

Cambridge Springs 1904

Robert Sherwood

**Foreword by
Andy Soltis**

**Additional contributions by
A. J. Gillam and Frank Camaratta**



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Cambridge Springs 1904
by Robert Sherwood

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Foreword

If you list the great tournament sites of chess history, you find they tend to fall into three categories.

Some are traditional centers of chess activity (Moscow, London, New York, Amsterdam). Others are the home of generous patrons (St. Louis, Karlsbad, Linares, Lone Pine). Still others are convenient locations for corporate sponsors or organizers (Wijk aan Zee, Stavanger).

But why Cambridge Springs?

The prime reason one of the greatest-ever tournaments was held in Western Pennsylvania lies in railroad time tables.

At the turn of the 20th century the mighty Erie Railroad prided itself on its daily run from the New York area to Chicago. That's nearly 800 miles as the crow flies and took a full day because of the slightly indirect route westward.

The exact midway point between the two population centers cities turned out to be Cambridge Springs. Passengers found it was a good idea to break up their trip by stopping overnight along the way. Several hotels sprang up in the town to compete for this traffic, including the Hotel Rider and its rival the Riverside Inn.

The Hotel Rider was the showcase of an entrepreneur named William D. Rider Jr. It had the latest conveniences – electric lights, a hydraulic elevator and a telephone in each of the 500 rooms. Rider decided to promote his hilltop palace with an international chess tournament in April and May 1904.

First prize was \$1,000. That was huge for the day (nearly \$30,000 in today's dollars). It helped persuade World Champion Emanuel Lasker to play in his first tournament – essentially his first serious chess – in four years. The champions of America (Harry Pillsbury), Russia (Mikhail Chigorin), France (David Janowsky) and the Austria-Hungarian empire

(Carl Schlechter) also signed on. A host of American masters and others were invited, including Frank Marshall of Brooklyn. Rider convinces the Erie Railroad to share the costs with his hotel. The wealthy chess-lover Isaac Leopold Rice helped supplement the players income – while encouraging them to analyze and play his Rice Gambit on the days when no tournament round was scheduled.

Lasker was rarely coaxed into tournaments after 1900. But winning at Cambridge Springs was important to him. Before FIDE took over the world championship following World War II, the best way for a world champion to avoid risking his title was by winning a big tournament. This demonstrated his superiority and the pointlessness of trying to finance a costly match.

And a Lasker victory at Cambridge Springs was expected. A world champion was supposed to win every event he played in. This was a 19th century view that lingered well into the 20th century.

Frank Marshall was the 11th highest rated player in the world when Cambridge Spring 1904 began, according to Chessmetrics.com. That meant he was only the seventh-ranked player in the field of 16. In his memoirs, he said he benefited by knowing the style of the lower-ranked American players. The crosstable helps bear this out: He registered four wins against US also-rans, Albert Fox, John Barry, Eugene Delmar and Albert Hodges.

He began with a scintillating 11-1 score that left Lasker trailing him by two and a half points. Newspapers began to treat the tournament as a major event. A New York journalist, Hermann Helms, published the round-by-round bulletins. After the tournament ended, he and colleague Hartwig Cassel began a monthly magazine, the *American Chess Bulletin*. In the first issue, they said they hoped to continue publishing into the next year and perhaps longer. The unparalleled interest in the tournament had given them “full confidence in the chess playing public to furnish the encouragement and support so essential to its existence.” (The magazine ended its run 58 years later, when Helms died.)

Marshall’s final score meant a performance rating of 2803. That was only slightly behind the 2805 of Harry Pillsbury in his breakthrough victory at Hastings 1895. The next time an American would reach that performance rating in a tournament was in 1963-4, when Bobby Fischer won the US Championship with a legendary 11-0 score.

William Rider hoped to duplicate his – and Marshall’s – success by holding a second international tournament at his hotel. But Rider died in 1905. His hotel burned down in 1931.

The rival Riverside Inn was still standing for decades. Long after the Erie Railroad was history, Cambridge Springs was chosen as the nostalgic location for a US Championship. It was held in the Riverside Inn in 1988, the year Helms was inducted into the US Chess Hall of Fame.

Andy Soltis
New York
June 2022

Round 8

May 6

Adjourned games – Lasker versus Barry, and Pillsbury versus Schlechter: these will be played off next Wednesday.

Tomorrow the second round of the Rice Gambit consultation games will be played as follows:

Mieses, Lasker, Showalter, and Barry versus Delmar, Teichmann, Napier, and Lawrence; and Chigorin, Schlechter, and Fox versus Marco, Pillsbury, Marshall, and Hodges. The first-named allies in each set are playing the white pieces.

