

BLOCKADE

New Perspectives

by

Aron

Nimzowitsch

Translated by

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This is an English translation of the 1925 B. Kagan, Berlin, edition. This 1983 revision is the third printing.

Publisher's Foreword

This is Nimzowitsch's first published book, appearing in Berlin and Leningrad editions in 1925. His chief work, *My System*, appeared the same year and quickly overshadowed this smaller work. Copies of the original edition have become very scarce and the book had never been translated into English. I was very fortunate that my good friend, Dr. Joseph Platz, readily agreed to handle the translation from his native tongue into English. Nimzowitsch is well known as writing with considerable verve and complex idiomatic constructions which make translations even more difficult than ordinarily. Dr. Platz has handled his challenging task admirably.

Nimzowitsch makes reference in "Blockade" to three of his contemporary magazine articles to further elucidate his points. We have included translations from these articles to permit today's reader to have ready access to these supplemental materials.

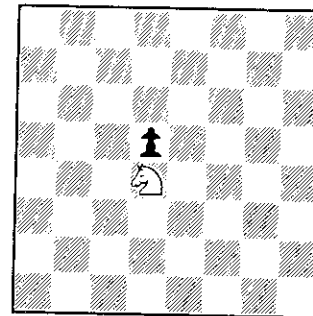
Since Nimzowitsch had completed writing *My System* prior to this book there is naturally significant congruity in concepts. However, I am certain that today's chess students will welcome the opportunity of further study of the writings of the chess master who has been properly named "The Father of Modern Chess".

With reference to the varied spellings of the author's name, the use adopted in the original "Blockade" has been continued in this edition.



By blockade I refer to the mechanical obstruction of an enemy pawn by a piece. This mechanical restriction of forward progress is accomplished by placing one's own piece on the square immediately in front of the pawn to be blockaded. For example, in the diagram, the Black pawn on d5 is being blockaded by a White knight on d4.

Diagram 1



It is customary — at least among masters — to blockade an enemy passed pawn; but to my knowledge no attempt has been made to justify the necessity of this measure on a theoretical basis. To find such a justification would mean the solution of the problem: "Blockade".

One gets a little closer to an understanding of the problem to which I have just referred when one delves into the essential behavior of the pawn. Undoubtedly one of its specific characteristics is its tremendous lust to expand, the desire to storm forward. The free center clearly demonstrates how this tendency of the pawn to gain in importance by advancing works.

For example, let us examine the following game played at odds, which incidentally was previously unpublished.

White: A. Nimzowitsch

Black: Amateur

Played at Riga in 1910

(Remove White's Ra1, and place the pawn at a3)

1 e2-e4	e7-e5
2 Ng1-f3	Nb8-c6
3 Bf1-c4	Bf8-c5
4 c2-c3	Ng8-f6

As we shall see, Black is willing to give up his e-pawn. But then the White center becomes mobilized. Therefore it would have been more prudent to shout "Stop!" to the White pawn-avalanche by playing 4...d7-d6. There followed:

5 d2-d4	e5xd4
6 c3xd4	Bc5-b6

The check on b4 is not possible due to the pawn on a3. This fact weakens Black's defense. If the pawn had been on a2, this check on b4 would give Black time to capture White's pawn on e4. And that would be an excellent chance to hinder the pawn movement because — as I used to say jokingly while in pain — years of experience has proven that a dead pawn — cannot

advance any more. But now, after the move 6...Bb6, the White pawn roller sets itself into motion.

7 d4-d5 Nc6-e7

In showing this little game, we not only elucidate on the pawn's lust to expand but we also have the opportunity of seeing what is meant by its possible advance. Had the knight retreated to b8 or moved to a5, it would have been thrown back, or else have been displaced. Thus we note:

- (a) the tendency to advance originates partially from the wish to demobilize the enemy.
- (b) the intention of storming forward with the pawns, in order — to get rid of them. Almost a suicidal tendency, don't you think? No, not at all, because the pawn in its essence is also a blocking unit, it stands in the way of its own pieces. It robs the pieces of their routes into enemy territory, and therefore by its advance, its tendency toward self-destruction is accomplished through strength and self-assertiveness. To summarize (b): it is the wish to gain lines for the pieces (rooks!) which were posted in home territory by advancing for a breakthrough. And finally
- (c) it is also possible to form a wedge by advancing the pawns.

Now to continue with the game:

8 e4-e5

The pawns' lust to expand, especially the center pawns, is so strong that it completely surpasses another very important principle, that of development (for instance, by Nc3). Nc3 would of course be weak because of the answer d7-d6 and the center is restrained, since the most that could be initiated is a line clearance, mentioned under (b). But this would be too little since White is entitled to play for a wedge (c) which might lead to a breakthrough. There followed:

8 Nf6-e4

Black plays for material gain while White follows an idealistic course, he wants to hinder the development of his opponent by d5-d6, and thus virtually kill the bishop on c8. In the ensuing struggle between two vital forces of the world, the latter concept wins out, remarkable enough but, as I used to say jokingly, yet explanatory because the game had been played — before the war!* Now I played:

9 d5-d6 c7xd6
10 e5xd6 Ne4xf2

and the critical position has arisen.

(See the diagram at the top of the next page)

*Nimzowitsch is making an analogy between the war on the chessboard and World War I between the two confederations, and noting that the game was played in 1910 before World War I, and these notes were being written after the war.

Position after Black's 10th move:

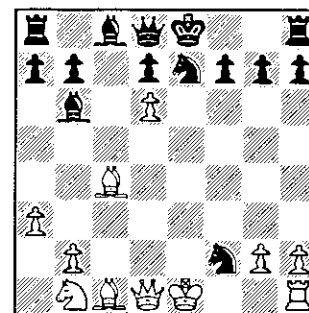


Diagram 2

11 Qd1-b3! Nf2xh1
12 Bc4xf7† Ke8-f8
13 Bc1-g5 Resigns.

The pawn which imprisons the opponent was the main actor in this small drama. But it was nothing else than the wedge resulting from the pawn march e4-e5, d4-d5-d6, etc.

To summarize the fundamental motives of the pawn advance in the center:

- (a) demobilization of the opponent
- (b) opening of lines
- (c) restraint through wedge-formation

Now let us look at a different kind of pawn, an extremely mobile one, the passed pawn. While it seems difficult to hamper a free center in the long run, it is much easier to restrain the march of a passed pawn. In any case it is much easier to set rules for the latter case than for the first one. Why? Well the free (mobile) center is only a single case of a "pawn majority". Theoretically we may talk about a pawn majority in the center, there being no reason why we can only speak of a player having a pawn majority on one of the wings. If, however, our definition of the free center is truly equivalent to a pawn majority in the center, then there would be — for purpose of instruction — the way to "restrain a free center", a very complicated process involving:

- (1) How does a pawn majority work?
- (2) How does a passed pawn arise out of such a majority?
- (3) How does one defend against a majority?
- (4) What is the reason for the greater strength of a center majority?
- (5) Special measures against a center majority.

Before we answer these questions let's put the passed pawn under the magnifying glass a bit because the passed pawn is the crystallized product of a pawn majority and as such it can be understood more easily than the more elastic and complicated pawn majority.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this discussion, it is fairly well known that passed pawns have to be stopped although theoretically there has been no reason for it. I have succeeded in finding one, and although I had originally planned not to publish this discovery until it appeared in my book *My System*, I shall now reveal it in the interest of this treatise. There are three reasons:

(1) Let's look at the following typical passed pawn position:

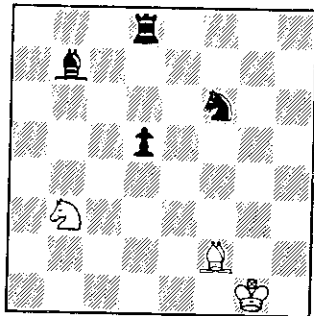


Diagram 3

Black has a passed pawn. This passed pawn is his pride, and therefore it appears natural that the Black pieces protect this pawn (Nf6, Bb7) and support it (Rd8). Now the question arises: Is it sufficient to hamper the pawn by Nb3 and Bf2 or is the blockade by the knight on d4 necessary? Answer: Against the passed pawn's strong lust to expand milder measures such as hampering by pieces from a distance are insufficient because typically the pawn can still advance under such circumstances, in which case the pawn will pay for this action with its life, thus d4-d5, B or Nxd4, and now the Black pieces in the background suddenly come to life: the Bb7 gets an open diagonal directed against the enemy king, the rook obtains an open file, and the knight gets a new central square. We had focused on this forceful advance (for the opening of lines) before (under b). For the pawn's lust to expand this is an especially characteristic goal.

Thus we may say, the first reason which forces the blockade by logic is this: the passed pawn — as I used to say jokingly — is such a dangerous criminal that it is by no means sufficient to have it watched by the police (Nb3 and Bf2); no, this man should be in jail, therefore completely deprived of its freedom by the blockading knight on d4.

(2) The second reason, to be explained now, is strategically as well as instructionally of great importance; in chess, that which decides in the final measure is optimism. I mean that it is psychologically important to train yourself in the attitude of feeling happy about *small* advantages. The beginner enjoys himself only when he calls out mate to his opponent or perhaps better still when he can capture his queen (because in the eyes of the beginner this is possibly the greater success of the two); the master however is already pleased and highly satisfied if he succeeds in finding even a shade of an enemy pawn weakness in a nook of the left half of the board! The optimism, here described, forms the indispensable psychological basis for positional play. It

is also this optimism which gives us the strength to discover even the faintest ray of hope in every bad situation, regardless of how bad it may be. In our case for instance we can state that an enemy passed pawn is undoubtedly a great evil for us. But even this evil contains a faint ray of light. The situation is such that when we blockade this pawn we post the blockading piece at the back of the pawn — as seen from the enemy side — in other words, the blockader is safe from frontal attack.

For example:

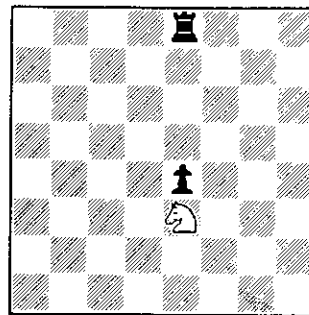


Diagram 4

Black's passed pawn is on e4; the White blockader, Ne3, is not exposed to a rook attack (e8-e3) and is — so to speak — safe.

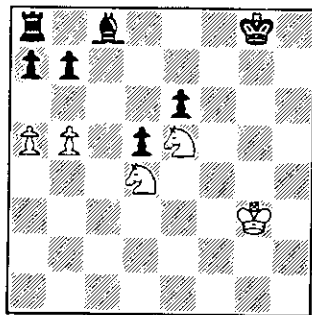
It is important to note that the blockading piece, in addition to its obligation to blockade, usually stands very well. If this were not the case, it would be difficult to refute the objection that it would be wasteful to put a piece on ice, just to guard a pawn. In reality the blockade squares are actually excellent posts, first — as was shown before — enemy frontal attack is impossible, second the blockade square is often at the same time an outpost on a rook file, and third the blockading piece keeps enough elasticity to speed to another part of the battlefield if necessary. Diagram 12 demonstrates this elasticity and its further development; here we want to be satisfied at demonstrating the second case, that the blockade square and outposts coincide. In the Queen's Gambit Black often gets an isolated queen pawn on d5, and although it seems to be somewhat restrained by a White pawn on e3, we could call it half of a passed pawn, its lust to expand is that great; this is founded partially in the fact that the pawn on d5 is also a center pawn. d4 is the blockade square. Now, White also has the d file and on it a fortified square. Which one is it? Well, also d4 because according to my definition a square on a file can only be called "fortified" when it has pawn protection, here the pawn at e3. A fortified point on a file should be occupied by an outpost (see my article on open files in the *Wiener Schachzeitung* 1913*). In this fashion d4 becomes strategically important two ways.

(3) One would think that the blockading of a pawn represents only a local — limited space — measure; one stopped a pawn which wanted to advance, and

* A translation is included in this volume in Appendix One.

so only the pawn suffered, nothing else. This conception lacks depth. In reality a whole complex of enemy pieces is made to suffer, larger parts of the board are removed from the potential for free maneuvering, and sometimes the entire character of the enemy position is fixed, in other words the paralysis is transferred from the blockaded pawn into the terrain further back. I give as a single example the "French" position.

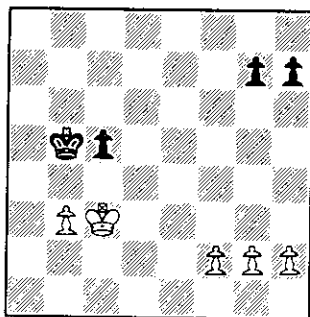
Diagram 5



The pawns e6 and d5 are thoroughly blockaded, and note that the entire Black position as a consequence has an uncomfortable fixed character, the bishop and the rook are prisoners in their own camp! If White had a passed pawn on h4, he would almost have winning chances despite his substantial material deficit!

We now ask our reader to turn his attention to the pawn majority. Diagram 6 presents such a pawn majority. We see three White pawns in conflict with two.

Diagram 6

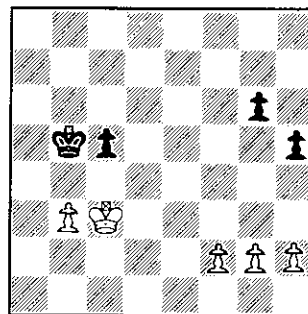


A pawn majority on the king side

A healthy pawn majority, but not an irregular one, must result in a passed pawn. "Nothing easier than that!", our friendly reader will say at the first glance at Diagram 6. Very true, but I want to be permitted in this instance to formulate a rule which a Scandinavian audience of mine called "unforgettable," one which should stick in our minds like a Viennese waltz. The road to this rule leads by way of a small definition: of the three White pawns on the king side, at present none is "passed", however one of them is undoubtedly less hampered than the others. I refer to the f-pawn; at least it has no opponent.

The f-pawn shall become passed, it is the rightful "candidate". And we give it this title, we give him an academic degree: Mr. Candidate. (Thus that pawn in a pawn majority which has no opponent is the "candidate".) And from this we derive the brief rule: the candidate has preference, a rule which is dictated not only by strategic necessity but also, as you must admit, by the duty of politeness. (Thus unforgettable for everybody who calls himself a polite man, and we all do that.) To express it exactly scientifically this presents itself like this: the leader of the advance is the candidate, the other pawns only accompany it, thus f2-f4-f5, then g2-g4-g5 and f5-f6. In case the Black pawns stand on g6 and h5 (see Diagram 7 below) then f4, g3 (not h3 at once because of ...h4 with symptoms of paralysis), h3, g4 and f5. How simple! And yet how often one sees how weaker players, faced with the position in this diagram,

Diagram 7



advance the g-pawn first, but then follows g7-g5 and the pawn majority has no value. I have often asked myself why the less experienced players start with g2-g4. This fact can be explained very simply. They are uncertain whether they should begin left (f4) or right (h4) and in this dilemma they decide — like a good citizen — to choose the golden rule of the compromise.

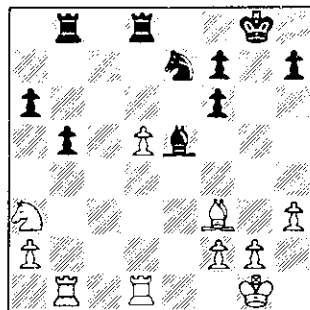
And now let's look briefly at the extremely complicated defensive struggle against a majority.

