainly have been known to Robert T. Lincoln, and no doubt he would have mentioned it. What wonder, then, that there is a record of his playing in Mr. T. Lincoln's observations? I do not think that he played in Washington. Four years of strife and conflict, the burden of a civil war, his wondrous, left no time for even a brief respite at chess.

Some curious results in the recent national chess masters' tournament at New York were: (1) Marshall repeated his Cambridge Springs 1907 record in New York, 1911, performances, and went through the 13 rounds without the loss of a game, winning and drawing, respectively, in the twelfth and thirteenth sessions; (2) Jaffe, the conqueror of Capablanca in their individual encounter, was defeated by Zapiolow, the tall elder, who lost two games, but drew with Rubenstein and Marshall; Queer, sent it.

The chess stage has shifted to Havana, Cuba, where the double round tournament began yesterday. Eight experts are competing—Capablanca, Marshall, Chajes, Jaffe and Kupchik, all from the United States; Janowski, the French champion, and two Cuban players, Juan Corzo and Rafael Blanco, who will endeavor to uphold the chess honor of the "Pearl of the Antilles." Prizes to the victor will be distributed among the winners.

The following oddity was played recently at the Chicago Chess Club. Through the kindness of Elmer W. Bauer, we are able to present this remarkable game, which, because of its unusual position of black's knights and bishops, makes it more of a study in geometry than chess.

Queen's Counter Gambit. White—Dodge. Black—Houghteling. 1. P-Q4. 2. P-QB4. 3. P-N3. 4. Q-P3. 5. K1-QB3. 6. Q-Q. 7. Q-Q4. 8. Q-Q4. 9. P-Q4. 10. P-Q4. 11. P-Q4. 12. R-Q4. 13. R-Q4. 14. R-Q4. 15. R-Q4. 16. R-Q4.

Following is a further selection of games from the recent New York tournament: Game No. 5. QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING. White: Capablanca. Black: Kline. 1. P-Q4. 2. K1-K3. 3. P-Q3. 4. P-B4. 5. Q-Q2. 6. P-Q3. 7. P-Q3. 8. P-Q3. 9. P-Q3. 10. P-Q3. 11. P-Q3. 12. P-Q3. 13. P-Q3. 14. P-Q3. 15. P-Q3. 16. P-Q3.

BASEBALL AT WOODLAND (Special Dispatch to The Call) WOODLAND, Feb. 15.—Every effort is being made here to organize a winning team for the 75th league, which will comprise Woodland, Marysville, Groutville, Chico and the Brock Brothers of Sacramento. Billy Adams, former captain of the California varsity, and Tracy Hog, of State League fame are among the players for the locals.

GREY SWIMMING MEET UNDERWAY

All Coast Championships Certain to Be Biggest Affair Ever Seen Here

The greatest swimming meet ever attempted in any section of the coast is a probability for this city July 4, when the champions of every corner of the Pacific coast and the Hawaiian Islands—men and women—will be invited to participate in a coast swimming championship series at the Sutro baths.

Mrs. Dr. Emma S. Merritt, executrix of the Sutro estate, is an ardent enthusiast of the art of swimming as a healthful, invigorating form of exercise, and she has indorsed the plan that has been proposed. Furthermore, Mrs. Merritt intends to have the meet one that will be second to none in point of importance in any part of the country.

THE PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF AMERICA will be asked to handle the meet and also to appoint competent officials. Proper sanctions will be secured from the local association; the Northwestern association in Portland; the Southern association in Los Angeles; and the Hawaiian association to give the meet the proper coast championship stamp.

Wallace L. Robb, president of the Southern California Swimming association, will be invited to bring the following team of southern champions to the meet: Ludy Langor, coast half mile champion and record holder; Arthur Bowers, southern 100 yard quarter mile and coast diving champion; Dolly Mins, southern girl champion, and Leone Richmond, another high class southern girl swimmer.

The best prizes ever offered to swimmers will be up for competition. Medals of high class will be given the winners and trophies will be put up in many of the events. The program will be the regulation one for the men swimmers and suitable events have been arranged for women. The men will compete in the 50 yards, 100 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards, 880 yards and it is possible that a mile race will also be on the program.

