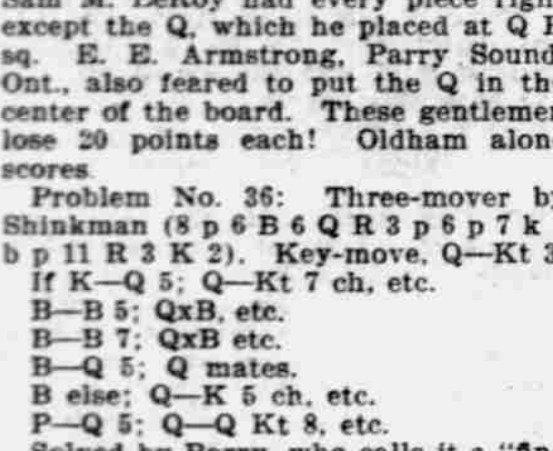


CHESS

Chess Editor acknowledges interesting communications from Dr. W. R. Dalton, H. W. Barry, Sam M. LeRoy, Dr. Thos. F. Leach, P. C. Mulker, F. Gamage, C. A. Rosseter, G. R. Jacoubus, R. Myerson and H. S. Vero. Dr. O. L. Telling, C. H. Akerley and a number of others. Dr. Dalton and Mr. Barry send some original problems for our solvers to wrestle with.

Problem No. 29. Composed for The Independent by H. W. Barry, Boston. White mates in three moves. Three points for each different second move by white.

BLACK



WHITE

SOLUTIONS AND SOLVERS. Synthetic No. 14: The original position, by G. J. Slater, is 11 S 5 s 1 P 2 p 5 K 1 B 3 k 5 R 5 Q 12 b B 1; white mates in two by R-Q 3. Error in issue of November 22 corrected December 29. Solved by H. W. Barry, Boston, who says: "Place the white rook on Q Kt 3, after which the white pawn (no longer needed to stop Q-K 6 ch) can occupy Q R 3, 6, 7; Q Kt 5, 6, 7; K R 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; total positions, 25. C. R. Oldham overlooked the B at Q B 3 or Q R 3 and pawn position at K Kt 7, and gets credit for 22 positions."

Game completed in Mississippi-Neb. match. (Ruy Lopez.) White, Dr. G. N. Seeley, Kearney, vs. black, Rev. De B. Waddell, Meridian.

Problem No. 35: An elegant little three-mover by F. M. Teed, Key, R-Kt 8.

Problem No. 36: Three-mover by Shinkman (8 p 6 B 6 Q R 3 p 6 p 7 k 1 b p 11 R 3 K 2). Key-move, Q-Kt 3. If K-Q 5; Q-Kt 7 ch, etc. B-B 5; QxB etc.

Problem No. 37: H. W. Barry places the Q at Kt 3 with some minor changes; as it cannot be "cooked" (but has a bad key-move) we credit him two points.

H. W. Barry also solved No. 34 (Dalton) and says, "I like the masterly setting of this unique idea." Also synthetic 13, seven points.

Old score. To Dec. 6. Totl. C. R. Oldham.....92

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ties to remit as soon as possible after the first of each month their collections of state taxes during the month preceding; and the remaining smaller counties were given sixty or ninety days depending on remittances.

POPULIST STATE TREASURER. An Administration Showing the Highest Business Ability and Absolute Honesty.

Last fall the people of Nebraska by a small majority decided that state officers of republican politics should serve them during the next two years. Just what causes contributed toward making this change of state administration we shall not now discuss.

Under the law county treasurers are required to remit to the state treasurer all moneys belonging to the state twice a year, and at such other times as the state treasurer may require.

Upon assuming the duties of his office in January, 1897, Treasurer Meserve found the condition of the four trust funds as follows:

Securities.....\$3,352,251.25 Cash balance available.....153,809.12 Cash embezzled.....335,878.08

These same funds, after four years' handling by a populist treasurer, will be turned over to his successor as follows:

Securities.....\$4,474,501.44 Cash balances.....91,639.48

It will be noted that the total funds have increased \$724,202.46, the securities \$1,122,250.19; while the uninvested cash has been decreased \$398,047.73. It is needless to say that the people ought to applaud such good work.

Very few persons doubtless remember the times under republican state administration when state general fund warrants were "a drug on the market," when they went begging for purchasers at discounts ranging from 3 to 7 per cent, although they bore interest after registration at the rate of 5 per cent.

Today 4 per cent general fund state warrants command a premium of 1 per cent, and the bankers and brokers are doing the begging to get them.