A result of the just developed rule is that the way to counteract the harmonious development of a passed pawn is to push toward the candidate so as to make it somewhat immobile. Once we have succeeded in making the candidate backward (by forcing a companion to advance) then the blockade of the once proud candidate cannot be prevented any longer, and then it will not be long until it finally falls. As an example of a fight against a majority I present here my game against Tartakower from the Copenhagen Six Master Tournament 1923.

(See Diagram 8 at the top of the next page)

Black has 2 against 1 on the queen side; White has a passed pawn in the center, which however can be strongly blockaded by Bd6. (One should differentiate between strong and weak blockade. A blockader which can be easily attacked and can only receive little or no support from its comrades has little effect.)

Diagram 8



White:
Nimzowitsch

Black:
Tartakower

There followed from the diagrammed position:

23 Na3-c2! a6-a5

24 a2-a3

The advance of the candidate is being thwarted.

24 ... Ne7-f5

25 Rd1-d3!

To continue the pressure against the candidate with Rd3-b3; the ideal would naturally be to coax the a-pawn to advance (a5-a4) since then the blockade on b4 would be possible. However here it would be unrealistic to play for that. The realistic procedure is to "hope" that no passed pawn will be created and at the same time still be prepared in the event that a passed pawn does come about. Therefore the White pieces stand ready in an emergency to blockade by Rb3 the passed pawn b4 if it should arise anyway.

25 ... Rb8-c8

With the intent of driving away the Nc2 so as to effectively place his own knight on d4; but correct was the blockade of the White passed pawn by Nd6.

26 Bf3-g4! Rc8xc2

27 Bg4xf5 b5-b4

The blockade by Bd6 was necessary. There followed:

28 a3xb4 a5xb4

29 d5-d6!

The passed pawn's lust to expand, which here has created a more fortuitous basis, namely the fact that the Rc2 is hanging.

29 ... Rc2-c3!

Not Bxd6 because of Rxd6, etc.

30 Rd3xc3 b4xc3?

The decisive mistake; the bishop should have captured. Black should have a passed pawn on the b file and not on the c file; the further course of the game will show why.

31 d6-d7 Kg8-f8

32 Rb1-b4! Rd8-a8

It makes no difference; whatever Black does he is lost.

33 g2-g3 Kf8-e7

34 Rb4-c4 Ra8-d8

35 Kg1-g2

Black is lost because the White rook can kill two birds with one stone. It

holds back the c-pawn and at the same time prepares an action which uproots the blockade on d8. With a passed pawn on the b file this possibility would not have been available to him. There followed:

35 ... h7-h5

The king threatened to march to h6: Kg2-f3-g4-h5-h6.

36 h3-h4 Rd8-g8

37 Rc4-c8 Rg8-d8

38 f2-f4! Be5-d4

39 g3-g4 h5xg4

40 h4-h5

The uprooting! The Black blockaders (K and R) will now be decisively divirted by the passed pawn on h5.

40 ... Bd4-b6

41 h5-h6 Ke7-f8

42 Rc8xc3 Kf8-g8

43 Rc3-c8 Kg8-h8

44 Kg2-g3 Rd8-g8

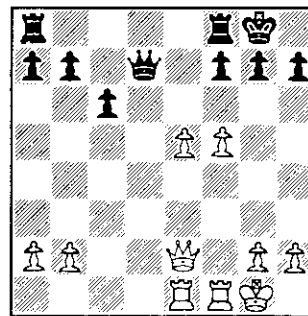
To make the blockade more effective by Bd8.

45 Rc8-e8

Slipping behind the barrier which Black had hoped to erect by Bd8. Now mate is threatened by h6-h7, and therefore Tartakower resigned.

With a bold leap we'll turn our attention now to the fight against a majority in the center without bothering with the rest of the "majority" problems (otherwise this writing would extend into infinity). Here too, as with every other majority, we see ourselves threatened with the possibility of the formation of a passed pawn. To make things tougher, new threats appear, the beginning of an attack against the castled king (the center as a weapon of aggression!) introduced through wedge formation or opening of lines and demobilization. I believe the following positions of the main actors are characteristic.

Diagram 9



White not only threatens the usual formation of a passed pawn (through advance of the candidate e5-e6) but also the wedge formation f5-f6. This wedge on f6, after the reply g7-g6, would have the disastrous effect for Black that the castled position would be cut off from the main army, the communication on the 7th rank would be interrupted (the Black rooks cut off from protection

of the points g7 and h7). To avoid this wedge formation, Black plays f7-f6, after which White creates a passed pawn on e6 and thereby obtains a powerful positional advantage. As I said at the beginning, I only marked the position of the most important actors. Thus, if there had been more pieces on the board, the Black pawn on f6 could be used as a target in order to force open the g file (g2-g4-g5). Therefore we easily conclude that it is not desirable for Black to permit the two pawns to advance to the 5th rank; they should have been stopped on the 4th rank.

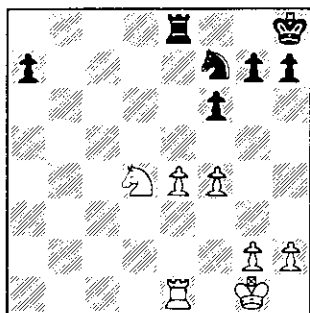


Diagram 10

In the position of Diagram 10, which again only shows the main actors, Black has more or less fixed the candidate on e4. Without hope of ever being able to force e4-e5, White decides to "sacrifice" his majority. He moves f4-f5, and now the respective knights entrench themselves on e5 and e6. With many pieces on the board the knight on e6 could initiate a strong attack, but positionally the Black game is good, and the blockading knight on e5 is very powerful (see my explanation in (2) above) since it prevents the approach of the White attacking forces, for instance preventing the queen from going to g4 or a rook to f3, etc.

We have seen in every fight against a pawn majority the first step is hampering. Finally the ideal consists of a blockade.

The desire to stop a mobile pawn mass is in itself understandable; however, the fact that it seems occasionally necessary to blockade pawns which are almost immobile is puzzling. This happens particularly when one wants to make such a pawn the target. (See Diagram 11).

And now I will give four examples to illustrate what I have said in this monograph. All four examples are derived from my latest praxis, the Nordic Master Tournament in August 1924 (Copenhagen). Although it was very strong — Johner, who only recently won ahead of Rubinstein and Teichmann in Berlin, was there, further Allan Nilsson, the genial theoretician Dr. Krause, the solid young masters Kinch, Kier, etc. — I succeeded in winning with 9½ points out of 10! I believe in all sincerity that this great victory has to be credited to my deeper understanding of the essence of the blockade! Inevitably it happened that in the difficult blockade problems encountered I too occasionally failed, but that happened very rarely, actually only in the following endgame.

In the second round the excellent master Giersing (one only has to think of

the brilliancy Giersing — Kmoch published in *Kagan's Neueste Schachnachrichten!*) and I reached the following position:

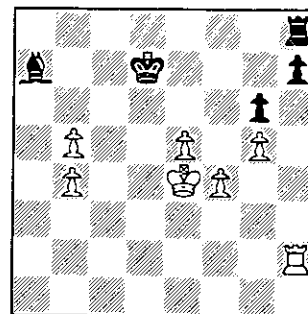


Diagram 11

Black:
Giersing

White:
Nimzowitsch

White to move and win

White does not have complete material compensation for the missing piece, but his positional superiority is so great that one is definitely inclined to prefer White. Besides the protected passed pawn on e6 and the strong position of the White king in the center, the positional advantage lies primarily in the sad position of the Black rook. This rook is chained to a pawn and therefore sentenced to complete passivity. I applied a procedure involving combinations which does not represent the strongest continuation. To judge the text continuation from the point of view of our book we will analyze it very briefly before we show the positional way to victory.

The game continued:

58 f4-f5	g6xf5†
59 Ke4xf5	Rh8-f8†
60 Kf5-e4	Rf8-f7

The Black rook has come back to "life". But it is just this new rook position which makes possible the combination which now begins.

61 b5-b6!

Again the proof of the pawn's lust to expand!

61 Ba7-b8

If he accepts the pawn 61...Bxb6 then 62 e6† Kxe6 63 Rh6†.

62 Ke4-d5 Rf7-e7

63 e5-e6†!

Compare the note to White's 61st move.

63 Kd7-c8

64 Rh2-f2 Re7-e8?

This attempt to separate king and pawn from each other ends fatally, just as in a movie because there too the attempt to separate the two lovers is harshly punished. This is naturally a necessity as otherwise the audience would ask for their money back.

65 Rf2-f7 Re8-d8†

66 Kd5-c6 Rd8-e8

67 b6-b7† Kc8-d8

68 Rf7-d7 mate.

Instead of 64...Re8?, tough resistance would have been possible with 64...Kd8; however White would have had a clear win (see Diagram 11) if he had blockaded with 58 Rh2-h6. There could have followed:

58 ... Kd7-e7
59 f4-f5 g6xf5†

60 Ke4-f4!!

And Black is helpless against the threat g6†, for example:

60 ... Ke7-f7
61 g5-g6† Kf7-g7
62 Rh6xh7† Rh8xh7
63 g6xh7 Kg7xh7
64 Kf4xf5 Kh7-g7
65 Kf5-e6 Ba7-b8!
66 b5-b6 Kg7-f8
67 Ke6-d7 Bb8xe5
68 b6-b7

And wins easily.

The next example shows how much the blockader is able to keep its elasticity.

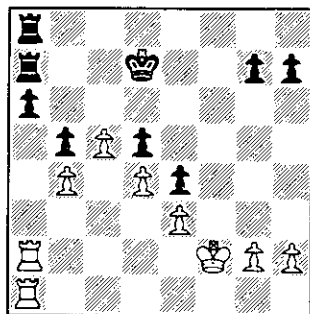


Diagram 12

Black:
Allan Nilsson

White:
Nimzowitsch

White has the better position as a5 and d5 are vulnerable pawn weaknesses; the first one paralyzes the mobility of the Black rooks, the latter the mobility of the Black king (the White rook position f5 forces the defensive position Kc6, not Ke6 which would be wrecked by Re5†). Thus we must make use of the correspondingly greater mobility of our own forces. It is clear to every endgame player that the White king will find rewarding activity on the king wing, but what happens with the White rooks? Should they occupy the f file? Well, then the backward a-pawn will advance, and in this way Black will rid himself of his weak pawn and will even get a passed pawn. If however one wants to use one rook to blockade on a5, then the other rook could hardly win any laurels on the f file could it?

However there followed:

33 Ra2-a5 Kd7-c6
34 Kf2-g3 Kc6-b7

35 Ra1-f1 Kb7-c6
36 Rf1-f5

First White brought the rook to f5 and his king into an attacking position. As far as the other rook is concerned, it is very happy on a5 because it has kept its elasticity and may very well march over to the f file at the right moment. But it won't even come to that. The Ra5 and the Black a-rook hold each other in balance; therefore the White f-rook only has to deal with one counterpart (with one rook) and here it proves itself to be the stronger one, partially because it already occupies the f file and partially because it is supported by the king. But what I want to especially point out is the readiness of the White a-rook to leave its blockading position and go onto the f file as soon as it is necessary. The fight for the f file revolves around the conquest of a point of entry on f6, f7 or f8 for the rook.

There followed:

36 ... Ra7-e7
37 h2-h4 Ra8-a7
38 h4-h5 Re7-e6
39 Rf5-f8

The entry. (Originally White had planned h5-h6. Had Black played 38...h7-h6, there would have followed Kh4 with g2-g4-g5.)

39 ... g7-g6
40 h5-h6 g6-g5
41 Rf8-b8 Kc6-c7
42 Rb8xb5 Re6xh6
43 Ra5-a4 Rh6-f6
44 Rb5-a5 Kc7-c8
45 Kg3-g4 h7-h6
46 Ra4-a2 Ra7-f7
47 Ra5xa6 and won in 54 moves.

In the following very instructive example the failure to establish a blockade is punished by free play of the pieces.

White: Kinch

Black: Nimzowitsch

Played in the Nordic Master Tournament 1924

1 d2-d4 f7-f5
2 e2-e4 f4xe4
3 Nb1-c3 Ng8-f6
4 Bc1-g5 Nb8-c6

And now Kinch played an interesting new move; he took the knight Bg5xf6 e7xf6 and made a regular gambit out of the game.

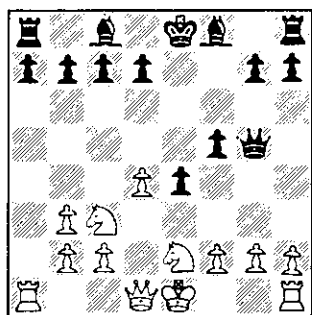
5 Bg5xf6 e7xf6
6 Bf1-c4 f6-f5
7 Ng1-e2

Preferable is Nh3.

7 ... Nc6-a5!
8 Bc4-b3 Na5xb3
9 a2xb3 Qd8-g5

9...d5 would be refuted by Nf4.

Diagram 13



Kinch to move

In the diagrammed position White could play to blockade the Black pawn majority on the king's wing, perhaps through 10 g3 together with establishing a knight on f4, for example 10 g3 Be7 11 Nf4 0-0 12 Qd2 d6 13 0-0-0 and h2-h4; then where would Black's winning chances be in spite of the extra pawn? Perhaps in an attempt to break the blockade by g7-g5? (After 10 g3 Be7 11 Nf4 Qh6 12 Qd2 g5.) Hardly, because it would loosen up Black's position too much. Therefore the blockade which we have suggested was the right way to equalize.

The flanking maneuver which takes place in the game is likewise good and fine.

10 0-0	Bf8-e7
11 f2-f3!	0-0!
12 f3xe4	f5xe4
13 Rf1xf8†	Be7xf8
14 Nc3xe4	

Winning back the gambit pawn but leaving the opponent with the bishop pair and the freer game.

There followed:

14	Qg5-e3†
15 Ne4-f2	d7-d6!
16 Ne2-g3	Bc8-d7
17 Kg1-f1	

Probably better was Qd3 although then too the bishops assert themselves.

17	Ra8-e8!
---------	---------

Because earlier White failed to blockade the opponent he is being justly punished in so far as the opponent's pieces have great mobility.

18 Ra1xa7	Bd7-b5†
19 c2-c4	Bd5-a6
20 Ng3-e2	d6-d5
21 Qd1-d3	Qe3xd3
22 Nf2xd3	d4xc4

Black:
Nimzowitsch

White:
S. Kinch

23 b3xc4	Ba6xc4
24 Nd3-c1	Bf8-b4!

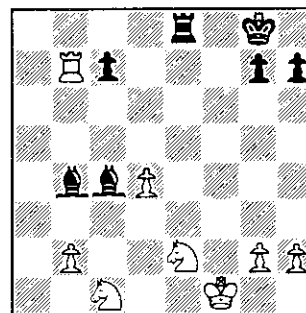
Not only stronger than Ba6 but also in conformity with the requirements of the position which "calls for mobility."

25 Ra7xb7	Re8-f8†
-----------	---------

Here Black stumbles, though he wins a piece, he will be put in chains by force, which makes it a sin against the spirit of the blockade. (As was pointed out, White logically should perish through Black's free play with the pieces which White permitted through his failure to blockade.) In the spirit of this unrestricted play with the pieces Black should play (instead of 25...Rf8†) 25 ...Bb4-d2! 26 Kf2 (The only move, as Rf8† threatened mate.) 26...Rf8† with a decisive king hunt, 27 Kg3 Be1† 38 Kh3 Be6† 29 g4 h5 30 Rb5 (30 Rxc7? hxg† 31 Kg2 Bd5† 32 Kg1 Bf2† 33 Kf1 Bg3†) 30...Bxg4† 31 Kg2 Bxe2 32 Nxe2 Rf2† 33 Kg1 Rxe2, etc.