The eighth round of the international tournament marked the end of the first and the beginning of the second half of the great struggle for supremacy. It was particularly noteworthy for the stubbornness with which most of the games were contested, six of them being adjourned at the sound of the 3 o'clock bell. At 7 o'clock still another was added to the list of unfinished contests to be decided on the 11th. It was very plain to be seen that the masters had thoroughly warmed to their work and henceforth would neglect no opportunities if earnest attention to the business at hand could prevent.

Keener and more exciting grows the race as each day passes and the close of the eighth round finds Janowsky overhauled and Marshall bracketed with him for first place. The latter, though he won from Teichmann in his best style, had Marco to thank for the privilege of joining the French champion and sharing with the latter the distinction he had theretofore monopolized. To have survived more than half the number of rounds without meeting reverse in the shape of defeat would be glory enough for the gifted masters, were either or both eventually to miss landing the prize they covet.

Dr. Lasker, with a speedy win over Mieses, crept closer to the leaders, who henceforth must needs be watchful of his every movement. Showalter and Napier, during the short period their game lasted, kept up a constant

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fusillade, but only a draw by perpetual check came of it. The genial Kentuckian, it should be noted, has lost but one game in the entire eight rounds and that in the second to Teichmann, a showing he has every reason to be satisfied with considering his long absence from the active centers of chess.

Barry and Lawrence had a most eventful game, well played by both, which properly ended in a draw. Delmar played grandly against Chigorin but, wearied by the long fight, he fell into the Russian's snare and suffered defeat. Hodges, after four successive losses, at last recovered form and, incidentally, checked Fox in his wild career toward the top of the list. The hardest fight of all was that between Pillsbury and Schlechter. After 69 moves these experts were still laboring over that most difficult of endings where the queens have full sweep of the board and the kings have nowhere to lay their troubled heads. Pillsbury, mindful of a similar ending against the Austrian champion at Vienna, stuck to his task with indomitable courage and will continue his efforts to deprive Schlechter of the draw that seems almost within his grasp. – Tournament Bulletin

Round 8 Results

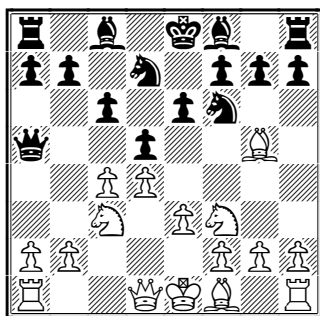
| | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| Marco (3½) | ½ | Janowsky (6½) | ½ | Ruy Lopez |
| Napier (2) | ½ | Showalter (4) | ½ | Ruy Lopez |
| Fox (4) | 0 | Hodges (1½) | 1 | Ruy Lopez |
| Marshall (6) | 1 | Teichmann (5) | 0 | Queen's Gambit Declined |
| Pillsbury (3½) | ½ | Schlechter (2½) | ½ | Ruy Lopez |
| Barry (1) | ½ | Lawrence (2½) | ½ | Ruy Lopez |
| Mieses (4½) | 0 | Dr. Lasker (4½) | 1 | Ruy Lopez |
| Chigorin (3) | 1 | Delmar (2) | 0 | Falkbeer Counter-Gambit |

♖d5+ 50.♕h2 c4 51.♞d2
 ♖h5+ 52.♗g2 c3 53.♞f2
 ♖d5+ 54.♕h2 c5 55.♖c7 b4
 56.♖a5 ♞a8 56...♞e1! 57.♖b5
 b3 58.♞e2 ♖h5+ 59.♗g1
 ♖×e2! 0-1

(60) Marshall – Teichmann Queen’s Gambit Declined [D52]

Marshall tried a speculative kingside attack, sacrificing important queenside material in the process. Teichmann could have consolidated his decisive advantage but instead dangerously exposed his king with an unwise recapture, letting Marshall back into the game. The American eventually prevailed in an imperfectly played but fascinating ending that one can analyze for days.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘f6
 4.♙g5 ♘bd7 5.♘f3 c6 6.e3
 ♖a5



The first Cambridge Springs Defense of the tournament. The previous year, at Monte Carlo, against the same opponent, Teichmann chose 6...♙d6. Then 7.♙d3 ♖e7 8.c×d5 (a Marshall standard,

stabilizing the central pawn structure and freeing up his pieces for attack) 8...exd5 9.♖c2 ♖d8?! (9...0-0!?) 10.e4?! (10.0-0!?), with a typical Marshall middlegame.

