

**"Dreihundert Schachpartien."**

By DR. TARRASCH.

(Continued.)

The Doctor's next public appearance was at the tourney at Manchester, in 1890. His comments on this meeting make most interesting reading, and the following are short extracts from his book:—

Few persons in Germany were aware of my intention to take part in this tournament, but these, among whom was my colleague and oft-times opponent at the chess board, Dr. Epstein, of Nuremberg, while marvelling at my audacity, was aware that I had secretly pledged myself to repeat at Manchester the tour de force of Breslau, which had never previously been performed—viz., that of going through the contest without the loss of a single game. I believed I had only to utilize the recipe drawn up by Leipzig, and applied at Breslau, to reap again the same success. I was in excellent condition. A magnificent journey down the Rhine had refreshed me from the labours of my professional pursuits, and the unaccustomed charm of an invigorating sea journey strengthened my presentiment of victory. . . . At the end of the first week's play the score sheet credited me with five points, while Mackenzie could boast of 7½ and Blackburne and Mason of 7 points each. I alone knew that, taking the probable result of my three adjourned games into consideration, my score also was 7½. The public, seeing only my modest score of 5 points as the result of 9 games, considered me as a presumptive outsider, and took not the slightest further notice of me, nor did the Press. I enjoyed the joke immensely. . . . On Tuesday I won against Thorold at midday, and in the evening drew with Bird. The same evening, nearly a week before the end of the contest, I wrote a reassuring letter home to the effect that the first prize was now almost certainly within my grasp. I was all the more amused when next morning I read a detailed report of the tourney in an English paper. Blackburne and Mason were at the head of the list, with 9 points each; then came Mackenzie, with 8½; Alapin, Gunsberg, v. Scherer, and Finlay, with 7½; Bird, with 7; and at length figured my own name, in the modest company of Mortimer and Looock, with 6½ points. Hereupon the article entered into deep calculations—as to whether the first prize would fall to Blackburne or Mason, and finally expressed the opinion that the probabilities were they would come out equal, whereupon a match, highly interesting to the public, would ensue. The public was soon to be robbed of the anticipation, for the same day on which this report appeared brought the great surprise of the tournament. In the afternoon all the adjourned games with the exception of my game against Gunston, which had been sanctioned by the committee, were played off, and the result justified my expectations completely. My games against Alapin and Mackenzie were drawn; Mason resigned without further play, and Schallopp lost to me in a few moves. And when in the evening I made my predominant position secure by a victory over Gossp, while Blackburne and Mackenzie again lost, it was clear to the dullest reporter who it was that would carry off the first prize. In one day I had leaped from 6½ to 10½ points; really to 11½, for the suspended game against Gunston had been broken off at a winning stage for myself, and only required concluding. Thus I was 2½ points ahead of my runner-up, Blackburne and Mackenzie—an advantage, of course, impossible now to cancel. With both Press and public I became at a stroke the hero of the day, my play became the centre of attraction, and on Wednesday evening, when about to contest a game with the national hero, Blackburne, the table was so thickly beset with spectators that it was with some trouble that I made way for myself. In this game it was no longer the prize for which I fought, but honour.

Enough. He won the game, of course, as well as the tournament, and with it the right he has been much criticised for exercising—that of regarding himself as one of the finest exponents of chess. This victory marks the broad summit of his career, and no considerable falling away from this high altitude is perceptible for many long years.

The narrative prefacing the "399 games" has been so copiously drawn upon that we take leave of these fascinating pages. We think it inevitable that Dr. Tarrasch's personality should take precedence of his feats. He makes a brave show as he enters the lists, captivated in his breezy, self-confidence, his frankness, his humour, his vivacity. Even the glee he displays in the plaudits his victory arouses—he is clearly more than half inclined to join in the clapping himself—does not estrange our sympathies.

It only remains to be said that the book contains some 550 pages, with over 470 position diagrams, and may be had from the publishers for the modest sum of 11 marks (9/2). An English edition will no doubt some day be attempted, for the book is too pleasant a storehouse of chess to be closed to those without the German passport.

**Notes.**

A challenge has been received by the Auckland Chess Club from players in Norfolk Island to play a consultation game by cable.