We return to Diagram 14 after White's 25th move.

Diagram 14



As stated before, Black played:

25	Re8-f8†
26 Kf1-g1	

And now, just a little late:

26	Bb4-d2
---------	--------

There followed:

27 h2-h3	Bd2xc1
28 Ne2xc1	Rf8-f1†
29 Kg1-h2	Rf1xc1
30 Rb1xc7	

Black hardly has a forced win.

30	Rc1-c2
31 Kh2-g3	Bc4-d3
32 Rc7xc2	Bd3xc2
33 Kg3-f4	Kg8-f7
34 Kf4-e5	Bc2-b3
35 d4-d5?	

The methodical further advance Kd6 would probably have led to a draw. After the text move White will be starved to death.

35	Kf7-e7
36 g2-g4	Ke7-d7
37 h3-h4	Kd7-e7
38 g4-g5	Ke7-d7
39 h4-h5	Kd7-e7
40 h5-h6	g7xh6
41 g5xh6	Ke7-d7
42 Resigns.	

The logical connections of the blockading events manifest themselves extraordinarily impressively in this game. (To give it a name, "Crime and Punishment".)

Before we get to the next example we will first give an explanation which should clarify the meaning of the qualitative majority. A majority, such as three pawns against two, must, of course, be impeded; in this sense too we must call a majority of those positions in which the pawn majority on one wing is of a subjective nature.

In my game against Bernstein at Karlsbad 1923 (I had the White pieces), after the moves:

1 Ng1-f3	Ng8-f6
2 d2-d4	d7-d5
3 c2-c4	e7-e6
4 Nb1-c3	Bf8-e7
5 e2-e3	0-0
6 a2-a3	a7-a6
7 c4-c5	c7-c6
8 b2-b4	Nb8-d7
9 Bc1-b2	Qd8-c7
10 Qd1-c2	e6-e5
11 0-0-0	e5-e4

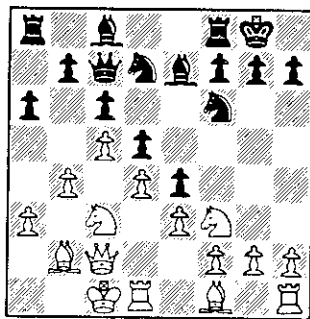


Diagram 15

A position has been reached in which White has a subjective majority on the queen side, Black on the king side. Why? Because the pawn on e4 is "more" than the pawn on e3 and on the other hand the pawn on c5 is "more" than the pawn on c6. If one were to give Black a free hand, he would gradual-

ly go over to the attack with f5, g5, f4 which is much less forceful than an attack with a real majority. There then threatens a wedge formation (through f4-f3) and opening of lines (by f4xf3) with possible conquest of the "laterally" (not frontally) denuded Pe3. However to recognize a majority as such means to undertake something against it. There therefore followed:

12 Nf3-h4!	Nd7-b8
------------	--------

To prevent Nf5.

13 g2-g3!	Nf6-e8
14 Nh3-g2!	f7-f5
15 h2-h4	

And Black's king side, which is seemingly ready to march, is paralyzed. After a few more moves the impediment had been consolidated into a blockade (by Nf4)!

Similar, although more difficult, was the case in the game Nimzowitsch — Olson from the Nordic Master Tournament. After 1 f4 c5 2 e4 Nc6 3 d3 g6 a position was reached, which, including e7-e6 and d7-d5, was called by Schmidt "the battle of the king's wing versus the queen's wing". White has in d3, e4, f4 a kind of side-center, the opponent has a corresponding position on the left wing. There now came my entirely unprecedented attempt to immediately hamper the mobile enemy queen wing (through 4 c2-c4) because I recognize this wing as a majority (of the subjective type). For a detailed explanation of this surprising move I may be permitted to refer to the January issue of *Kagan's Neueste Schachnachrichten*. *

The following example, which by the way actually happened, shows how difficult problems of restriction can be. In his new booklet, *Indisch*, Dr. Tartakower presents a game which was played between us in the Copenhagen Masters Tournament in 1923. (White: Tartakower, Black: Nimzowitsch). 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Bg5 Nc6, and he makes the following remark: "Typically Nimzowitsch! Seemingly anti-positional because in the Queen's Pawn opening the important c-pawn is blocked, but this strategy in the spirit of lively play with the pieces cannot be simply brushed aside."

To this I would like to say the following: Nc6 was not at all played pertaining to "play with the pieces". The move was solely to counteract the advance e2-e4 which would open lines and thus free White's game. Had I

* A translation of that note follows:

4 c2-c4!!

As this move is not inspired by the hope of preventing d7-d5 or only of making it difficult, it needs a special explanation. Black wants to force the build up e7-e5 d7-d5. After such work is done he will have thoughts of improving his attack-formation on the queen's wing by an eventual Nd4 in order to use pressure (in the c file) on the pawn on c2 after Nxd4 c5xd4 have been played. The text move prevents this possible extension of the play on the queen's wing. The hole on d4 seems to be nonessential.

played 4...e7-e6 at once, e2-e4 could be the response. Thus, the strategy of obstruction!

How interesting that this motive could have escaped Tartakower who plays with so much routine and battle experience. Or could it be just the fault of the "routine" that he missed the "finer" points in this instance?

After the next moves, 4 e3 e6 5 Nf3 Be7 6 Bd3 h6! 7 Bh4 b6! the trend which was directed against e2-e4 was further strengthened. 8 0-0 Bb7, and now I threaten the combinational move Ne4 with interesting pell-mell combinations.

* *
*

We have now arrived at the end of our explanations. We looked at the problem of obstruction from different sides and we became convinced how much strategy is represented by a fight between mobility on one side and the tendency to obstruct on the other.

The philosophy here developed is entirely novel and it is the result of many years of research, this applies especially to the justification of the duty to blockade. Finally I wish to give this guiding principle to the alert chessplayer: Stop every pawn which wants to advance under the slightest pretext, every passed pawn, every part of the center, every quantitative or qualitative majority, stop them! First try it good naturedly, with mild measures (as 3...Nc6 for instance in my Copenhagen game against Tartakower), after that let your righteous chess-fury swell to a mighty crescendo! The climax, the ideal of every action to obstruct is and remains — — — — —

the Blockade!

Dresden 1924

A. Nimzowitsch

Supplement

Following the wish of my esteemed publisher Mr. B. Kagan, who is so well known in the entire chess world, I'll add some games relating to the blockade and also some new examples of my procedures.

I begin with an older game, played in the master tournament at Ostende 1907, which I consider to be one of the most pronounced examples of the successfully accomplished impediment of a qualitative majority.

No. 1

White: van Vliet

Black: Nimzowitsch

1 d2-d4	d7-d5
2 Ng1-f3	c7-c5
3 e2-e3	e7-e6
4 b2-b3	Ng8-f6
5 Bf1-d3	Nb8-c6
6 a2-a3	Bf8-d6
7 Bc1-b2	

The White development is directed against an intended freeing advance e6-e5. Thus obstruction. No wonder that this later crystallizes into a blockade. (A White knight later posted on e5). Because in the spirit of our essay light obstruction is only an introductory step, but the climax is the blockade.

7 ...	0-0
8 0-0	b7-b6
9 Nf3-e5!	Bc8-b7
10 Nb1-d2	a7-a6!
11 f2-f4	b6-b5!

Black establishes counterplay on the queen's wing by recognizing his pawns there as a qualitative majority.

12 d4xc5!

An excellent move which had only the one fault that van Vliet didn't understand it. But the annotator of the Ostend tournament book also suffered a similar fate. Teichmann gave the text move a ? Apparently Teichmann considers the incriminating move as a surrender of the center. But that is not the case, only White should have continued correctly.

12 ...	Bd6xc5
13 Qd1-f3	Nf6-d7

A better and more consistent move is not apparent to me. Black wants to get rid of the blockader Ne5 in order to mobilize his own center pawns.

14 Ne5xc6	Bb7xc6
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(See Diagram 16 at the top of the next page)

15 Qf3-g3

This and the next move are mistakes.

White should hamper the Black center, which could be accomplished through 15 b3-b4! Bb6 16 Nd2-b3 and Bd4 or Nd4. The blockade position

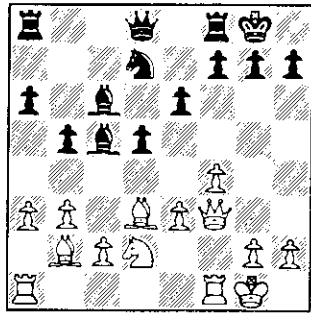


Diagram 16

After 14...Bxc6

with a piece on d4, thus achieved, would not be easily shaken off by f7-f6 and e6-e5 because after f7-f6, Qh5, or Qh3 would become unpleasant. On the other hand the Black b-pawn, which was fixed by b3-b4, could become a target for an attack. For instance 15 b3-b4 Bc5-b6 16 Nd2-b3 Qd8-e7 17 Nb3-d4 Bc6-b7 18 a3-a4 (an now 18...Bxd4 19 Bxd4 Qxb4 is not possible because of the double bishop sacrifice on h7 and g7, thus: 20 Bxh7† Kxh7 21 Qh5† Kg8 22 Bxg7 Kxg7 23 Qg5† Kh8 24 Rf3) or 17...Bb6xd4 instead of Bc6-b7 18 e3xd4. In the position thus reached the pawn on c2 is backward and not worth much, the same applies to Bb2 but these weaknesses could only be uncovered by the maneuver of the knight d7 over b6 to a4 or c4, and Black — due to his own unsafe king's position (White's e file and mobility on the king's wing) would hardly have time for that. There remains the posting of the knight on e4 which however after Bd3xe4 would lead to opposite colored bishops.

Therefore White could have equalized by d4xc5 in connection with the attempt to impede the enemy center. After his 16th move White is at a disadvantage, although one has to admit that Black's play has to be extremely risky in order to expose the disadvantage.

15 Nd7-f6
16 Ra1-d1?

With still better access than on the previous move White could have gone through with the above mentioned obstruction. Thus 16 b3-b4 Bc5-b6 17 Nd2-b3 and Black must be careful in order to equalize.

16 a6-a5!

Now pawn a3 is a weakness, and White does not reach the above mentioned obstruction.

17 Qg3-h3 h7-h6

The Black position can tolerate this weakening!

18 g2-g4 d5-d4

A deeply conceived move, which already shows the intention of blockading the White advancing mass and the flight of the Black king. According to my teachings any other move is out of the question because the obstruction of the White pawn mass is the most urgent order of the hour. The fact that Teichmann calls d5-d4 a move of "dubious value" shows how widely diver-

gent are opinions in chess!!

19 e3-e4 Qd8-d7
In order to answer g4-g5 with e6-e5!
20 Rd1-e1 e6-e5!
21 f4-f5

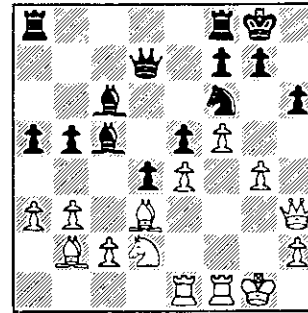


Diagram 17

White has a qualitative majority on the king's wing. Threat: g4-g5 after a queen move and h2-h4.

21 Nf6-h7

The play which now follows, i.e. to force a delay of g4-g5 (after h2-h4) until the king has fled is an admirable example of the fight against a qualitative pawn majority.

22 Nd2-f3 Qd7-e7
23 Qh3-g3 Rf8-e8
24 h2-h4 f7-f6
25 Re1-a1

This weakness on a3 forces White to make a defensive move.

25 Qe7-b7
26 Rf-e1 Kg8-f7
27 Re1-e2 Re8-h8
28 Kg1-g2 Nh7-f8
29 g4-g5 h6xg5
30 h4xg5 Nf8-d7

Now Black's plan of defense in all its depth becomes evident: after g5xf6 the answer can always be g7xf6. f6 is well defended and the king finds safety on d6.

31 g5xf6

White begins the battle before the king has reached safety.

31 g7xf6
32 Nf3-h4

Not a bad idea. White wants to establish a strong outpost on the g file.

32 Ra8-g8
33 Nh4-g6 Rh8-h5
34 Kg2-f2 Nd7-f8

Now a terrific battle will rage for the outpost g6. On the whole the outpost appears to be fairly strong. If despite that strength it cannot be held,

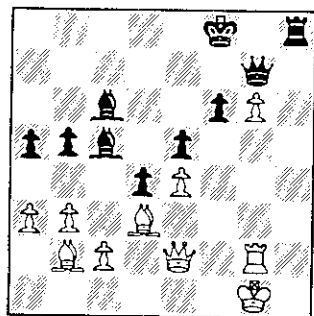
the reason lies in the weakness of the White position, namely in the fact that the pawn on e4 is not only threatened by Bc6 and Qb7, but also by the Bc5, which is burning to give a discovered check.

35 Ra1-g1 Rh5-g5
 36 Qg3-h4 Rg5xg1
 37 Kf2xg1 Nf8xg6
 38 Qh4-h5 Kf7-f8
 39 f5xg6

Apparently White holds g6 . . .

39 Qb7-g7
 40 Re2-g2 Rg8-h8
 41 Qh5-e2

Diagram 18



41 Rh8-h4!

Starts a diversion against Pe4, and this is decisive, namely for the fate of Pg6 and therefore also for the result of the game.

42 Bb2-c1

At last the bishop, which was cut off for 24 moves, dares to come out into the daylight, but he arrives just in time to witness the collapse of his forces. After 42 Rg4, which Teichmann recommended here, would have followed Rxc4 43 Qxc4 Bc6-d7! and Bd7-e8 and Black must win.

42 Rh4xe4!
 43 Qe2-d2 Re4-h4
 44 Qd2xa5 Qg7-d7

The blockading queen leaves her post. When one considers that blockading is usually the task of the minor pieces, one must admit that the queen, which is not used to this type of work, has done a terrific job.

45 g6-g7† Kf8-g8

Now his majesty has taken over the blockade himself.

46 Bd3-c4† b5xc4
 47 Qa5xc5

To sweep the blockade away with Qf8†.

47 Rh4-h1†!

Resigns.

This game (against van Vliet), which remained relatively unnoticed, is one of my best accomplishments.

The following game must also be considered as a fight against a qualitative majority. It was played at Karlsbad 1923 and crowned with the 2nd brilliancy prize.

White: Nimzowitsch

No. 2

Black: Bernstein (America)

1 Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6
 2 d2-d4 d7-d5
 3 c2-c4 e7-e6
 4 Nb1-c3 Bf8-e7
 5 e2-e3 0-0
 6 a2-a3 a7-a6
 7 c4-c5

Forms a pawn chain which will be complete once the Black pawn has been added at c6 (c7-c6). The White links in the chain are the pawns d4 and c5, the Black ones are d5 and c6. The White plan for attack in the realm of the chain must be seen in b2-b4, a3-a4, b4-b5, b5xc6 after which b7xc6 is forced. In other words, the pawn on c6, which forms the base of the Black pawn chain, will be exposed to an attack from the side and an enveloping movement from the opened b file. (The side attack would be by Rb6, while the enveloping attack would consist of Rb1-b7-c7xc6.) We have already discussed the initial moves in the theoretical part of this book.

7 c7-c6
 8 b2-b4 Nb8-d7
 9 Bc1-b2 Qd8-c7
 10 Qd1-c2 e6-e5
 11 0-0-0!