7.♘d2

Later, in the New York 1924 tournament book, Alekhine would pronounce 7.c×d5 the only serious test of the variation.

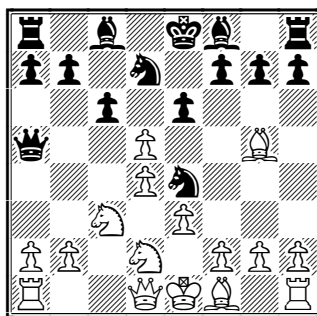
7...♘e4

Swiderski-von Bardeleben, 14th DSB Congress 1904, saw 7...d×c4 8.♙×f6 ♘×f6 9.♘×c4 ♖c7 10.♙d3 ♙e7 11.0-0 0-0 12.♞c1 ♙d7, with the usual White advantage.

8.c×d5

“A very pretty surprise move, which is bad however, as it rounds off Black’s pawn position and should lead to a complete loss of the opening advantage.” (Tarrasch)

“More usual is the capture with the d2-knight – a more logical move, since the latter piece has less scope.” (Reinfeld)



8...♘×d2

“A surprise is generally answered with a blunder, as in this case.

Cambridge Springs 1904

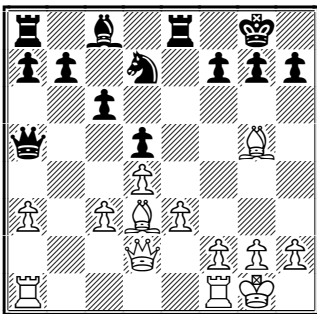
After 8...♖xg5 9.h4 (not 9.dxc6 ♖f6 10.h4 ♖ge4 saving the piece) 9...♗e4! 10.♗dxe4 exd5 11.♗d2 ♖f6 followed by ♗d6, Black has the better game because of his fine development and his two bishops. After the text, White obtains a good development and the advantage returns to him.” (Tarrasch)

After 8...♖xg5, interesting is 9.dxc6! (Tarrasch’s 9.h4 ♗e4 10.♗dxe4 exd5 is no more than level after 11.♗g3 ♖f6) 9...♖f6 (9...bxc6?! 10.h4±) 10.♗b5! (10.h4? ♖ge4) 10...♖e7 (10...♖d8 11.♗d3! h6 12.♗c4 ♖c7 13.f4 ♖gh7 14.cxb7 ♗xb7 15.0-0 ♗e7 16.♗e5, with two pawns for the piece and a far superior position) 11.♗d3 h6 12.h4 ♖gh7 13.cxb7 ♗xb7 14.♗c4 ♖c7 15.0-0, with the better practical chances.

9.♖xd2 exd5 10.♗d3 ♗b4

“Intending a faulty exchange; the bishop belongs on d6.” (Tarrasch)

11.0-0 0-0 12.a3 ♗xc3 13.bxc3 ♖e8

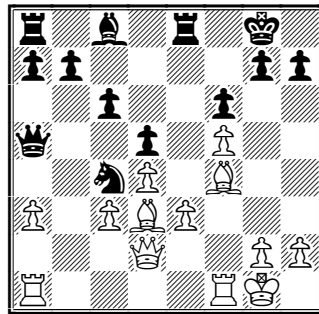


14.f4

“With two bishops, superior development, and a strong center,

White has the considerably better game; but his conduct of the attack is not correct. 14.f3 followed by e3-e4 was the right method, and would have initiated a strong and lasting attack without requiring any sacrifices. Marshall’s handling of the position is characteristic: positionally incorrect, but consistent, bold, and forceful.” (Tarrasch)

14...♗b6 15.f5 f6 16.♗f4 ♗c4



17.♖e2

“Giving up the c-pawn at once seems to me unmotivated: 17.♖e1 followed by ♖f3-h3 and ♖h4 would have led to the same attack, but without loss of material.” (Tarrasch)

17...b5 18.♗xc4

“Much too soon: 18.♖f3 followed by ♖af1, ♖h3 and ♖h5 was proper, and the knight could be captured later on when necessary. The premature exchange with the text gives Black control of d3, enabling him to protect h7 and the whole king’s side, as we shall see later on.” (Tarrasch)

18...bxc4 19.♖h5

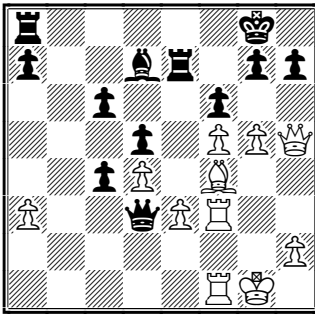
The modest 19.♖c2 gives an

approximately level game after 19...♙d7 20.g4 c5 21.♖b2. But this would never satisfy Marshall.