Promptly on the first instant several ladder challenges were posted up in the local club. Mr. Sale challenges Mr. Ray, and the latter challenges Mr. Putman. Mr. Wilson has a challenge up for Mr. Leyland, and Mr. Grierson is out for Rang No. 1, which he lost by a small margin at the close of last season.

**Solution to Position 35.**

The position occurred in a game between Marshall and Rosenthal. The variations and comments on the play are by Mr. J. R. Capablanca:—

White (Marshall) here had a simple win by R-QB7 ch, but played instead P-B6. Black has now one way, and only one way in every case, to draw against all moves of White. Thus: R-Q3, now White has two continuations, R-B7 ch or P-B 7. Against P-B7, the only way for Black to draw is to play R-Q sq, as both R-Kt3 ch and R-KB3 lose, thus: R-Kt 3 ch, K-B3; R-B3 ch, K-K2; R-K3 ch, K-Q3; R-KB3 (if R-Q3 ch, K-K4), R-B3 ch; K moves, R-R3 wins.

Or R-KB3, R-Kt7; K-B5, P-R4; P-Kt6, R-Kt4 ch; K moves, R-Kt3 wins, as the Rook will either catch the KtP or go to KB3, winning.

Now against R-QB7 ch for White, Black has only one way to draw, and that is to play K-Q4, as K-Kt3 would lose, thus: R-Kt3, P-B7; R-Kt3 ch (best), K-B sq; R-KB3, R-K7; K-B4, K-B3 (if P-Kt6, R-K3; P-Kt 7, R-QKt3; RXP, RXP; R-KR2, R-Q2; RXP, K-K3; R-K3, P-Kt7, R-QKt3; RXP, RXP; R-KR2, R-Q2; RXP, K-K3 wins.

The two drawing variations are as follows:—R-Q3, P-B7; R-Q sq, R-R3 ch; K-B5, and White will have to sacrifice the Rook for the Pawn.

Or R-Q3, R-B7 ch; K-Q5; P-B7; R-Kt3 ch! (a most important move, as if Black plays at once R-KB3, White wins by R-Kt7), K-B sq; R-KB3, R-Kt7; K-B6, and White will finally have either to sacrifice the Rook for the Pawn or draw by perpetual check.

There are only one or two more variations, but those given above are the most likely ones.

The ending is a very interesting example of Rook and Pawn play, and worth studying; the careless move of a Pawn should have cost Marshall half a point. (Rosenthal overlooked the draw by R-Kt3 ch.)

**VOLUNTEER NOTES.**

(By Rifleman.)

Staff Sergeant Major W. M. Bell, Instructor Co. 1st Regt. A.M.R., is at present away in Botswana on his annual leave.

The rumour that Colonel Wolfe was to be transferred to Dunedin was, it appears, without foundation. The news that the Colonel is to remain in Auckland will be received here with much satisfaction. The Palmerston North Naval and Military Tournament committee has decided to interview Admiral Pore, in command of the Australasian Squadron, with a view to securing the acceptance of a naval contingent at the next tournament.

Mention is made in the annual report of the Pelone Naval of Petty Officer Barr, who last year applied for six months' leave and went to Australia in search of work. He obtained employment on the Waratah. The fate of that vessel is, no one knows, says the report, but if P.O. Barr has gone to his death, his memory is held in love and respect by the officers and men of the company.

Melbourne "Punch" states that Field-Marshal Kitchener receives no special fee

for reporting upon the land forces of Australia and New Zealand, but it must not be imagined that he has been working for nothing. His salary was fixed by the War Office when it instructed him to standardize the overseas troops. As a field-marshal K. of K. receives £3500 a year and most generous travelling expenses. Moreover, K. of K. has received over £60,000 from the British nation for his exploits on the battlefield, apart from salary and allowances.

The Franklin Mounted Rifles had a day out on Saturday week, when their Annual Mounted Scouts Competition took place. The annual dinner and meeting was held during the evening. The Scouts Competition took place at Maraetai, and a large number entered, a being very keen and well trained, and some good work was witnessed. O.M. Sergt. Daw was declared winner. This is the second time he has won this competition, and he deserved praise for the mastery manner in which he works himself and horse. Pte. Gillard came second and Pte. Lord third. The dinner in the evening was most enjoyable. Amongst the visitors were Mr. F. W. Lang, M.P., Capt. and Adj. Nutford, and Capt. Colburn. Musical items were contributed by Lieut. Shaw, Pte. Gillard, Lord, Spencer, Hawthorne and Davidson.