Up until now the push in the center has been considered as a refutation of the encirclement from the flank. An entirely unfounded perception! e6-e5 is only the healthy reaction to c4-c5 which — if the White center has some ability to resist — equalizes, but not more.

11 e5-e4

The other theoretically conceivable attempt to strengthen the attacking position against d4 would consist of the exchange e5xd4, and play on the e file through Re8 and establishment of an outpost Ne4. However, here the attempt is not practically feasible because the e file would belong to White thanks to his better development. There remains nothing else to do except to give up d4 as untouchable and transfer the attack from d4 onto the new base e3 with e5-e4. White then has the task of hampering the movement f7-f5-f4xe3, which would expose e3 from the side.

12 Nf3-h4! Nd7-b8

To prevent Nf5.

13 g2-g3 Nf6-e8
 14 Nh4-g2 f7-f5
 15 h2-h4

The obstruction was carried out by the simplest means in classical style. Of course 12 Nh4 could appear "baroque" or bizarre, but the move consists only of a necessary part of the classical operation of obstruction. Therefore

my esteemed reader will find it understandable when I have only a pitiful smile for a similar criticism by some critics.

15 **Be7-d8**

16 **a3-a4**

More cautious was Be2 then Kd2. After this development is completed White would be able to bring the attack a2-a4 and b4-b5 to a successful conclusion without any greater effort.

16 **b7-b6!**

Well played! Usually the counter movement of the minority only gives an advantage to the attacking side (in this case, White). However, the presence of the White monarch makes the White majority in a certain sense a compromised one, and therefore the push b6 is sufficiently motivated.

17 **b4-b5**

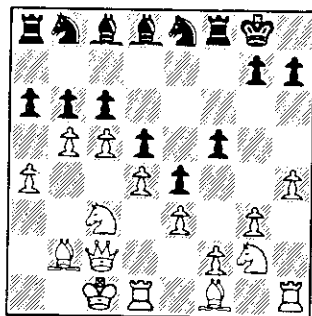


Diagram 19

17 **Ne8-f6**

18 **Ng2-f4**

The blockader!

18 **a6xb5**

19 **a4xb5** **Qc7-f7**

20 **Bf1-e2** **Bd8-c7**

21 **c5xb6** **Bc7xf4**

After 21...Bxb6 Black would soon have had marked weaknesses, for instance 21...Bxb6 22 Kc1-d2 and White will occupy the a file and maintain threats against the base of the chain, d5 (after disappearance of the protecting c6).

22 **g3xf4**

Now the obstruction of the Black pawn mass on the king side is absolute.

22 **Bc8-d7**

23 **Kc1-d2** **c6xb5**

24 **Rd1-a1!**

White forces positional advantages on the queen's wing.

24 **Nb8-c6**

25 **Be2xb5** **Nc6-a5!**

26 **Bb5-e2** **Rf8-b8**

Black has defended excellently and is now about to equalize.

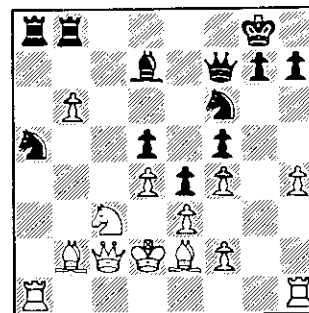


Diagram 20

27 **Nc3-a4**

An exceedingly elegant combination. Otherwise only the simple 27 Ra3 had to be considered, i.e. 27 Ra3 Rxb6 28 Rh1-a1 Na5-c4† 27 Bxc4 Rxa3 30 Rxa3 (Bxd5 would simplify too much and result in a draw due to the opposite color bishops) 30...d5xc4 31 Ra3-a8† and after 31...Be8 32 Ba3 Rb3 White has less than nothing. Besides the specific combinational reason for the text move, there is also the intention of making it as difficult as possible for the opponent to win back the sacrificed material without however insisting too strongly on holding on to that material to the end.

27 **Bd7xa4**

28 **Ra1xa4** **Rb8xb6**

29 **Bb2-c3!** **Na5-b3†**

What I had wished for! Also after the more correct move 29...Na5-c4† 30 Bxc4 Rxa4 31 Qxa4 dxc 32 Qa4-a8† Qf7-e8 33 Qxe8 Nxe8 34 Rh1-a1 White would stand better although in this case Black could erect a firm blockade-wall on d5.

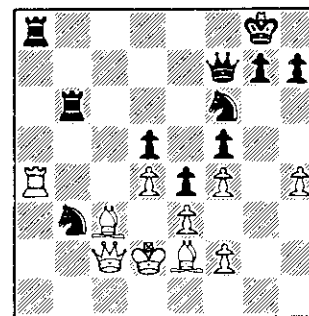


Diagram 21

30 **Qc2xb3!**

This sacrifice, prepared by 27 Na4, is entirely in the modern spirit in the best meaning of the word. (Compare the note to Black's 31st move.)

30 **Rb6xb3**

31 **Ra4xa8†** **Nf6-e8**

And now one expects the quick participation of the other rook. All of the heavy pieces against the frail and pinned knight. At that time one called that:

elegant play! However this brutal approach does not go with my nature, and besides, it would be a big mistake, i.e. 32 Rh1-a1? Qf7-c7! 33 Rxe8† Kf7, and White has spent himself and sheds tears of repentance. No, the Ra1 is not in a hurry "to take part", on the contrary, with a tired gesture like someone bored, it permits banishment, in other words: it stays in the background.

32 Be2-d1!!

The point: White does not fear the answer 32...Rb1.

32 Rb3xc3!

And again the talented American master finds the strongest move. After Rb1 would follow 33 Ba4 Rxh1 34 Bxe8! (stronger by a whole tempo than Rxe8†), and on the other hand the retreat 32...Rb6 would be insufficient because of 33 Ba4 Re6 34 Rb1 (only now the rook appears) Qg6! 35 Rb8 Qg2 36 BxN Qxf2† 37 Kc1, the king is safe and White wins.

Doesn't the late participation of the main actor, Rh1, remind us of how the "hero" of a drama is usually "introduced": first comes an old servant who tells a story, then two other "characters" step onto the stage and make us curious about the "hero", and at last "he" appears in person — and becomes the center of all happenings.

33 Kd2xc3 Qf7-c7†

34 Kc3-d2 Ke8-f7

Now a position has been reached which can only be won through attack in the classical style. The old picture: at first positional advantages are won by modern play, then these advantages are utilized through old-fashioned, classical chess!

35 Be2-h5† g7-g6

36 Rh1-a1!

Classical is the watchword, the rook becomes tough.

36 Qc7-b6

37 Bh5-e2 Kf7-g7

38 Kd2-e1! Ne8-c7

39 Ra8-a5 Kg7-h6

40 Ke1-f1

What a difference! In the first — modern — part of the game White was concerned with everything else but the safety of his king, but here the just mentioned motif forms the main incentive of all the action!

40 Qb6-b3

41 h4-h5!

Now the plan becomes clear; after h5xg6 h7xg6 the Black king will be attractively embraced — once from the h file and once from the 7th rank. Should there be a distracting attack by the queen (i.e., Qb2 after Kg2) the doubled rooks will also have a word to say (Ra5-a2).

41 Nc7-e8

The resources are being mobilized.

42 Ra5-a6 Qb3-b2

43 h5xg6 h7xg6

44 Ra6-a2!

See the note to White's 41st move.

44 Qb2-b7

45 Ra2-a7 Qb7-b2

46 Kf1-g2

The king declines the help of his rooks; he doesn't need them any more.

46 Ne8-f6

47 Ra1-h1† Nf6-h5

48 Be2xh5 g6xh5

Now Black even has a passed pawn.

49 Rh1-a1!

The theme of the return! Black resigns.

I give here a lesser known game in which both sides have passed pawns as a further example. I played this game against the outstanding Danish master Möeller at the Copenhagen 1923 tournament.

No. 3

White: Nimzowitsch

Black: Möeller

1 d2-d4 f7-f5

2 c2-c4 Ng8-f6

3 Nb1-c3 d7-d6

As was shown in my article in the January issue of *Kagan's Neueste Schachnachrichten*, this move, discovered by Krause and myself, is perfectly playable. (This article appears in Appendix Two.)

4 Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6

5 Bc1-f4 h7-h6

6 h2-h4 Nf6-g4

Threatening e7-e5 with complete liberation.

7 d4-d5 Nc6-e5

Preferable was the combinational e7-e5. See the above mentioned article. (Appendix Two).

8 Bf4xe5

e2-e4 at once was more correct.

8 d6xe5

9 e2-e4 e7-e6

10 Nf3-h2

Something has to be done against Bc5.

10 Qd8xh4

11 Nh2xg4!

A sound sacrifice of the exchange. After Qxh1 there follows Nxe5 with a very strong attack.

11 Qh4xg4

12 Qd1-b3 Bf8-e7

13 c4-c5

The mobile superiority!

13 0-0

14 d5xe6

Generally one has to think twice before one decides to change a "mobile majority" into a stopped passed pawn because that would mean giving up dreams of the future in favor of an old age pension. If however the maintenance of the blockade by the opponent should require many pieces, and if there is a possibility of awakening to new life the "sleeping beauty" (the passed pawn), then the heroic attempt may be justified. And so it is here.

14 f4xe4
 15 Nc3-d5 Qg4-g5
 16 Qb3-e3

Better seems to be 16 Nxc7 Rb8 17 Bc4.

16 Bc8xe6!

An excellent sacrifice of the exchange through which Black gets varied playing chances with the two bishops.

17 Qe3xg5 Be7xg5
 18 Nd5xc7 Be6-f7
 19 Nc7xa8 Rf8xa8
 20 Bf1-b5 Ra8-c8
 21 b2-b4

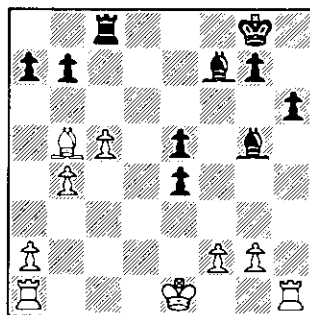


Diagram 22

White has the majority on the queen's wing, but difficulties in developing the king rook because castling in an ending would be bad. But now things get lively because Black tries to stop the majority once and for all.

21 b7-b6
 22 Bd5-d7! Rc8-c7
 23 c5-c6 b6-b5
 24 Rh1-h3 e4-e3!
 25 a2-a4

Black threatened Bd5, i.e., 25 fxe? Bd5 26 Rc1 Bxg2.

25 b5xa4
 26 Ra1xa4 Bf7-c4
 27 f2xe3 Bc4-b5
 28 Ra4-a2 Bg5-e7
 29 Ra2-c2

The c-pawn is the more valuable of the two, so the b-pawn must die.

29 Be7xb4†
 30 Ke1-f2 Bb5-d3

31 Rc2-b2 a7-a5

The situation has cleared. White still have the passed pawn, which has been stopped, and White apparently has no possibility whatsoever of assailing the blockader, while the Black passed pawn (to speak like Lasker) is filled with "threatening" mobility.

32 Rh3-h5 Kg8-f7
 33 g2-g4 Bd3-g6

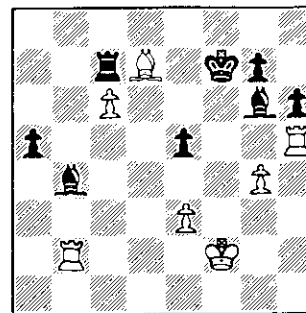


Diagram 23

34 Rh5xe5!

A deep combination: White sacrifices the exchange because the White king can invade the center and in connection with his e-pawn and his own rook can lift the blockade.

34 Bb4-c3
 35 Rb2-b5 Bc3xe5
 36 Rb5xe5 a5-a4
 37 Kf2-f3 Bg6-c2
 38 e3-e4 Bc2-b3
 39 Re5-b5

Unveiling the assault on the "strong rook" blockader, prepared from all sides. The "tasks" are assigned as follows: the Rb5 attacks the "unhappy one" from the rear (through Rb7). Of course the Black king hurries to his aid and can protect the attacked Rc7 either from d6 or d8. In the first case, the check from the pawn on e4 (e4-e5†) is decisive, but if the king takes the more modest position on d8, his White counterpart will advance through f4, e5 to d6 and the blockader is dead.

39 Kf7-e7
 40 Rb5-b7 Ke7-d8
 41 Rb7-b8† Kd8-e7
 42 Kf3-f4 Rc7xd7

White threatened Ke5, Rb7 (...Kd8), Kd6.

43 Rb8-b7! Bb3-e6
 44 c6xd7 Be6xd7
 45 Kf4-e5

After the successful attack the beneficial rest!

45 Ke7-e8
 46 Ke5-d6 Bd7xg4

47 Rb7xg7 h6-h5
 48 e4-e5 a4-a3
 49 e5-e6

The three assailants have come to high honors, and the little pawn too is about to be promoted to become a major piece. But Black did not wait for these events to unfold and therefore resigned.

A beautiful game, and through the harmoniously conducted attack against the blockader c7 also very instructive.

Also in the Copenhagen Master Tournament of 1923 I played a game against Sämisch, in which the fate of my passed pawn ought to be interesting in the spirit of our subject. As the game is also characteristic of my style, it may be presented here for the benefit and enjoyment of my friendly readers.

No. 4

White: Nimzowitsch

Black: Sämisch

1 d2-d4 Ng5-f6
 2 c2-c4 e7-e6
 3 Ng1-f3 b7-b6

This opening presents the idea of renouncing the establishment of a materially tangible center in order to be satisfied with a kind of dominance (thus the idea of influence). I invented and thoroughly analyzed it in 1911 and 1912. In the Petersburg 1913 Master Tournament I employed my innovation against Gregory for the first time. This game of mine against Gregory must be considered the archetype and I as the inventor of the opening 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 without the follow-up d7-d5.

4 g2-g3

This is the antidote recommended by Rubinstein some time ago. It is however fairly innocuous as shown in the game Sämisch – Nimzowitsch which follows (No. 9).

4 Bc8-b7
 5 Bf1-g2 Bf8-e7
 6 0-0 0-0
 7 Nb1-c3 d7-d5
 8 Nf3-e5 Qd8-c8
 9 c4xd5 Nf6xd5
 10 Nc3xd5 Bb7xd5
 11 e2-e4

This move cannot be bad, however preferable seems to me 11 Bxd5 exd 12 Be3; after 12...Qe7 (to protect d5 and thus make possible c7-c5) would follow 13 Nd3 Nd7 14 Rac1 and Black is weak on the c file and will miss the queen bishop painfully, while the White king can rather get along without the bishop on g2. However after 14...Bd6 the situation isn't clear in any way.

11 Bd5-b7
 12 Qd1-a4

Looks somewhat artificial. Many would have preferred Be3 here.

12 c7-c5
 13 d4-d5

The birth of the passed pawn,

13 b6-b5

which however is taken notice of by Black without a sign of concern. On the contrary, he is getting rough!

14 Qa4-b3

Tempting here was the sacrifice of the exchange 14 Qxb5 Ba6 15 Qb3 Bxf1 16 Kxf1 but after 16...Bf6 17 Nc4 exd 18 exd Nd7 the White "advantage" does not appear quite convincing. Is it really necessary to celebrate so wildly the birth of a passed pawn?

14 e6xd5
 15 e4xd5 Be7-d6

The blockader reports to his post.

16 Bc1-f4!

His counterpart, who emerges with the offer of a sacrifice.