Chief Justice Norval appeared and the senators were sworn in. The rules of the former session were adopted. The list of employees agreed upon in the republican caucus were presented and adopted without discussion, the fusionists not delaying matters by presenting any names.

Secretary of State Porter was requested to swear in the new employees, which he did. The following is the list of the new officers of the senate:

Senator C. F. Steele, president pro tem. J. C. F. McKesson of Lancaster, secretary.

A. R. Kelm of Falls City, first assistant secretary. Rev. A. A. Cressman of Crete, chaplain.

Clark Robinson of Fairmont, sergeant-at-arms. J. W. Armstrong of Nebraska county, and Gull of Saffoy, nominated John C. Sprecher, for speaker.

At 12 o'clock sharp, Secretary of State Porter rapped for order in the house and cited his authority from the constitution for calling the body to order.

Rev. Dr. George W. Martin of Palmyra offered prayer. Theodore Mann, clerk to the secretary of state, acted as clerk and called the roll of members.

Only one member, Boule, of Saunders, was not present. Laflin of Gage placed in nomination for temporary speaker J. W. Armstrong of Nebraska county, and Gull of Saffoy, nominated John C. Sprecher, for speaker.

The roll called resulted: Sprecher, 46; Armstrong, 53. A committee on credentials was appointed. John Wall was elected chief clerk without opposition.

The old rules were adopted and as the names of the members were called they deposited their credentials. A recess of ten minutes and then the committee on credentials reported the names as prepared by Secretary Porter.

Chief Justice Norval administered the oath. Laflin of Gage moved to proceed to a permanent organization and the motion carried. McCarthy of Dixon nominated W. G. Sears of Burr for speaker and Uhl of Douglas seconded. Taylor of Custer nominated D. W. Hamilton of Butler, and Zimmerman seconded.

The vote resulted Sears 63, Hamilton 46. On motion of Hamilton the election was made unanimous.

The following permanent officers of the house were then elected: Chief clerk, John Wall, Arcadia. First assistant, A. D. Gilmore, Auburn.

Second assistant, C. H. Bernard, Table Rock. Third assistant, C. E. Sandall, York. Fourth assistant, H. S. Wetherell, Alma.

Sergeant-at-arms, A. Wilsey, Frontier county. Chaplain, J. H. Presson, Milford. Doorkeeper, F. L. Miller. Postmaster, E. D. Preston, Hamilton county.

The house then adjourned until 10 a. m., January 2.

of 1 per cent, and the bankers and brokers are doing the begging to get them. Neither Cleveland panics nor McKinley prosperity will account for the difference; but this will: Under republican management, the permanent educational funds were not invested in state warrants; under fusion government they were.

The plan means an increase of from four to five times as many items of bookkeeping and a thousand dollar receipt is as hard to write and post, etc., as one for ten thousand dollars. But Meserve was a populist and did not look upon office-holding as a "snap."

And it also meant that the state taxes could be applied to their intended uses more promptly. Seventy thousand dollars is a very conservative estimate of the saving in interest on registered general fund warrants during the past four years, the direct result of Treasurer Meserve's good business methods.

The legislature of 1899, acting upon his recommendation, reduced the interest on state warrants from 5 to 4 per cent; and this saved another thirty thousand dollars during his last term. The Independent has no desire to deprive the legislature of any just credit in this matter; but it is safe to say that if Mr. Meserve had not made the recommendation, and watched the bill at every step, no such reduction would have been made.

In his present biennial report he recommends a further reduction to 3 per cent. Let us see if Mr. Steuffer will succeed in having the reduction made.

In many respects the crowning feature of Mr. Meserve's administration of the permanent educational funds invested in interest-bearing securities during the four years of his incumbency he has purchased \$2,308,189.89 in county bonds and warrants.

During the four years preceding, under a republican treasurer, the total investments were \$949,687.93, or \$1,358,501.96 less than under Treasurer Meserve.

INVESTMENTS MADE. By Treasurer Meserve.....\$2,308,189.89 By Treasurer Bartley.....949,687.93

Increase.....\$1,358,501.96 Upon assuming the duties of his office in January, 1897, Treasurer Meserve found the condition of the four trust funds as follows:

Securities.....\$3,352,251.25 Cash balance available.....153,809.12 Cash embezzled.....335,878.08

Total.....\$3,841,998.48 These same funds, after four years' handling by a populist treasurer, will be turned over to his successor as follows:

Securities.....\$4,474,501.44 Cash balances.....91,639.48

Total.....\$4,566,140.92 It will be noted that the total funds have increased \$724,202.46, the securities \$1,122,250.19; while the uninvested cash has been decreased \$398,047.73. It is needless to say that the people ought to applaud such good work.

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