W. Cox, of the Victoria Rifles, won the Mc-Cosh Clark Cup. The Corps held four wins out of the last five competitions, previous winners being Corp. Patrick, Sergt. Yeo and Capt. Cox.

On last Tuesday week the Victoria Rifles held its 40th annual meeting. Capt. Cox announced that the Corps would hold its 17th annual jubilee, having been formed on the 17th April, 1860. It was also pleasing to note that the son of the founder of the Corps (Major Deveraux) was now its senior lieutenant. The balance sheet showed the Corps' position to be in credit to the extent of £287. The following report of the Corps' shooting for the past year was submitted by the secretary, Mr. J. R. Brown:—

The Corps has again maintained its position as senior shooting company of the Garrison, as the following record will show: Won Sargood Cup (Dominion Field-Firing Competition); 1st for Colonial Ammunition Company Cup (Dominion Field-Firing Competition); won rifle match v. I.L.M.S. Prometheus; won miniature rifle match v. Gordon Rifles; won South Auckland Association rifle match v. B. Preston, Anderson, Nelson, and Cox; A. Patrick won District Cup; J. B. Preston tied for South Auckland Rifle Association Championship; J. Anderson tied for Rapid-Firing Match some night; J. B. Preston won medal for North Island Class-Firing Competition; J. Anderson won medal for third in North Island Class-Firing Competition; A. Patrick won Akarua Rifle Club Championship; J. B. Preston won District Trophy; Patrick, G. Farler, and J. Anderson finished 1st, 10th, and 20th in the final trial at the recent Dominion championship meeting, while A. Patrick was runner-up to the Dominion in Australia, and was one of the team to win the Empire Match. 3rd at the championship meeting. In company competitions, the Champion Belt was won by W. Brown, and Trophy by J. B. Preston. Anderson's Trophy by S. Rowe; Company Prize by John Preston; Aggregate Prizes by Churches and D. Jones; Non-Smokers and Smokers' Trophies by W. Brown and D. Jones. On Tuesday, 2nd, a very successful Ladies' Day was held on the range, when prizes were given by Col. Sergt. Lee and other friends. The prizes being won for the ladies by Sergt. Monk, Private Lawson and Corporal. The Section Competition was won by No. 3 Section (Sergt. Monk). Attendance, 377; attendance was won by Bugler Cammell trial, 29. Col. Sergt. Lee's Trophy for best possible paper was won by J. B. Preston.

A company that has a good reputation in the Dominion is the "D" Battery, New Zealand Field Artillery, Wellington. It has been in existence as a volunteer battery since 1867, and has a long and distinguished record. The Scheme is now being merged into the Territorial Force. To mark the occasion of the change, past and present members of the Corps held a smoke social at the Masonic Hall, Wellington, on Monday, 4th. The Hon. Sir John Petherick, of the Battery, occupied the chair, and there were several ex-officers present, including Major Moorhouse and Courtney. The fear was expressed that on the change of name to "D" Battery, Wellington Division, Field Artillery, the Corps would lose some of its prestige, but the Major remarked that it would always be known in Wellington as the "D" Battery. At any rate, there is good foundation to work upon, for during the past three weeks the strength has increased to 150 odd. During the evening an exceptionally fine programme of music was listened to by those present, an especial feature among which was the singing of Mr. Abel Rowe, who responded several times to recalls. During the evening he also kindly consented to render a march song entitled "What We Have Won," "Held," composed by Major Courtney. Perhaps the "star" turn of the evening was the humorous duo between Mr. Rowe and Driver Duncan, which occasioned considerable mirth, the latter being asked for a repetition. Mr. Dick Kewenau, another old Auckland, and ex-member of the Battery, delivered several recitations in his usual free style. Mr. Roy Shiel, the sergeant, is also a native of the same city, and a most promising officer of the Battery.