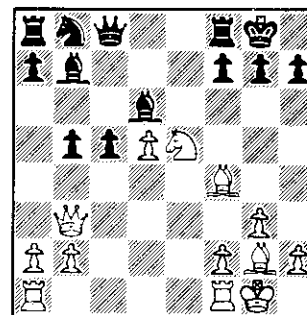


Diagram 24

16 Qc8-c7

After g7-g5 the intended sequence would have been 17 Nxf7 Bxf4 18 Nh6! Kg7 19 gxf Kxh6 20 fxg5! Indeed Black would then be in dire straits because if after fxg5! he captures the pawn he will be in a mating net after Kh1 and Rg1. If however (after f4xg5!) the king retreats to g7, White would decide the game with 17 Qc3! Kg8 18 Bh3 and Be6 or (instead of Bh3) positionally by Re1 and f2-f4. The pawn mass in connection with the e file (square e6) would be of decisive importance.

17 Ne5-d3

Again a combinational move. The fork c5-c4 would not lead to anything after 18 Bxd6 Qxd6 19 Qxb5 Ba6 20 Qc5!

17 a7-a6
 18 a2-a4!

One of the most difficult moves! Not only on account of the basic combination c5-c4 19 Qa3!! which was played here, but also because the opening of the a file serves a positional purpose which is still very much hidden.

18 c5-c4
 19 Qb3-a3! Bd6xf4
 20 Nd3xf4

Through peculiar combinations I have succeeded in eliminating the blockader from d6. The next blockader is the knight on d7, and he will turn out to be a tough guy.

20 Nb8-d7
21 a4xb5 a6xb5
22 Qa3-e7

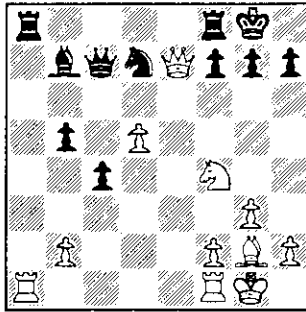


Diagram 25

The position thus reached presents the explanation as to why White sought the opening of the a file: everything was done solely with regard to the passed pawn. The situation is that the queen would like to be firmly posted on e7 before d5-d6 is played. However with a closed a file the queen couldn't remain there long because Re8 would chase her away at once. The situation is entirely different with an open a file. After 22...Ra-e8 23 Qb4 would follow, and White obtains by Ra5 (after Qb6) play on the a file. And thus Black must take other measures.

22 Qc7-d8
23 d5-d6 Bb7xg2
24 Kg1xg2 Nd7-f6
25 Rf1-d1

The "darling" wants to be protected and supported.

25 Ra8xa1
26 Rd1xa1 Qd8xe7
27 d6xe7

Now he has advanced. White's labor is rewarded.

27 Rf8-e8
28 Ra1-a7

Now White's advantage is clear.

28 g7-g5
29 Nf4-e2 Nf6-d5
30 Ne2-d4 Nd5xe7

A death creates grief. However there are many rays of light present because after

31 Nd4xb5

White has superiority because of the domination of the 7th rank and the exposed pawn on c4.

31 Ne7-c6

32 Nb5-d6

A very beautiful sacrifice! Not of material of course but White sacrifices his advantage on the 7th rank.

32 Nc6xa7

33 Nd6xe8

The ending with knights is favorable for White.

33 Nc7-b5

34 Ne8-f6† Kg8-g7

35 Nf6-d5

Not to e4 because that square shall remain reserved for the White king.

35 f7-f6

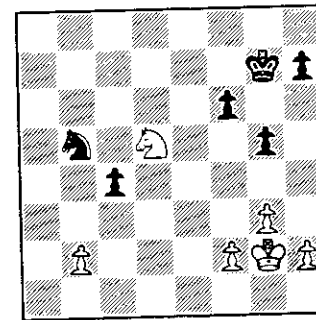


Diagram 26

36 Kg2-f3 Kg7-f7

37 Nd5-c3! Nb5-d4†

38 Kf3-e4 Nd4-b3

39 Ke4-d5

The White king position is decisive.

39 Nb3-d2

40 h2-h3 f6-f5

41 Nc3-d1 Kf7-f6

42 Nd1-e3 Nd2-e4

43 Ne3xc4 Ne4xf2

44 b2-b4

This passed pawn is splendidly supported by knight and king. It will win the race.

44 Kf6-e7

The "blockade dagger" in camouflage!

45 b4-b5 Ke7-d7

46 b5-b6 Nf2-e4

47 Nc4-e5† Kd7-c8

48 Kd5-c6 Ne4-f6

49 Ne5-d3!

Destination: c5.

49 Nf6-d7

50 b6-b7† Kc8-d8

Unsuccessful attempt at blockade. Now the Nd7 is the only piece control-

ling b8.

51	Kc6-d6	Nd7-b8
52	Nd3-b4!	Nb8-d7
53	Nb4-c6†	Kd8-e8
54	Kd6-c7	Resigns

Because Ne5 is fatal.

The first passed pawn had a career rich with dramatic conflicts (his advance to d6 was made possible by various offers of sacrifices and also through the movement of the d pawn to e7). This was accomplished by extraordinary efforts (the seemingly unmotivated opening of the a file). Then this passed pawn died by the hand of an "assassin", but out of its ashes a new passed pawn emerged — on the b file — which advanced with irresistible energy.

Personally the game is characteristic with a mixture of imagination and systematic planning typical of my style, and it excels in a knight ending played in the classical style.

To close the "passed pawn" chapter I'll give my game against Spielmann from the Stockholm Master Tournament 1920 (Result: I. Bogoljubov 12½; II. Nimzowitsch 12; III. Olson 8; IV. Spielmann 6½; there followed Wendel, Jacobson, Nyholm, Svanberg.) The game represents a difficult positional struggle for minute advantages, and the passed pawn only appears later. However the method of stopping Spielman's seemingly unstoppable passed pawn makes this game a very instructive example in the spirit of our subject.

No. 5

White: Nimzowitsch

Black: Spielmann

1	e2-e4	e7-e6
2	d2-d4	d7-d5
3	e4-e5	c7-c5
4	Ng1-f3	Nb8-c6
5	c2-c3	Qd8-b6
6	Bf1-e2	c5xd4

If this early liquidation of the White center (the pawn c3 disappears against the pawn c5) is the best move, then the Black position must be characterized as weak. Probably Bd7 is playable.

7	c3xd4	Ng8-h6
8	Nb1-c3	Nh6-f5
9	Nc3-a4	

Combinational. Good enough is Bb5.

9	....	Qb6-a5†
10	Bc1-d2	Bf8-b4
11	Bd2-c3	

Characteristic of this kind of attack is the fact that even Nc3 would have safeguarded the pawns, i.e. 11 Nc3 Nxd4 12 Nxd4 Nxd4 13 a3 Nxe2 14 axb Nxc3 15 Bxc3 or Rxa5 and a draw is probable through opposite color bishops and posting a piece on d4.

11	Bc8-d7
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Or 11...Bxc3! 12 Nxc3 Qb6 (Qb4? 13 a3!) 13 Bb5 0-0 14 Bxc6 Qxb2 15 Na4 Qb4† 16 Qd2 and occupation of c5 (square c5 is worth at least as much as a pawn here).

12	a2-a3	Bb4xc3†
13	Na4xc3	h7-h5
14	0-0	Ra8-c8
15	Qd1-d2	Qa5-d8

To follow up with g7-g5.

16	h2-h3!	Nc6-a5
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Now g7-g6 fails because of 17 g2-g4, i.e. 17...h5xg4 18 h3xg4 Nh4 19 Nxb4 Rxb4 20 Kg2 with 21 Rh1 and advantage for White.

17	Ra1-d1	Qd8-b6
18	Rf1-e1	

One should observe how White systematically overprotects the points d4 and even e5 according to the rule which I expressed thus: "Important strategic points must be overprotected."

18	....	Na5-c4
19	Be7xc4	Rc8xc4
20	Nc3-e2	

To exchange the strong knight on f5 through Ng3.

20	....	Bd7-a4
21	Rd1-c1	Ba4-b3
22	Rc1xc4	Bb3xc4
23	Ne2-g3	Nf5-e7
24	h3-h4!	Ne7-g6
25	Ng3-f1	

Now the cavalry will go against the sterile bishop; Ne3 is intended.

25	....	Bc4xf1
26	Re1xf1	Ng6-e7
27	Rf1-c1	0-0

Spielmann decides to castle anyway since Nf5 will protect everything. In the meantime — as a result of all his maneuvers — White has conquered the c file.

28	b2-b4	Ne7-f5
29	Rc1-c5	Qb6-a6
30	Qd2-c3	Qa6-e2

With great skill Spielmann has succeeded in obtaining counterchances through his invasion into the White camp, primarily by taking advantage of the weakness on b2 and later on a3.

(See Diagram 27 at the top of the next page)

31	Qc3-c2!!	
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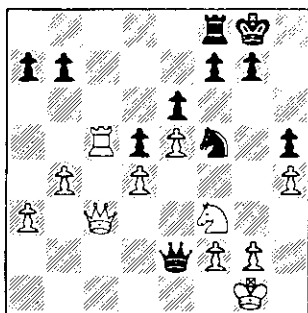
After long deliberation White decided on this queen sacrifice.

31	Nf5xd4
32	Qc2xe2	

Wrong would be 32 Nxd4 Qe1† 33 Nh2 Qxe5†.

32	Nd4xe2†
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Diagram 27



After 30...Qe2

33 Kg1-f1 Ne2-f4

Black is a passed pawn ahead.

34 Rc5-c7 b7-b5

Perhaps b7-b6 was more prudent.

35 g2-g3 Nf4-d3

36 Kf1-e2 Nd3-b2

37 Rc7xa7

This move required deep foresight. Black gets the c file, however the White king is so "blockade efficient" that the seemingly strongly supported d-pawn cannot progress very well.

37 Rf8-c8

38 Nf3-d4 Rc8-c4

39 Nd4xb5 d5-d4

On 39...Rc2† 40 Kf1 Nd3 41 f2-f4 would follow.

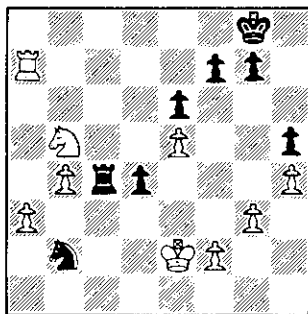


Diagram 28

40 Ra7-c7 d4-d3†

41 Ke2-e3

Not to d2 because of Re4.

41 Rc4-g4

42 Rc7-c1 g7-g5

Spielmann doesn't relax!

43 Nb5-d6

43 Rb1 would not be as good because of 43...Nc4† 44 Kxd3 Nxe5

45 Ke2 g5xh4 46 g3xh4 Rg4xh4.

43 g5xh4

44 g3xh4 Rg4xh4

45 Rc1-b1

An elegant backward movement of the rook a7-c7-c1-b1, especially when one considers that the obligatory drop of poison isn't missing at all because the position of the rook on b1 gives the pawn the — lust to wander.

45 Rh4-h3†

46 Ke3-d2

On detours, one could say that by tiring detours the White king has reached the blockade position.

46 Nb2-a4

47 b4-b5 Na4-b6

48 Rb1-b4

48 a3-a4? Nxa4 49 b6 Nxb6 50 Rxb6 Rf3! etc.

48 Rh3-f3

49 Nd6-c4

Death to the blockader!

49 Nb6-d7

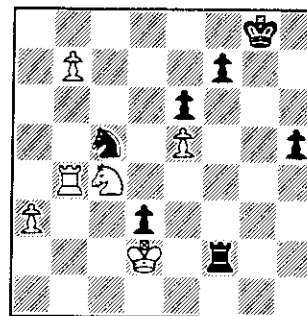
After 49...Nxc4 50 Rxc4 Rxf2† 51 Kxd3 Rf3† 52 Kc2 Rxa3, the b-pawn would advance without being stopped, i.e. 53 Rc8† Kg7 54 b5-b6 Ra2† 55 Kc3 Ra3† 56 Kc4 Ra4 57 Kb5 and wins.

50 b5-b6 Nd7-c5

51 b6-b7 Rf3xf2†

Please observe with what finesse Black makes use of his dying knight right up to its last breath. Now there comes an exciting dance around the pawn d3.

Diagram 29



52 Kd2-e3 Rf2-e2†

53 Ke3-d4 Nc5xb7

54 Kd4xd3!

The point, but the win is still quite difficult because the h-pawn suddenly becomes dangerous.

54 Re2-g2

55 Rb4xb7 h5-h4

56 Nc4-e3 Rg2-g5

57 Kd3-d4 h4-h3

58 Rb7-b2 Rg5-h5
 59 Rb2-h2 f7-f6
 60 Ne3-c4 Kg8-f7
 61 a3-a4

Here the game was adjourned and Spielmann resigned without resuming play. After 61...Kf7-g6 62 a4-a5 f6xe5† 63 Kd4-c5 Kg6-f5 64 a5-a6 Rh5-h7 65 Kc5-b6 Kf5-g4 the knight by Ne3† and Nf1 will arrive just in time to support the blockader on h2 effectively.

An extremely valuable game.

The next two games will illustrate a fight against a majority in the center. First a more recent game that I played in a match against Brinckmann which I won 4 - 0.

No. 6
 Played at Kolding, Denmark 1923

White: Nimzowitsch

Black: Brinckmann

1 d2-d4 d7-d5
 2 Ng1-f3 c7-c5
 3 c2-c4 e7-e6
 4 e2-e3 Ng8-f6
 5 Nb1-c3 Nb8-c6

The normal position of the Queen's Gambit, which I like to play.

6 Bf1-e2 Bf8-d6

Purists (= straight line pseudo-classicists) will feel that Be2 leaves the straight path (Bd3). But that isn't the case because Be2 fits better than Bd3 in some pawn positions arising out of later pawn exchanges, i.e. when d5 becomes isolated.

7 0-0 0-0
 8 b2-b3 c5xd4

Here too the purist would not be able to conceal any longer his discontent that b7-b6 would be better. But after 8...b6 9 Bb2 Bb7 10 c4xd5 exd 11 dxc bxc, the hanging pawns c5 and d5 are not to everybody's taste, although in Petersburg Tarrasch won a — let's say — splendid victory.

9 e3xd4 Nf6-e4

Not bad at all; this way the absence of the bishop on d3 is being exploited.

10 Bc1-b2 Ne4xc3
 11 Bb2xc3 Nc6-e7

But here b7-b6 was better.

12 c4-c5 Bd6-c7
 13 b3-b4

The queen side majority to which Black would like to counter with the center majority.

13 Ne7-g6
 14 Rf1-e1

One calls this a fine rook move, unassuming and versatile: 1. directed against e6-e5, 2. conserving the Be2 against Nf4 (14...Nf4 15 Bf1).

14 Bc8-d7
 15 b4-b5 Qd8-e7
 16 Qd1-d2!

The threatened e6-e5 is parried by Qd2, i.e. 16...e5? 17 dxe Qxc5 18 Bb4.

16 Rf8-c8
 17 a2-a4 Kg8-h8

After 17...e6-e5 would follow 18 dxe Qxc5 19 Bd4 (blockade) with a superior game.

18 a4-a5

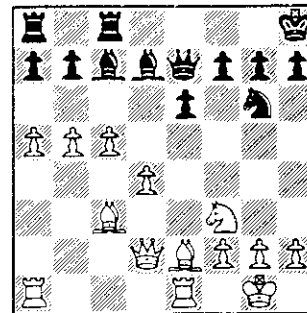


Diagram 30

18 f7-f6

From here on e6-e5 is a constant threat.