19...♙d7 20.♖f3?

Marshall clearly thinks his attack will break through before his decimated queenside becomes a problem. Whatever the case, the “prudent” 20.♖fc1 would leave him no dynamic play at all – an intolerable prospect for Marshall. Permitting Black the protected passed c-pawn leaves White much worse, objectively – providing Teichmann makes no seriously compromising moves in the formation of his defense.

20...♖×c3 21.♖af1 ♖d3 22.g4 ♖e7 23.g5



23...♙×f5

“Black has defended himself very skillfully during the past few moves, but the text is a mistake that allows White to create a breach in the kingside pawns. With 23...f×g5 24.♖×g5 ♖f7 25..♙e5 ♖af8 he would have beaten off the attack, for 26.♖g3 loses because of 26...♖×f1+, while 26.f6 could be adequately answered by g6 or ♖g6. But then Black’s c-pawn would

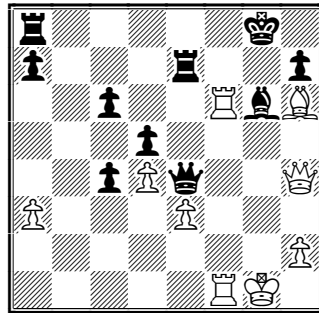
have decided the game in his favor.” (Tarrasch)

The other possibility is 23...g6 24.f×g6 h×g6 25.♖h4 ♖h7 26.♖f2 f×g5 27..♙×g5 ♙f5 28.h4 (28...♖×a3? 29.e4!) 28...♖e4, which spells the end of White’s attack and the beginning of Black’s queenside play. The text is in fact perfectly good if followed up correctly next move.

24.g×f6 g×f6?

Teichmann exposes his king without reason. After 24...♖f7 25.f×g7 ♙e4! (using the g-pawn as a shield) 26.♖g3 c3, etc., Marshall is dead lost.

25.♙h6 ♙g6 26.♖h4 ♖e4 27.♖×f6



27...♖g7?

“Tarrasch calls this Black’s best chance, for if 27...♖f7 28.♖g3, ‘and after the exchange of rooks White advances his h-pawn to prevent perpetual check; he can then proceed with his attack against Black’s demolished king’s side.’ But to insist that this is a winning attack, constitutes what Nimzowitsch would call ‘an aberration of taste’.

“After 27...♖f7 28.♖g3 ♗xf6 29.♗xf6 c3!, White is in great difficulties. If he plays 30.♖c7, 30...♖g4+ forces the queen right back again; or 30.h4 c2 31.♗f1 ♖h8 32.h5 c1♖ 33.♗xc1 ♗g8 34.h×g6 ♗×g6, etc. At any rate, White will be very happy to draw, and there can be no talk of winning.” (Reinfeld)

A win for White would also prove difficult after (27...♗f7) 28.♖×e4 d×e4 29.♗×c6 ♗×f1+ 30.♖×f1 ♗e8! and ...♗b8.

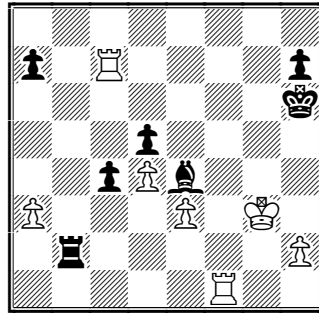
28.♖×e4?

A much cleaner solution is 28.♖g3 ♗e8 (28...♗e7? 29.♗f8+ and mate) 29.h4! (continuing the attack; not 29.♗×g7? ♖×g7 30.♗6f3 ♗e7 and White is hard put to make progress) 29...♖e7 30.♗×g7 ♖×g7 31.♗×c6, since after heavy piece exchanges the white king will handle the c-pawn and Black’s a-pawn will go lost.

28...♗×e4+ 29.♗×g7 ♖×g7 30.♗×c6 ♗b8 31.♗c7+?

Still winning is 31.h4, freeing h2 for the king if needed and advancing the pawn as far as possible, thereby significantly reducing Black’s ability to activate his king and his counterplay generally. For instance, 31...♗b2 32.♗ff6 (now threatening 33.h5 and h6+, etc.) 32...h5 33.♗fe6 ♗b7 34.♖f2 and the entry of the king, as in the game.

31...♖h6 32.♖f2 ♗b2+ 33.♖g3



33...♗b3?