The No. 1 Co. N.Z.G.A.V. held their annual picnic at Motukouka on Easter Monday. What would have been a very enjoyable day was spoiled by the rain in the afternoon. There were numerous children's events in the morning, and the company's races were run in the afternoon. The following is a list of the principal events of the day:—

1. Boys' Company Championship.—Corp. Cochran 1, Gunner Cochran 2, Gunner Pemberton 3.

2. Boys Single Ladies' Race.—Miss Zoe Lee 1, Miss Rose 2.

3. Boys' Company Handicap.—Gunner Patrick 1, Gunner Pemberton 2, Gunner Gubbins 3.

4. Boys' Swimming Handicap.—Gunner Brown 1, Bugler Muller 2, Gunner Browlee 3.

5. Boys Married Ladies' Race.—Mrs. W. Taylor 1, Mrs. Dowd 2.  
Knyver Mile Handicap.—Gunner Ibbotson 1, Corp. Cochran 2, Gunner Pemberton 3.

6. Boys Married Men's Handicap.—Sergt. Willestead 1, Sergt. Puddle 2, Sergt. Major Hill 3.

7. Baby Show.—Mrs. T. Hill's baby boy secured first prize, Mrs. Lee's girl second, and Mrs. A. Hill's girl third.

8. Relay Race.—Gunner J. Edwards' team 1.

**Big Gun Shooting.**

In a circular memorandum to officers commanding the ten companies of garrison artillery, which completed their annual course of training in fort manning and big-gun shooting at the various defended ports of the Dominion, Captain G. S. Richardson, Chief Instructor of Artillery, announces that as the results of the 1909-10 service practice at the big guns, No. 1 Company, Canterbury Garrison Artillery Division, has been awarded the Coast Artillery Cup for shooting. The order of merit is as follows:—

	Figure	Order of Merit	Classification
1. No. 1 Co., Canterbury	1,121	1st	
2. No. 2 Co., Otago	1,021	1st	
3. No. 2 Co., Wellington	1,010	1st	
4. No. 2 Co., Canterbury	922	1st	
5. No. 1 Co., Otago	896	1st	
6. No. 1 Co., Wellington	716	1st	
7. No. 1 Co., Auckland	601	2nd	
8. No. 2 Co., Auckland	532	3rd	
9. No. 3 Co., Auckland	431	N.C.	
10. No. 1 Co., Westport	351	N.C.	

**THE HUDSON Q.F. CUP.**

The winners of the Coast Artillery Cup (No. 1 Company, Canterbury Garrison Artillery Division) obtained the highest figure of merit for shooting from all types of guns. Both the Canterbury companies obtained a high figure of merit for shooting from the quick-firing guns, but their work could not be satisfactorily compared with the Q.F. gun practice of the other companies, as the practice at Lyttelton was conducted in the daytime, using an improved method of gun-laying which accelerated the rate of fire very considerably as compared with the more difficult conditions imposed upon the other companies, which fired at night.

The Hudson Cup, awarded for efficiency in Q.F. gun practice, was therefore awarded to No. 2 Company, Otago Division, whose record of six series by night, with an average figure of merit of 1,021, was accounted excellent, reflecting careful training and a high standard of efficiency.

The 12-pounder Q.F. gun practice of the Wellington Navals was considered to be accurate, but slow. That of the Auckland Gunners, "indifferent."

**THE EFFICIENCY SHIELD.**

As the efficiency returns have not yet been completed, the results of the inter-company competition for the challenge shield for general efficiency will not be announced until later.

**SOME CRITICAL REMARKS.**

The following table shows that while there has been a marked increase in the percentage of hits to rounds fired, there has been a falling off in the figure of merit:—

	Percentage of Hits.	Figure of Merit.
1904-5	36.10	421
1905-6	46.60	510
1906-7	51.09	622
1907-8	62.45	855
1908-9	71.50	970
1909-10	83.60	704

This falling-off in the figure of merit is accounted for in the report by the creation of new and more difficult standards of efficiency—night-firing for Q.F. guns; increase in the mean range for B.L. gun practice; prevention of the use of picked detachments for the company service practice. The B.L. gun practice was not so good this year as last, but the light Q.F. gun records are superior in accuracy and rate of fire, an advance of over 12 per cent in the hits recorded having been made on the previous year's figures. The memorandum further states that "the night-firing from 6pr. G.F. guns was good, and considering that it was the first year that Q.F. night firing was compulsory, the results exceeded expectations. A new system of laying which was introduced at the commencement of the season was largely responsible for the increased accuracy and rapidity of fire. During the coming year frequent aiming rifle practice by night should be carried out."