19 a5-a6 b7-b6
 20 c5-c6 Bd7-e8

White has converted his mobile majority into a protected passed pawn. However this one has been stopped and at present White has no real target in the enemy camp. Did the conversion of the majority perhaps proceed too quickly?

21 Be2-f1 Be8-f7
 22 h2-h4 Bc7-d6
 23 g2-g3 Qe7-c7
 24 Bf1-h3 Rc8-e8
 25 Re1-e3!

White has prevented the breakthrough in a fine, combinational way; if now 25...e6-e5 then 26 h5 Nf8 27 dxe fxe 28 Rae1 d4 29 Nxd4 exd 30 Qxd4 and wins.

25 Ng6-f8
 26 Rae1 Re8-e7
 27 Bc3-b4! Ra8-e8
 28 Qd2-c3!

With the intention of playing Qa3 and thus forcing Black to play Bxb4, thus gaining domination of the diagonal a3-e7.

28 Bd6xb4
 29 Qc3xb4 Kh8-g8

e6-e5 was impossible due to the x-ray attack b4-f8, i.e. 29...e5 30 dxe fxe 31 Nxe5 Rxe5 32 Rxe5 Rxe5 33 Qxf8 mate.

30 Bh3-f5

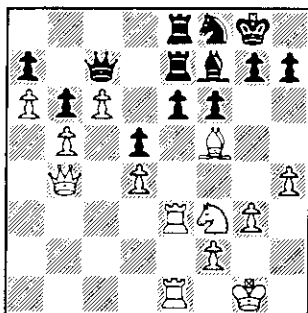


Diagram 31

30 Bf7-g6

Black has defended well but now he had to play e6-e5 with probable equality.

31 Bf5xg6 Nf8xg6

32 h4-h5 Ng6-f8

33 Nf3-h4!

Now e6-e5 would be answered by Nf5.

33 Kg8-f7

34 Kg1-g2

Such little moves characterize the master. White assumes there will be an eventual opening of the h file, and in that case he wants to be ready for battle (Re1-h1).

34 g7-g6

Correst; it was in the air.

35 h5xg6 h7xg6

36 f2-f4

Only now the Black pawn majority (in the center) appears to be paralyzed.

36 Qc7-d8

37 Nh4-f3 Qd8-c7

38 Re1-h1 Kf7-g8

39 Re3-e1 Re7-h7

40 Rh1xh7 Nf8xh7

41 Re1-h1 Nh7-f8

42 Rh1-h6

To induce Kg7 which would make the planned opposition by Re8-e7-h7 more difficult, i.e. 42...Kg7 43 Rh2 with eventual doubling on the h file, perhaps after Qd2 and g3-g4-g5.

42 Re8-e7

43 Qb4-a3

(See Diagram 32 at the top of the next page)

The way to victory is very interesting. It climaxes with a knight sacrifice on ... b6! The procedure is as follows: White plays the queen through c1 to h1. But before that he brings g3 to g5 forcibly creating a hole on e5. There-

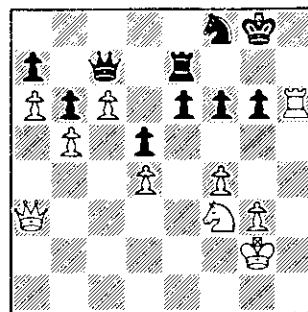


Diagram 32

After 43 Qa3

after White can either force the exchange of rooks or the exchange of queens, i.e. 43 Qa3 Qd8 44 Qc1 Qc7 45 g4 Qd6 46 g5 f5. The position thus arrived at can be easily won without queens because the White knight will move to a4, White moves Rh1-a1 at the last moment (the Black king is held tied down on the king wing as long as possible), and the intended knight sacrifice on b6 decides. The plan works even easier with queens without rooks (because Black always has the capability of exchanging rooks through Rh7) and then at the right moment the queen will enter. The actual game proceeded thus:

43 Re7-g7

After this move White finished him off quickly.

44 Rh6-h8† Kg8xh8

45 Qa3xf8† Kh8-h7

46 Qf8xf6 Qc7-e7

47 Nf3-g5† Kh7-h8

After Kg8 follows 48 Qxe6† Qxe6 49 Nxe6 Rg8 50 Nc7.

48 Qf6-e5 Qe7-c7

49 Qe5xe6 Qc7-e7

50 Qe6-h3† Resigns.

After Kg8 a general exchange follows: 51 Qc8† Qf8 52 Qxf8† Kxf8 53 Ne6†, after which the c-pawn becomes a queen.

If we assume that the procedure outlined in the note to move 43 (g3-g4-g5 to force f6-f5) had actually happened, then we can describe the gradual paralysis of e6 or of the majority in the center as an instructive example of a fight against a center majority.

The breakthrough combination on the paradoxically operative square b6 marks this game as an extraordinary accomplishment.

Now for a game from an earlier date which however appears remarkable because it is the prototype of a variation which was believed to be dead but which I revived to a new life. Notwithstanding the variation, the game represents uncharted territory insofar as here for the first time it will be shown — and later copied by the other Moderns — that it is not essential whether one has pawns or no pawns in the center, the primary object is the domination of the center, which means the hampering of the enemy center with a blockade to follow as a climax.

No. 7

Karlsbad Tournament 1911

White: Nimzowitsch

Black: Salwe

1 e2-e4 e7-e6
2 d2-d4 d7-d5
3 e4-e5

Up until then believed to be absolutely unplayable. I was later told Salwe said after e4-e5 that I must have thought I was playing a game at rook odds!!

3 c7-c5
4 c2-c3 Nb8-c6
5 Ng1-f3 Qd8-b6
6 Bf1-d3 Bc8-d7

It was better to exchange first by c5xd4.

7 d4xc5 Bf8xc5
8 0-0 f7-f6

Black is about to eliminate his opponent's center pawns one after the other, but this can be of advantage to him only if he could thereby secure the mobility of his own center, but as we shall soon see there will be plenty of counter-action against that.

9 b2-b4 Bc5-e7
10 Bc1-f4 f6xe5
11 Nf3xe5 Nc6xe5
12 Bf4xe5 Ng8-f6

The point is that the attempt to neutralize the blockading Be5 by Bf6 would fail due to the check on h5, i.e. 12...Bf6 13 Qh5+ g6? 14 Bxg6+ hxg 15 Qxg6+ Ke7 16 Bxf6+ Nxf6 17 Qg7+. But after 12...Nf6 the "blockade ring" remains intact so far.

13 Nb1-d2 0-0

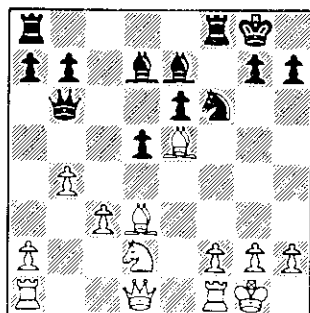


Diagram 33

But how easily this ring could be broken at the slightest relaxation by White; i.e. 14 Qc2 Ng4! 15 Bxh7+ Kh8 16 Bd4 Qc7 17 g3 e5. To understand the position we must realize that freedom to maneuver is necessary for the blockade as well as for every other achievement. Freedom to maneuver here consists of the squares d4 and e5, which White can occupy with pieces, and of the squares c2 and e2 from which the queen can operate. The trick

now is to make use of these points economically.

14 Nd2-f3!

Prevents Bb5 because then would follow 15 Bd4 Qa6 16 Bxb5 Qxb5 and the Pe6 falls.

14 Be7-d6

15 Qd1-e2

White did not make his decision between e2 and c2 any earlier than absolutely necessary. This is what was meant by economical use of these squares.

15 Ra8-c8

16 Be5-d4

Just in time because now Ne5 will help to increase the blockade.

16 Qb6-c7

17 Nf3-e5 Bd7-e8

18 Ra1-e1 Bd6xe5

19 Bd4xe5

The dark square bishop dominates.

19 Qc7-c6

20 Be5-d4!

To force the bishop, which was eyeing both sides of the board, to make a decision.

20 Be8-d7

21 Qe2-c2!

A clearing move for the Re1 and at the same time aiming decisively at h7.

21 Rf8-f7

22 Re1-e3 b7-b6

23 Re3-g3 Kg8-h8

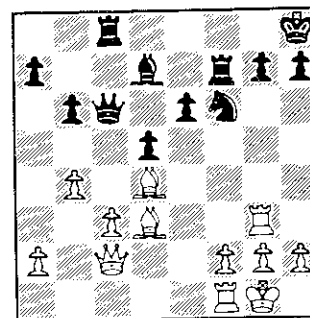


Diagram 34

24 Bd3xh7! e6-e5

On 24...Nxf7 25 Qg6 wins.

25 Bh7-g6 Rf7-e7

26 Rf1-e1 Qc6-d6

27 Bd4-e3 d5-d4

28 Be3-g5

The free center doesn't mean much here because the pawn deficit and the two bishops cannot be compensated for.

28 Rc8xc3

29	Rg3xc3	d4xc3
30	Qc2xc3	Kh8-g8
31	a2-a3	Kg8-f8
32	Bg5-h4	Bd7-e8
33	Bg6-f5	Qd6-d4

Bg3 was threatened.

34	Qc3xd4	e5xd4
35	Re1xe7	Kf8xe7
36	Bf5-d3	

The blockade!

36	...	Ke7-d6
37	Bh4xf6	g7xf6
38	Kg1-f1	Be8-c6
39	h2-h4	Resigns.

In the same tournament a few rounds later I played a game in which the same idea was even more sharply prominent, namely apparently giving up the center only to occupy it (blockade) later more strongly.

No. 8

White: Nimzowitsch

Black: Levenfish

1	e2-e4	e7-e6
2	d2-d4	d7-d5
3	e4-e5	c7-c5
4	c2-c3	Nb8-c6
5	Ng1-f3	f7-f6
6	Bf1-b5	Bc8-d7
7	0-0	Qd8-b6
8	Bb5xc6	b7-xc6
9	e5xf6	Ng8xf6
10	Nf3-e5	Bf8-d6
11	d4xc5!	Bd6xc5

Or 7...Nxe5 8 Nxe5 Bxb5 9 Qh5+

After the game Levenfish told me that he couldn't understand why I had completely given up the center.

12 Bc1-g5!

The explanation! The next Black moves were forced

12	....	Qb6-d8
13	Bg5xf6!	Qd8xf6
14	Qd1-h5+	g7-g6
15	Qh5-e2	

Now the White plan - blockade of the Black center - is clear. There followed:

15	....	Ra8-d8
16	Nb1-d2	0-0
17	Ra1-e1	Rf8-e8
18	Kg1-h1	Bc5-d6

19 f2-f4

with advantage to White.

While "Blockade" did not contain the remaining moves of the game, they are added here for the benefit of the reader wishing to play through the game to its conclusion.

19	....	c6-c5
20	c3-c4!	Bd6-f8
21	c4xd5	Bd7-c8
22	Nd2-e4	Qf6-g7
23	d5xe6	Bc8xe6
24	Qe2-a6	Kg8-h8
25	Re1-d1	Be6-g8
26	b2-b3	Rd8-d4
27	Rd1xd4	c5xd4
28	Qa6-a5	Re8-c8
29	Rf1-d1	Rc8-c2
30	h2-h3	Qg7-b7
31	Rd1xd4!	Bf8-c5
32	Qa5-d8!	Bc5-e7
33	Qd8-d7	Qb7-a6
34	Rd4-d3!	Be7-f8
35	Ne5-f7+	Bg8xf7
36	Qd7xf7	Rc2-c8
37	Rd3-d7	Resigns.

In conclusion I give a game in which restraint occurs only in the broadest sense of the word. Pawns will not be touched at all by restraint in this last example. Everything goes on - so to speak - invisibly. Lines and squares serve as objects of the restraint, and only at the end all of the enemy pieces are stalemated in a most "frightening" way.

No. 9

International Master Tournament Copenhagen 1923

White: Sämisch

Black: Nimzowitsch

1	d2-d4	Ng8-f6
2	c2-c4	e7-e6
3	Ng1-f3	b7-b6
4	g2-g3	Bc8-b7
5	Bf1-g2	Bf8-e7
6	Nb1-c3	0-0
7	0-0	d7-d5
8	Nf3-e5	c7-c6

Stronger than Qc8 which Sämisch had played as Black in this position.

9	c4xd5	c6xd5
10	Bc1-f4	a7-a6!

In order to play b6-b5 and prepare for the invasion of c4 by the Nb8. The square c4 constitutes here the square for an outpost on the c-file.

11 Ra1-c1 b6-b5
 12 Qd1-b3 Nb8-c6!

Threatens to gallop with accelerated pace (Nc6-a5) to c4. Therefore the exchange seems sufficiently motivated.

13 Ne5xc6 Bb7xc6

On the other hand Black has gained time through the exchange because the "tempo swallower" Ne5 had himself exchanged against the harmless Nc6.

14 h2-h3 Qd8-d7

15 Kg1-h2 Nf6-h5!

Combined play on both wings. On the queen side alone the game would have to be continued by Qb7 and Nf6-d7-b6-c4.

16 Bf4-d2 f7-f5!

17 Qb3-d1 b5-b4!

18 Nc3-b1 Bc6-b5

19 Rf1-g1

One clearly feels how White's domain is shrinking.

19 Be7-d6

20 e2-e4 f4xe4!

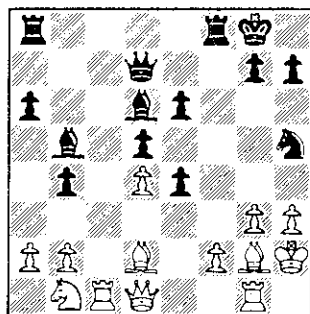


Diagram 35

21 Qd1xh5 Rf8xf2

The idea of the sacrifice is that White, who owns neither lines nor squares, will become completely tied up. The occupation of the enemy's second rank has a paralyzing effect, especially in conjunction with the strongly posted Bb5 (prevents Rf1). On the other hand White's queen wing is always indirectly threatened, and the configuration of the White pieces is insoluble.

22 Qh5-g5 Ra8-f8

23 Kh2-h1 Rf8-f5

24 Qg5-e3 Bb5-d3

25 Rc1-e1 h7-h6!!

A brilliant move which declares *zugzwang*.

(See Diagram 36 at the top of the next page)

White is in *zugzwang*!! With a full board!!

White has no moves, i.e. on Kh2 follows Rf5-f3, and the same after g3-g4.

This unusually brilliant *zugzwang*-mechanism makes this game, which Dr.

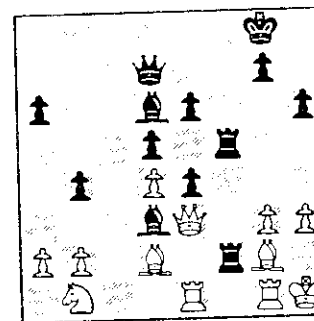


Diagram 36

After 25...h6!

Lasker in a Dutch magazine called a beautiful accomplishment, a counterpart to the "Immortal Game." There the maximal effect of the "sacrifice", here that of the "*zugzwang*".

* * *

With this I conclude my demonstration of examples of my own practice, and hope that my friendly reader will soon find the desired opportunity for applying some of these rules, hints or principles.