The girls will have plenty of opportunity to do their best. For those girls interested in sprints there will be a 50 yard dash and for the distance girls a quarter mile race. High and fancy diving is also invited by both men and women. There will be high diving from the highest point in Sutro baths, as well as fancy springboard diving.

With The Basket Ballers. Star of the Sea school won the unlimited basket ball championship of the Catholic Schools Athletic league yesterday on a tie with St. Joseph's academy team by a score of 21 to 10.

The Star of the Sea team was crippled by the absence of Captain Conlon, and this necessitated much change in the lineup. Positions were switched, and this condition was not a good team work.

Kerwin was the bright light of the winning outfit, and was responsible for 11 points, while Espy was the best of losers had to offer. The teams were:

Star of the Sea—Kerwin, J. Conway, Negro, R. Conway, Byrne, St. Joseph's academy—Espy, Ziero, Sousa, Barragar, Turnbull.

Summary—Star of the Sea: 21 points from 10 field goals and 1 foul goal; Kerwin, 11 points; Espy, 1 foul goal; by R. Conway, 2 field goals; by Negro, 1 field goal.

The 110 pound game for the championship of this weight, which was to have been played between the teams of St. Joseph's academy and the St. Peter's players were ill and unable to play. The game was postponed.

Three games were played in the opening tournament of the San Francisco Boys' Athletic league yesterday afternoon. On the first night the grounds court of the Telegraph Hill club defeated the People's Place, 42 to 10.

On the Jackson park court the San Francisco Settlement team outclassed the Mission Cathedral and won, 77 to 5. The third game played was between the Columbia Park boys' club and the Nurses' Settlement club, the Columbia Park lads winning, 21 to 1.

PALO ALTO, Feb. 15.—The Company L basket ball team defeated the Company M five of San Jose in a fast and closely contested game at the Garden City armory last night by a score of 27 to 11.

SANTA CRUZ, Feb. 15.—By defeating the Coast Counties Electric Light and Power company team by the close score of 21 to 19, the high school basket ball five practically clinched the City league championship tonight.

VALLEJO, Feb. 15.—Tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 the St. Vincent convent sodality basket ball five will meet the St. Helena aggregation at the Florida street court.

MOSCOW, Idaho, Feb. 15.—The basket ball game last night between the varsity teams of the University of Oregon and the University of Idaho was won by Idaho, 16 to 11.

VALLEJO, Feb. 15.—The All-Vallejo basket ball five of this city was defeated in Petaluma last night by the Spartans of that city by a score of 44 to 19. The locals were outclassed by the cagwton team.

Athlete Balks When Featured as Venus

(Special Dispatch to The Call) CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 15.—Richard G. Gibson of Brookline, a Harvard sophomore, and a member of the varsity football squad, is on the warpath because some admiring friend has entered his name for a "Venus" contest in a Boston newspaper. Gibson's mailbox in Holyoke hall today was filled with letters directed to "Miss R. Gibson."

They were "mash" notes and all came from men. The measurements himself by Gibson had taken and himself by Doctor Sargent when he became a varsity football player were used by Gibson's unknown friend.

CHANGES MADE IN FOOTBALL RULES

Ineligible Players Must Suffer Penalties for Touching Forward Pass

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Only a few minor changes in the rules were announced here today by the American intercollegiate football rules committee, which adjourned after a two days' session. Hereafter a man taken out of a game may be returned at the beginning of a subsequent period or any time during the fourth period.

In the penalty for a forward pass touched by an ineligible player the word "may" is substituted for "shall." In case of accidents to players one representative of the players may, after obtaining consent of the referee or umpire, take the injured player to the field to attend the injured player.

It was decided that on failure of one side or the other to return in time for intermission the referee or umpire should put the ball in play, taking the side opposite to the one occupied at the close of the last quarter.

The following board was appointed: Dr. James A. Babbitt of Haverford, Crawford Blagden of Harvard, Parke H. Davis of Princeton, W. L. Dudley of Vanderbilt, Dr. C. W. Savage of Yale, E. K. Hall of Dartmouth and Walter Camp of Yale.

