

Chronicle's Chess Expert In Belgium

By **GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI**

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—We landed in Le Havre Saturday morning. Awake since 3 a. m., we took the boat train direct to Paris and, at arrival at Gare St. Lazard, scooted to the Gare du Nord to get our connection for Brussels. Arrived in Brussels at 7:05 p. m. and was met at the station by the Belgian Chess Federation, with press photographers and all that. On to the Club Royale des Echecs du Bruxelles for the exhibition that was planned for that evening—and I felt bad when I learned that it would be a blindfold show on eight boards—I preferred to go to bed. With a tired feeling, we sat down to our impossible task, this after having to listen for a half hour to speeches of welcome and who knows what. Well, once a chess player always a chess player. On board one I played a rather cute game, which should interest our chess fans:

White: G. K. Black: R. Hospel.

Philidor defense: 1.P-K4,P-K4; 2.N-KB3,P-Q3; 3.P-Q4,N-Q2; 4.B-QB4,P-KR3. (Hey, what's this? I asked my self. Something new in the Philidor? Impossible. Let's see how we can beat this move.) 5.PxP,PxP; 6.BxPch! (Atta boy!) KxB; 7.NxPch, K-B3 (forced); 8.Q-Q5,N-K2; 9.Q-B7ch!,KxN; 10.B-B4ch,K-Q5 (if 10 . . . KxP; 11.N-Q2ch,K-Q5; 12.Q-B4 mate. Having the king on the middle of the board that early in the game made me want to announce a mate, but the more I looked the less I could see it. I knew it was won . . . If only I wasn't so tired . . . Then I saw something.) 11.N-QR3 (threatens mate in one) 11 . . . P-QN4; 12.Q-K6!! (the killer—now B-K3 with mate is the threat, so he played . . .) 12 . . . K-B4 (whereupon I immediately announced mate in three, namely:) 13.B-K3ch,K-N5; 14.Q-N3ch,K-R4; 15.QxNP mate.

This victory kind of compensated for the whole effort. I won four, drew three and lost one in 3½ hours of play. I tired immensely toward the end.

During the exhibition I had a pleasant surprise—my captain of the Belgian Army, under whom I served as a private (militaire oblige) in 1924, spending most of my time in Occupied Germany, Ruhrort to be exact, peeling potatoes, had come down to the show to pay his respects. Oh, what a glorious feeling—although a bit late—30 years to be exact.

Next day I was the honored guest of the Belgian Chess Federation—and learned that they, too, have their pet quarrels, but have over 50,000 francs in the bank (over a thousand dollars). I met International Master O'Kelly, just back from the tournament in Bucharest.

Tonight I play a blindfold exhibition at the Cercle des Echecs d'Anvers, my first alma mater. It is with an odd feeling that I am wandering around in this city of my birth. Life in Belgium is about one and a half times as expensive as in the United States. Very few things are cheaper.

The people do not seem to have suffered too much from the last war and, as a whole, look well dressed and fed.

Tomorrow I meet the San Francisco team in Luxemburg, where we will play our first official match.

PROBLEM BY I. A. HOROWITZ of New York: White—King KN1; Queen on KB6; Bishop Q1; Knights on QR8 and Q6; Pawns on QB3 and KR6. Black—King on QR4; Bishop on KR8; Pawns on QR2,QR3; QN7,Q7,KN6,KN7,KR2 and KR6. White to play and force Black to mate him in three moves! If Black can be forced to play P-R7ch it would be mate. The solution runs as follows: 1.Q-B7,P-N8-Q; 2.Q-Q5ch,Q-N4; 3.Q-QB5 and Black must mate through either QxQ or P-R7. Or 1 . . . P-N8-R; 2.Q-B7ch,R-N3; 3.Q-Q8 forces P-R7 mate. Or 1 . . . P-N8-B; 2.Q-R5ch,B-B4; 3.Q-N5,P-R7 mate. Or 1 . . . P-N8-N; 2.Q-R2ch,N-R6; 3.Q-R1,P-R7 mate. Four different promotions, four different variations!