A. Nimzowitsch

Appendix One

The New System

by A. Nimzowitsch *

Chess strategy as such today is still in its diapers, despite Tarrasch's statement "we live today in a beautiful time of progress in all fields." Not even the slightest attempt has been made to explore and formulate the laws of chess strategy. Tarrasch's postulates such as "the acceptance of the gambit is principally (!) (the [!] is from me, A.N.) erroneous because . . . dangerous"! really cannot claim to be such; at best I would call them "practical hints of an experienced housewife."

From this perspective my present attempt to formulate the results of my many years of explorations ought to be able to open up a new era in chess. My congenital inclination to search for rules urged me to do this.

What I want to demonstrate here is a harmoniously built up set of laws of chess strategy.

I know very well that my attempt will not fail to provoke a storm of anger among today's "theoreticians" and that they will fight my system with every means, especially mini-means . . . O. K. Come on!

And now, without further ado, let's begin!

I. About the Center — Pieces and Pawns — The Concept of the Characteristic Position in the Center

The pawns form the skeleton of the game, the pieces are the other parts, the inner organs!

The pieces must stand in living connection with the (pawn-) center.

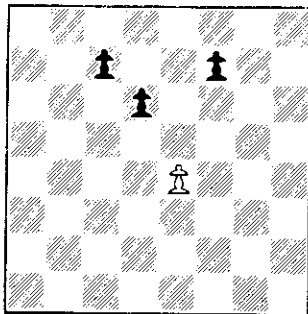


Diagram I

First, White will post his pieces in such a way that his center e4 is well protected, second he will direct his forces against the threatening enemy advance

* *Wiener Schachzeitung*, October 1913

d5 or f5 which would undermine his center. He will meet these enemy threats partially directly (by pressure on d5 and f5), partially indirectly (through the intention of answering the move d5 or f5 respectively with e4-e5 or also through the intention of parrying these moves with e4xd5 or e4xf5 respectively in order to initiate play on the e file. From this the law arises:

The moves of the pieces are dictated by the living demands of the center. *

As we have seen, the mission of the pieces is a double one:

First, the pieces must "protect" the center, i.e. keep it well guarded,

second, they must "support" it, i.e. they must be directed against the expected advance in the center.

The first demand must be fulfilled even when one stands very well in the center, i.e. regardless of how well one stands in the center, one must take care of its defense.

So much about the structure of the center. Now we will talk about the "use" of the center. First we should mention that we call every scheme (as for instance shown in Diagram I) which represents the nucleus of the position, a "characteristic position in the center." This last one will always be the starting point of our calculations.

II. About the Management (Utilization) of the Center — Open Files and Their Laws — About the Latent Cooperation of the Center.

The center shall be viewed as having stability, i.e. the characteristic position shall be utilized in the shape it is in (without being changed).

The position in the center must not be modified constantly, once the characteristic position is taken up, it must be maintained — at least for a very long time. One must try to fortify it and to post one's pieces according to the characteristic position.

Frequently the attack plays by itself, i.e. with purely passive help from the center, it shifts to the wings.

An example. After the moves 1 e2-e4 e7-e5 2 Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6 3 Bf1-b5 d7-d6 4 d2-d4 Bc8-d7 5 Nb1-c3 Ng8-f6 6 O-O Bf8-e7 7 Rf1-e1 e5xd4 8 Nf3xd4 (now the characteristic position seen in Diagram I, pawn e4 against pawns d6 and f7 has been reached) Nc6xd4 9 Qd1xd4 Bd7xb5 10 Nc3xb5 O-O 11 Bc1-g5 Rf8-e8 12 Ra1-d1 ("supports") Nf6-d7 13 Bg5xe7 Re8xe7 White must not operate in the center (f2-f4 e4-e5), on the contrary, he must stay entirely neutral there. What he must do is carry out our law of "protecting" and "supporting" the center, i.e. 14 Nb5-c3 (Qc3 is also good) Nd7-b6 15 Re1-e3 Qd8-d7 16 Rd1-e1 Ra8-e8 17 Rc3-g3. Already this leads to a weakening of the king's wing, which success may be considered a result of

* To prevent misunderstandings, I note that for didactic reasons I assume for the time being the center as such could be occupied by pawn exclusively. Indeed the center forms the domain of the pawns.

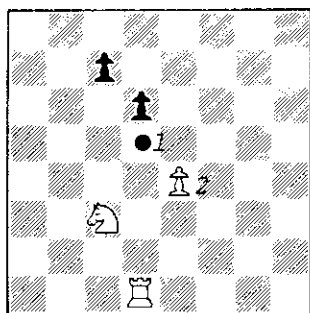
our management of the center.

The cooperation of the center has been documented here

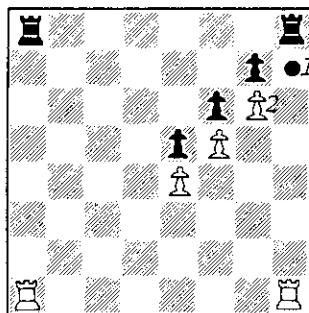
1. through the latent threat of the advance e4-e5,
2. through the maneuver Re3-g3 (a consequence of the space advantage produced by the further advanced center),
3. through enabling us to play on the d file: the center serves as a support for operations on the d file.

This leads to an examination of the open file!

The open line needs a "support point" and an "entry point."



1 Entry point on the d file
2 Support point on the d file



1 Entry point on the h file
2 Support point on the h file

The "support point" of a file is one's own pawn on the neighboring file, i.e. pawn e4 for the d file (in Diagram II) or pawn g6 for the h file (Diagram III) – the point respectively thus produced is our protected entry point. d5 in Diagram II, or h7 in Diagram III.

Law: The utilization of an open file consists in the occupation of the entry point (by pieces).

- a) If it is a center file, the entry point is best occupied by a knight which will then have an unequalled radius of action.
- b) If it is a file on the rim, a rook will be selected to initiate doubling (conquest of the file) and eventual encirclement.

In case b) (Diagram III) White moves Rh7! [= Occupation of the entry point on the rim file with a rook!], if the invading rook is exchanged by an opposing enemy rook (to prevent doubling) the pawn g6 will become passed and a powerful force. Because of this there arises a peculiar

Change of assignments: First (before Rh8sh7) the pawn (g6) supported the rook, later (after ...Rh8xh7 g6xh7 followed by Ra1-h1, the rook supports the pawn.

In case (a) the lawful occupation of the entry point by a knight results in a

new advantage:

The Outpost.

A strategically conditioned outpost exerts a permanent pressure thanks to its great attacking radius.

In our example it fixes the points c7, e7, f6. The newly produced attack possibilities, produced by the outpost, establish the further consequences of play in the line in question (d file) Diagram II.

The law of the outpost can thus be formulated:

Once the attacker has succeeded in conquering the open file and entrenched himself on the entry point the consistent continuation of the attack is formed by the utilization of the attacking possibilities produced thereby.

Black must drive away the outpost (Nd5) with c7-c6 sooner or later, but that will render the d-pawn backward and a target for attack. The game enters a new stage.

III. The Backward Pawn as Target of the Attack – The Concept of the "Direct" and "Indirect" Attack Against a Backward Pawn – The Hole.

The position of the pawn d6 (after c7-c6) is weak but not hopeless because – in spite of enemy observation of the point d5 – there still exists the possibility of the advance d6-d5. The situation is different when the c-pawn either does not exist any more or already stands on c5. In this case we have a classical example of a backward pawn on an open file – absolute. In that case the point d5 (after c7-c5 Diagram II) can be called a hole. The modus operandi now consists of maneuvering against this pawn, identified by the fact that the pawn is weak and that there is a hole on d5.

The backward pawn – in our case d6 – will be attacked one way or the other. The intent is to force the guarding pieces into uncomfortable positions.

The d-pawn should not only be exposed to frontal attacks but also lateral attacks and if possible attacks by encirclement. The base for these maneuvers is the hole, formerly our "entry point" d5.

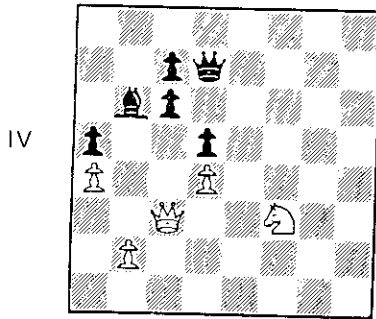
We formulate thus:

1. All pieces must be directed toward the entry point (hole) to maintain the pressure and eventually to invade the enemy camp across this point.
2. The entry point (especially one which has "progressed" to the designation hole) shall if possible be occupied by different pieces one by one.

The result of this modus operandi against our target of attack will either consist of direct conquest of it or it will lead to a decisive opening of a file. The last mentioned maneuver consists of the following: After the guarding pieces are forced into uncomfortable position (see above) White plays e4-e5 (or c4-c5) which means that he renounces the direct conquest of the goal for which he was fighting and takes advantage of the restraint of the guarding enemy pieces for a decisive breakthrough (Invasion into the 7th or 8th rank).

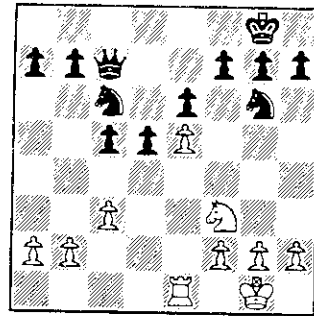
This statement brings us to the concept of direct and indirect attack against the enemy pawn. I call it direct when it is a plain attack by pieces, in which case the aim is the direct conquest of the object of the fight.

I call "indirect" the attack by a pawn on a pawn (e4-e5!). In that case the aim is not the conquest of the object of the fight but the conquest of the terrain.



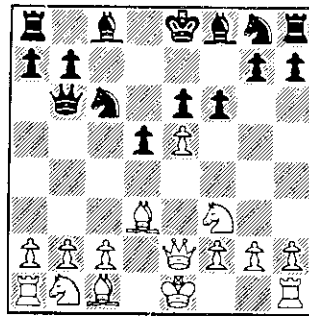
IV

The characteristic position of a game Nimzowitsch-Shories Ostende 1907.



V

Direct attack against the pawn e5 (Qc7, Nc6, Ng6).



VI

Indirect attack against pawn e5.

See Diagram IV'. The direct (= attack with pieces against the pawn a5) would be here Nf3-d2-b3.

The indirect (= pawn attack) however would consist of b2-b4. In the first case the object of the fight is conquered; in the second case terrain (the pawn becomes passed).

This gives the following rule for "direct" and "indirect" attack:

As a general rule the direct attack should be applied first; as a consequence the opponent's guarding pieces are forced into uncomfortable positions. Only then is the indirect attack launched in order to conquer terrain by renouncing the direct conquest of the object of the battle.

Before we turned our spotlight on the weakness of the pawn position c5, d6; but naturally c6, d5 presents a sufficient attack object which however is harder to exploit.

We continue now with a game in which we explain in detail the scheme of the principles we have demonstrated. We selected one of Tarrasch's games because in its motives it is simple and clear.

Ruy Lopez

White: Dr. Tarrasch

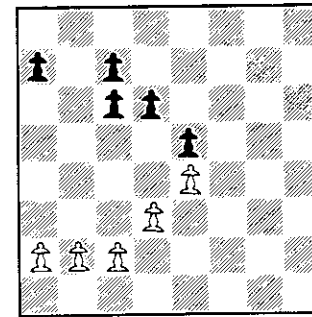
Black: Johann Berger

1 e2-e4 e7-e5 2 Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6 3 Bf1-b5 a7-a6 4 Bb5-a4 Ng8-f6 5 Nb1-c3 Bf8-b4 6 Nc3-d5 Bb4-e7 7 d2-d3 d7-d6.

We have the characteristic position W: e4 and d3 against e5 and d6. The tendency is to transfer into the characteristic position e4, d4 against e5, d6. I call the later characteristic position "Attack position against Defense position in the Center."

8 Nd5-b4 Bc8-d7 9 Nb4xc6 Bd7xc6 10 Ba4xc6† b7xc6

VII



Due to the doubling of the c-pawn the character of the position has essentially changed. The weakness of the characteristic position (e4, d3, c2 against e5, d6, c7, c6) shows up for Black when we examine his possibilities for action in the center: It is assumed that he will eventually play d6-d5. Now he has two possibilities: Either dxe (but then the doubled pawns c6, c7 will be isolated and certainly a disadvantage) or d5-d4. This move (d4), as we will eventually demonstrate in the laws of transference, presents the attempt to transfer the attack from e4-d3, namely by following up with c6-c5-c4.

If the b-pawn is still lined up on its original file, then White could not prevent the movement of the c-pawn by b2-b3 because Black gets support by b7-b5. But here this isn't possible any more, and the c-pawn is impeded. From this one sees that the doubling c6, c7 causes a diminution of Black's possibility of action in the center.

11 0-0 0-0 12 Qd1-e2 c6-c5

In order to utilize the former b-pawn (now pawn c6) which aims at preventing d3-d4. However it was better to omit c6-c5 in order to give up the center after d3-d4. In that case Black would have the e file and the compact, pawn

mass working toward the center as compensation.

The most important function of the pawn c6 consists in the fact that it impedes the enemy's utilization of the d file (which means Nd5, see open files).

13 c2-c3

Not quite timely, it sins against our law: The characteristic position shall be utilized at first in the form in which it is. Therefore first the knight maneuver f3-d2-c4-e3 should be played. It is interesting that Steinitz also recommends the same maneuver "to let Black suffer with the disadvantage of the double pawn as long as possible." (*To be found in Tarrasch's "300 Chess Games", page 231.*) This deep statement contains the first bud of my system of the characteristic position.

13...Nf6-d7 14 d3-d4 e5xd4 15 c3xd4 Be7-f6 16 Bc1-e3 c5xd4 17 Be3xd4 Rf8-e8 18 Qe2-c2.

The favorable characteristic position e4 against d6, c7, f7 finds in the weakness of the c-pawn (a backward pawn on an open file!) a new momentum in favor of White. But the advantage is only minimal

18...Bf6xd4 19 Nf3xd4 Nd7-c5

In games of that time a frequent example of salvation of a backward pawn behind a piece, especially behind a knight.

20 f2-f3

Safeguards the center which shall be the support for the later utilization of the d file! If now it remains static, it will still be most noticeable thru the latent threat of an advance (e4-e5) during the entire course of the game (see my laws concerning the center).

20...Qd8-f6 21 Rf1-d1 Re8-b8 22 Ra1-b1 a6-a5 23 Kg1-h1!

A splendid illustration of our dogma of the latent cooperation of the center.

Because of the advance e4-e5!! Qxe5 Nc6 which now would have failed on account of the queen's check on e3.

This threat, respectively the latent cooperation of the center, induces the opponent to bring his pieces into all kinds of unnatural positions to counteract the danger.

23...Rb8-b6!

There we have it!

24 Nd4-e2!

Aims at d5, utilization of the d file.

24...Nc5-e6 25 Ne2-c3 Rb6-c6 26 Qc2-a4

Not only attacks the rook c6, but also the point c6 containing the tendency to immobilize the object of the attack fixed by Nd5, and immobilize it through a later Qc6.

26...Rc6-c5 27 Nc3-d5 Qf6-d8 28 Rb1-c1 Rxc1 29 Rd1xc1

Now Qc6 is threatened. If Nc5 then Qc6 Ra7 e4-e5! Again the latent cooperation of the center.

29...c7-c5

But now d6 is backward, and the point d5 gains in importance (see our explanations).

30 Rc1-d1 Ne6-d4! 31 Qa4-c4

The pieces — according to our law — aim at the entry point. This indicated maneuvering, indicated through the weakness of d6 and d5 is now apparent, namely Ne3, Qd5, Nc4. This "change of place" illustrates also our law concerning the alternating occupation of the point of entry by different pieces!