FINE SHOOTING EXPECTED AT SHELL MOUND TODAY

Four of Best Shots Around Bay Will Line Up This Afternoon

Continued from Page 43. captured third prize in the special bulletsey match with a score of 54. F. A. McLaughlin won the latter event with a shot which came within 29-100 of an inch of the dead center. The scores follow:

Shell Mound Pistol and Rifle club, regular bulletsey 100 yds. N. Nielsen 14, L. S. Hawhurst 15, J. Bauman 24, C. M. Kraul 25, C. W. Seely 26, C. W. Whaley 30, W. L. Purman 34, R. O. Kingdon 35, L. Delavergne 42.

Special bulletsey shoot—A. McLaughlin 29, Frank Foster 34, L. S. Hawhurst 37, K. O. Kingdon 57, W. A. Siebe 108, J. Bauman 141, Nielsen 145, M. Nielsen 175, A. Thompson 177, C. M. Kraul 192.

The indoor rifle tournament of the Shell Mound club last week proved such a success that it will be made an annual event. The local marksmen showed a lot of skill with the .22 caliber weapon, and with a little more practice will be able to hold their own in the open range.

An interesting match will be shot at Shell Mound this afternoon, when four of the best rifle shots around the bay will line up. K. O. Kingdon, E. Scherbaum will tackle Willie Siebe and Herman Engle. The conditions call for 100 shots at a 200 yard range, using the German 25 ring target. A champion dinner is at stake.

The Nationals will be the only regular organization to practice at the Shell Mound range today.

Stanford Athletes Warm Up on Cinder Path

(Special Dispatch to The Call) STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Feb. 15.—Varsity cinder path stars were seen in action on the oval as a whole for the first time this morning. The quarter mile sprinters were given work-out with the sprinters in the 150 yard dash. The two mile run was the only full distance covered. Dodge, varsity sprinter, was the winner.

The performances of the sprinters in the 150 yard dash were excellent. Captain Campbell tore off his heat in the unusually fast time of 15 seconds. Glen Hamman, a freshman from San Francisco, showed up well in the shortened half, as did Murray and Bonnet, varsity veterans.

A veteran, made his first appearance and took second in both broad and high jumps. Dawson in the broad and Finney in the high jumps improved their marks. Drake, a freshman from Santa Rosa, took the hammer throw with a toss of 133 feet 4 inches.

Owing to the fact that this meet is scheduled to take place on the Saturday following the California-Stanford meet, it will be impossible for the blue and gold team to accept.

In order that the track may be placed in condition as soon as possible, the entire track squad held a "labor day" today. Each of the 300 men training for track spent at least one hour in work under the direction of Coach Christie.

NEW AID FOR UMPIRE'S EYE CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—President Ben Johnson of the American league announced his intention today of investigating a device at Medford, Mass., man, who claims that by its use umpires can make no mistake on their decisions.

PHILIPPE IN THE GENIE

Hugh Fullerton Analyzes Connie Mack's Brigade for Benefit of The Call Readers

Continued from Page 41. season, but not to me. I did not expect him to flash as brilliantly as an outfielder in a regular job as he did when called in a pinch. He is one of the fastest men in baseball—the rival of Cobb and so close to Henriksen that a split second watch has a hard time separating them. He hit 289, which ought not to be disappointing except that wonders were expected. He stole 29 bases, which proves he has some judgment back of his great speed. I believe Strunk will show great improvement during the coming season.

Lapp was the strength of the catching department. He is improving each season, and still is good. He hit 292 last season and is a normal 300 hitter. His catching improved, while Ira Thomas slumped badly, both back of the bat and in hitting. It seemed just an off year for him rather than any specific trouble. Things did not break right, and a couple of injuries hampered his work. Egan did not show strength enough to help out the catching staff.

The pitching was what hurt. Plank had another of his good years, and for a fellow who goes along year after year winning more than 600 games he went too well. I do not figure him to win such a large percentage this season. Morgan exploded and went back, and Jack Combs with 21 victories and 10 beatings, was about normal. Bender did not behave well. He won 17 and lost 10 games, but in his four starts he had pitched more games and won a larger percentage.

Mack got Bender back on to the reservation before the end of the season and had him in form. I think the Indians will come again this season and win two out of three games, and I am figuring him to pitch 32 games at least and help out in others. Mack will let him pitch for a while longer.

Houck did only fairly well, winning eight and losing eight, but he improved steadily, and at the close and in the postseason games he was showing a lot more and there being to become a first rater. C. Brown is only average or a bit above it. Evidently Mack thinks he has enough in the catching line, for he is not making extra strenuous efforts to land pitchers.

In fact, Mack appears satisfied with everything except shortstop and the catching department. He landed Schang, who is touted as the best minor league catcher of years, from Buffalo after a hot fight for the services of this fellow. He hit 334 for Buffalo and I am told he is steady and clever a catcher as has been turned out of the international.

Now, outside of Schang, it doesn't look as if Mack has added much. He still has some sort of a claim to Sammon, the big pitcher, but probably will not want him, and he has some string to Walsh and Murphy from Baltimore. He took Brady, a high hitting, fast and clever second baseman from Toledo, but probably without intention of using him. Orr, drafted from Sacramento, is a 254 hitter, who stole 20 bases, is touted as a coming shortstop, but I am informed by one coast league manager that he hasn't a chance to last.

Flick, the infielder from New Haven, only hits 240 in the minors, but is as fast as light on ground balls. Mathes, from Butte, is fast and touted as a wonder in the west, but he ranked next to last both as second baseman and as shortstop; hit 290 and stole 33 bases. Bush, from Missoula, I'm told, is only a fair minor league pitcher, and Crab from Danport, was only a fair pitcher out there and overshadowed by Hendrix, his teammate. He looked better in the trout last fall than he did in minor company.

Sullivan Puts Ban on Forest Smithson

Chairman George James of the local registration committee received a telegram yesterday from Chairman James E. Sullivan of the national registration committee saying that the local committee would not register Forest Smithson until the suspension has been lifted by the Los Angeles branch of the association.

The reason advanced by Sullivan is that the callings of one branch of the association should be sustained by all others. Smithson should have appealed his suspension at the time to the national registration committee, but he claims that he had nothing official on which to appeal his case, as to this day he has not been notified that he was suspended.

Local officials consider that the southern association did not act up to the A. A. U. laws in suspending Smithson. George James of the local association says that as far as he is concerned the case is closed, but that if Smithson appeals to the A. A. U. in New York there is considerable merit in his case.

The way the A. A. U. would have to take cognizance. It is held by local officials that the southern authorities went beyond the scope of the laws in suspending Smithson under the rules that they invoked.

Full White Sox Schedule Announced

(Special Dispatch to The Call) CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—The itinerary of the Chicago White Sox was made public in detail today.

First team—February 24 to March 5, in Paso Robles; March 6, Oakland; March 7 and 8, San Francisco; March 9, morning Oakland afternoon San Francisco; March 10, St. Ignace university, Sacramento; March 11, St. Ignace university, San Francisco; March 12, Santa Clara university, Sacramento; March 13, at Oakland; March 14, at Los Angeles; March 15, Venice at Venice; March 17, 28, 29 and 30, Venice; at Los Angeles; March 31, Yuma, Ariz.; April 1, Fresno; April 2, Anaheim, Tex.; April 3 and 4, Oklahoma City, Okla.; April 5, 6, 7, 8, St. Paul, Minn.; April 9, Salt Lake City; April 10, Denver, Colo.; April 11, Ottumwa, Ia.; April 12, Davenport, Ia.

Second team—March 2, 3, 4, 5, at St. Louis; March 13, 14, 15, 16, at Los Angeles; March 17, Sacramento; March 18, 19, Sacramento; March 20, at Oakland; March 21, 22, at San Francisco; March 23, morning at Oakland, afternoon at San Francisco; March 24, at Oakland; March 25, at San Francisco; March 26, morning at Oakland, afternoon at San Francisco; April 1, Ogden, Utah; April 2, Salt Lake City; Utah; April 3, Grand Junction, Colo.; April 5, April 6, Denver, Ia.; April 7, Ottumwa, Ia.

ANOTHER POULTRY SHOW (Special Dispatch to The Call) SAN MATEO, Feb. 15.—The success of the recent chicken show in this city has encouraged the managers of the San Mateo County Poultry association to plan for a fair and exhibition in December. The exact date will be December 4 to 7, inclusive.

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