31...Ra8-b8 32 b2-b3 Rb8-c8?

A mistake, which forces the game out of the train of logical development. The latter consisted, as stated, in maneuvering against d6 (which pawn shall be attacked first one way then another way) which would have forced the enemy pieces into uncomfortable positions. If there wasn't anything better, then the d-pawn could be attacked after exchanging the Nd4 by Nd5-c3-e2. Then it only seems that attack and defense hold each other in the balance: queen and rook versus queen and rook. In reality the e-pawn will be the third attacker, namely e4-e5 at the right moment, and wins. And so the threatening advance — made a reality — would have brought about the decision.

After the text move blunder White does not have an easy but forced win. He plays

33 Rxd4 cxd 34 Nd5-e7! (not Qxc8 Qxc8 35 Ne7† Kf8 36 Nxc8 d3 and Black wins) 34...Qxe7 35 QxRc8† Qf8 36 Qxf8† Kxf8

and White wins due to his distant passed pawn. This ending is unimportant right now for "our system".

(Nimzowitsch developed other points in further articles which would take us far beyond our subject. I append the remaining moves of this game.)

37 Kg1 Ke7 38 Kf2 d5 39 e5 Ke6 40 Ke2 Kxe5 41 Kd3 h5 42 a3 h4 43 b4 axb 44 axb Kd6 45 Kxd4 Kc6 46 b5†? Kxb5 47 Kxd5 Kb4 48 Kd4 Kb5 49 Ke5 Kc4 50 Kf4 Kd4 51 Kg4 Ke5? 52 Kxh4 Kf4 53 Kh5 Kf5 54 g3 Kf6 55 Kg4 Kg6 56 Kf4 Kf6 57 Ke4 Ke6 58 Kd4 Kd6 59 Kc4 Kc6 60 f4 Kd6 61 Kd4 Ke6 62 Kc5 Ke7 63 Kd5 Kd7 64 Ke5 Ke7 65 f5 f6† 66 Kd5 Kd7 67 h3 Ke7 68 Kc6 Ke8 69 h4 Ke7 70 Kc7 Ke8 71 Kd6 Kd8 72 Ke6 Ke8 73 h5 Kf8 74 h6 Resigns.

Appendix Two

A Modern Fantasy About a Tschigorin Theme *

(1 e2-e4 e7-e6 2 Qe2)

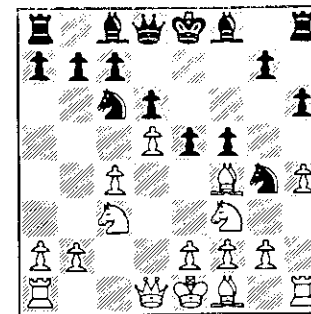
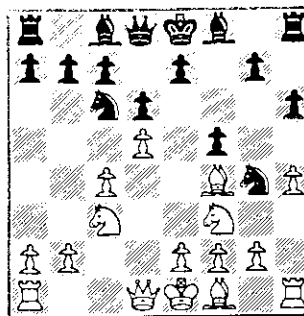
by A. Nimzowitsch

As is so often the case, the sudden growth of the seemingly sterile variation Qe2 was a consequence of an awareness which in itself is to be taken as neither important or complete in any way. The Danish analyst Dr. Krause noticed during one of his safaris through the land of opening theory that Tschigorin's variation 1 e4 e6 2 Qe2 c5 3 d3 with a later f4, was also playable without Qe2. As one will admit without ado, this realization is not exactly earth shaking. Also it only concerns one detail, which is the question as to how the pawn structure d3, e4, f4 should be prepared in the best technical manner. Dr. Krause and I did some exploration with respect to this discovery. The results however surpassed all expectations and gained undreamed-of importance for the whole of chess theory, especially for the Dutch and Sicilian Defenses. In the following paragraphs I will present some games, which I analyze in detail to clearly elucidate the development of the new variation (one could actually say its embryology).

In the international master tournament at Copenhagen in 1923, J. Möller surprised me with the following innovation. White: Nimzowitsch Black: J. Möller. 1 d2-d4 f7-f5 2 c2-c4 Ng8-f6 3 Nb1-c3 d7-d6. One is definitely inclined to agree with Teichmann (in the tournament book) in calling this move inferior. There followed 4 Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6! Now Black apparently wants to play e7-e5 because Qe7 as preparation for this position is entirely unnecessary (the interesting detail of Krause!). There is indeed no apparent advantage for White after 5 g2-g3 e7-e5 6 dxe dxe 7 Qxd8† Kxd8 or 6...Nxe5 and the loss of castling is more than compensated for by the two pawns e5 and f5. Therefore I decided to play 5 Bc1-f4 and there followed 5...h7-h6 6 h2-h4 Nf6-g4. All of this according to Dr. Krause. And now — willy nilly — I had to move 7 d4-d5. In this critical position Möller moved 7...Nc6-e5 after which the answer 8 e2-e4 would have given the advantage to White, i.e. 8 e4 fxe 9 Nxe5 dxe 10 Bg3 (in the game the somewhat weaker 8 Bxe5 dxe 9 e4 e6! 10 Nh2 *still the best because it threatens Bc5*) was played after which, instead of the dubious acceptance 10...Qxh4 11 Nxg4!, the simple retreat 10...Nf6 11 Bd3 Bc5 (*dxe? f4*) would have made Black's position safe.)

In a correspondence game against me Dr. Krause (see Diagram I) played much stronger; he played 7...e7-e5! This move improves the whole variation immensely (see Diagram II).

* Kagan's Neueste Schachnachrichten, January 1925



The pawn sacrifice involved in 7...e5 8 dxc6 e5xf4 9 cxb Bxb7 10 Qd4 seems to offer Black good chances after the waiting move 10...Qd7. If White now plays at once 11 Qxf4 then 11...Be7 followed by Bf6 results in a tremendous position. However, if White wants to move something else first (to keep the central queen position as long as possible) then he is at a loss for a move because 11 0-0-0 leaves f2 unprotected and after 11 Rd1 a6 12 Rh3 (artificial, but the rook wants to go to the other side) 0-0-0 already threatens Be7 because Qxg7 fails on account of the combination Nxf2 Kxf2 Bh4† with Qxg7.

For these reasons, in the above mentioned position 7...e7-e5 seems not only to be playable but even completely sound. In the mentioned correspondence game there followed (from Diagram II) 8 d5xe6 e.p. After 8...Bc8xe6 the game continued:

White: Nimzowitsch

Black: Krause

9 g2-g3!

This in any case extraordinarily interesting pawn sacrifice, whose point lies in the secessionistic appearing bishop maneuver of moves 11, and 12, comprises the only hidden way to breath life into the game; in similar positions there had been much less colorfully played after the moves: 1 Nf3 f5 2 c4 Nc6 3 d4 d6 4 Bf4 h6 5 h4 Nf6 6 e3 Ng4 7 d5 e5! 8 dxe ep. Bxe6, the move 9 Nc3 (the game Brinckmann-Krause, Nordic Master Tournament 1924). There followed: 9...g6 10 Nd4 Qd7 11 Be2 Bg7 12 Nxe6 Qxe6 13 Nd5 0-0-0 14 Rb1 (perhaps 14 Qa4 was preferable?) g5! 15 Bg3 Nf6! 16 Nxf6 Bxf6 17 Kf1 Be5 18 Bh2 Bxh2 19 Rxh2 Ne5! This central position is definitely decisive. 20 Qd4 Kb8 21 b4 Rd-f8 22 f4 Nc6 23 Qd2 g4 24 g3 Rf-d8. White stands inferior. 25 b5 Ne7 26 Bd3 d5 27 c5 d4 28 Rh-e2 Qd5 29 e4 Qxc5 30 e5 and Black won through occupation of e3 or c3 by the Ne7 in a few more moves.

In the correspondence game there followed:

9 ...	Be6xc4
10 Nf3-d4	Qd8-d7
11 Bf1-h3!!	g7-g6
12 Bh3-g2!!	

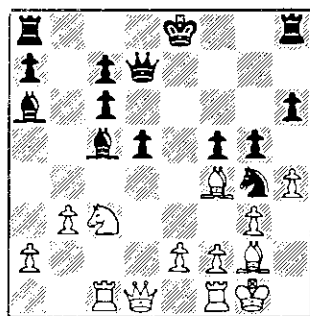
The forced move g7-g6 weakens Black's resources in the variation 12...d5 13 Nxc6 bxc 14 b3 Bb4? because now (due to g6) Qd4 would win a piece.

The question is therefore important whether or not g7-g6 in spite of everything should have been omitted. Of course the threat was 12 Nxf5 Qxf5 13 e2-e4, however Black would be able to defend himself against that with 11... Nxd4 12 Qxd4 Be6 13 Bxg4 fvg 14 0-0-0 and now 14...a6 or 14...b6. Here also the Black position is severely threatened because e2-e4 will make the Black pawn majority illusory, and the White rooks — after Kb1 and Rd3 — will be very mobile.

12 d6-d5
 13 Nd4xc6 b7xc6
 14 b2-b3 Bc4-a6
 15 Ra1-c1

White has constructed a threatening position on the c file and therefore forces the opponent to act.

15 Bf8-c5!
 16 0-0 g6-g5!



17 Nc3xd5!

I had figured this out before.

Bad would have been 17 hxg hxg 18 Bxg5 because of Rh5 19 Bh4? Rxh4 20 hxg Qd6.

17 g5xf4
 18 Rc1xc5 0-0-0!!

Excellently played! After 18...cxd 19 Rxd5 Qe6 20 Qd4 0-0 21 Rd7 Qf6 (21...Nf6? 22 Bd5!) 22 Bxa8 Qxd4 23 Rxd4 Rxa8 24 Rxf4 White has the advantage, i.e. 24...Re8 25 Re1!

19 Rc5xc6

The start of a beautiful combination. Bad would be 19 Nc3 because of Qe7 and if 19 Ra5 Bb7 20 Nc3 Qg7 21 Qc1 fvg and wins in the attack.

19 Bb7
 20 Qd1-c2 Bb7xc6
 21 Qc2xc6 Qd7xc6
 22 Nd5-e7† Kc8-b7
 23 Ne7xc6 Rd8-d2
 24 g3xf4 Kb7-b6
 25 a2-a4 Rd2xe2

26 b3-b4!

The correspondence game is continuing from this position. The chances are about even. White has a pawn for the exchange and an attack against the king despite the reduced material. Without wishing to take into consideration the final result, we have already the firm impression here that the en passant capture on move 8 leads to a position in which White with quiet play — if he protects the c4 pawn by e3 — gets into an inferior position, and furthermore that by ignoring the c4 pawn, the fianchetto 9 g2-g3 brings about a picture full of imagination which however with correct counterplay does not produce a win.

* *
 *

That e7-e5 is feasible and defies all counter-pressures is shown by the above very interesting game; this raises the question as to whether one should permit the move e5. This experiment occurred in the game:

White: Lowenborg

Black: Krause

Copenhagen 1924

1 d4 f5 2 c4 d6 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 e3 e5 6 g3 Be7 Correct here is g6. 7 Bg2 0-0 8 a3 Timely here was 0-0 for example 8 0-0 Ne4 9 Nxe4 fxe 10 Nd2 exd 11 Nxe4 Bf6 12 f4 with some play for White. 8...Qe8 Here Ne4, as follows in the game a move later, was immediately indicated. The queen will be able to go to e7 later on. To understand the position requires the foresight to grasp the knowledge that the possible push e4 or d5 respectively can only occur after suitable preparations take place. 9 b4 Ne4! 10 Bb2 Nxc3 11 Bxc3 Bf6 12 0-0 g5? Positional measures were, in my opinion, indicated before all others, i.e. 12...Nd8 then Nf7 and Be6 or 12...Bd7 or finally even 12...exd exd, Qf7, Qd3, Re8. 13 b5? Unnecessary weakening. Why not simply Qd2? On 13...g4 there follows Ne1 or even Nh4 with a later push f3. Generally here g5 has weakened the Black king wing without accomplishing anything on the other side. After 13 Qd2 and Rad1 White has strong pressure on the position in the center and the advantage. 13...Nd8 14 dxe5 dxe5 15 e4 f4 16 h3 Kh8 17 g4! h5 18 Nd2? The accepted marching route was self-evidently Nf3-e1-d3 and eventually further after b4 and d5. 18...Kg7 An unrealizable dream of attack: much better was completing development by Nf7 and Be6. 19 f3 c5 The preference is still Nf7 then Be6. 20 bxc6 e.p. Nxc6 21 Rab1 a5? An ugly move and thoroughly without basis! 21...b6 then Be6 or Ba6 could still be played. 22 Rb5 Qe7 23 Qa1! Be6 24 Rfb1 Rab8 25 Bxa5 With this, Black is lost. 25...Nxa5 26 Rxa5 Qc7 27 Rb5 Bd7 28 Rd5 Bc6 29 Rd3 Be7 30 Qc3 Bc5† 31 Kh2 Ra8 32 Rb3 Rf6 Again Black lets himself be led astray from the mating attack. By Rfd8 he had a good chance of drawing the game. White can only have a good chance of winning if he can bring the knight to d5. After Rfd8 this knight position could not be reached. 33 Nb1! Rh8 34 Qc1 Qc8 35 Nc3 hxg 36 fvg Qxg4 37 Nd5 Rfh6 38 Qc3 Qe6 39 Qa5 Be3 40 Qc7† Kg6 41 Ne7† White lets himself be bluffed! 41 Nxe3 won easily, i.e. 41...Rxh3† Kg1 etc. 41...Kf6 42 Rd6? Black sets mate in 4 moves by Rxh3†, Bxh3, Rxh3†, Kg2, f3† and Rh1 mate. A piquant

mate direction!

(Notes for the following games are omitted due to space limitations)

Nimzowitsch — Krause, Copenhagen 1924: 1 d4 f5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Bf4 d6 4 e3 h6 5 h4 Nc6 6 d5 e5 7 dxc! exf 8 Bb5 b6! 9 exf d5! 10 0-0 Bc5 11 g3 Ne4 12 Kg2 g5 13 Ne5! 0-0! 14 hxg! hxg 15 Qh5 Qf6 16 f3!! Nd6 17 Nc3 Be6 18 fxg! Qxe5 19 Qg6† Qg7 20 Qxe6† Qf7 21 Qxf7† Kxf7 22 Bd3 Bd4 23 Nxd5 Bxb2 14 Rae1 Rae8 25 Nxc7 Rxe1 26 Rxe1 Rc8 27 Nd5! Rxc6 28 Re7† Resigns 28...Kg6 29 Nf4† Kxg5 30 Re6 threatens mate Bf6 31 c4!

Nimzowitsch — Anton Olson, Copenhagen 1924: 1 f4 c5 2 e4 Nc6 3 d3 g6 4 c4!! Bg7 5 Nc3 b6 6 Nf3 Bb7 7 g4! e6 8 Bg2 Ne7 9 Nb5!! d6 10 0-0 a6 11 Na3 0-0 12 Qe2 Qd7 13 Be3 Nb4 14 Nc2! Bxb2 15 Rab1 Bc3 16 Nxb4 Bxb4 17 Bc1! f6 18 Bb2 e5 19 g5 Nc6 20 gxf Qg4 21 fxe dxe 22 Qe3 Qh5 23 Ng5 Bc8 24 f7† Kg7 25 Qf4! Kh6 26 Ne6† exf 27 Bg7 mate.

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