Too slow. Teichmann can hold with 33...♗g2+ 34.♖f4 (34.♖h3 a5 35.♗a7 c3 36.♗×a5 c2 37.♗a6+ ♖g5 [38.a4? ♗g4, forcing mate] 38.♗c6 ♗d2 and White cannot make progress) 34...♗g5 35.♗f7 c3, e.g., 36.♗c1 c2 37.h4 ♗g7=.

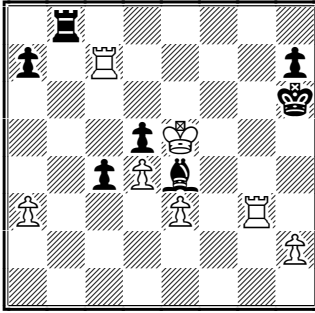
34.♖f4 ♗d3

The point is that the intended 34...♗a3 succumbs to 35.♗c6+ ♖g7 36.♗g1+ ♖f7 37.♖e5, when the white king and rooks combine for threats against the enemy king, e.g., 37...a5 (37...c3 leads to mate after 38.♗f6+ ♖e8 39.♗g8+ ♖e7 40.♗g7+ ♖e8 41.♗d6 and the advance of the white king; 37...♗g6 38.♗f1+ ♖g7 39.♗f3+-) 38.♗c7+ ♖f8 39.♖f6, etc.

35.♗g1

Or 35.♗f3! (threatening 36.♗h3+ and 37.♗c×h7) 35...♖g6 36.♗g3+ ♖f6 37.♗c6+ ♖f7 38.♖e5 ♗e4 39.♗a6, when 39...♗g7 loses to 40.♗f6+ ♖e8 41.♗g8+, etc.

35...♗b6 36.♖e5 ♗e4 37.♗g3 ♗b8

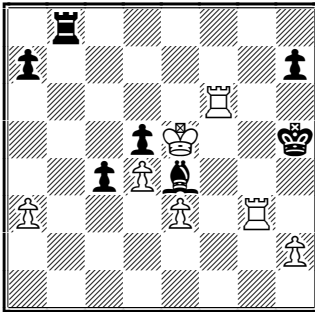


38. Bc6+

Simpler is 38. Bb3+ ♖g6 (38... ♔g5 39. Bg7+ ♗g6 40. Bb×h7 Bc8 41. h4+-) 39. Bb×h7, adding the passed h-pawn to his advantage.

38... ♖h5 39. Bf6

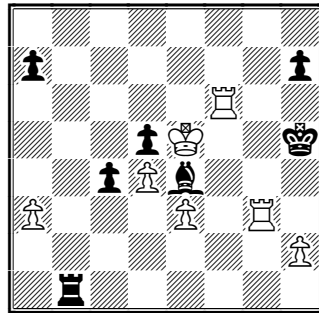
Threatening mate in three with 40. ♖f4, etc.



39... Bb1

On 39... Bb2, threatening the h-pawn and looking to usher in the c-pawn, White would have 40. Bb3+ (40. h3? c3 41. Bc6 c2=, when the dynamics have come to a standstill) 40... ♖g5 41. Bf7 ♖g4 42. Bg3+ ♖h5 43. B×a7 B×h2 (43... c2 44. Bc7 c2 45. Bcg7 ♖h6 46. Bg8 ♗g6 47. Bc8 Bb5 48. B×g6+ ♖×g6 49. B×c2 Bb5 50. Bg2+ ♖f7 51. Bg3 ♖g6

53. e4+-) 44. a4 c3 45. Bg1 c2 (looking to play ... Bb2 and ... Bb1, holding) 46. Bf7! (to play Bff1!, then Bb1, supporting the a-pawn from behind and preventing forever any possible queening at c1) 46... ♗d3 (Black has no choice but to attend to the a-pawn) 47. ♖×d5 Bg2 48. Bc1 (taking no chances) 48... ♖g6 49. Bc7, winning, as Black will be compelled to give up the c- or d-pawn for the advancing a-pawn.



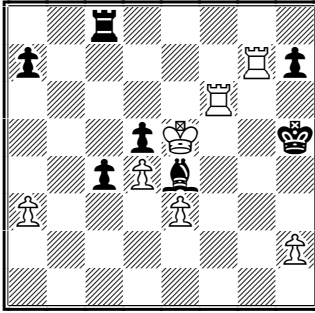
40. Bc6

Marshall has the decisive 40. Bb3+ ♖g5 41. Bf8 (threatening 42. Bg8+ ♗g6 43. B×h7+-) 41... ♖g4 (41... Bb7 42. Bg8+ ♗g6 43. e4 d×e4 44. Bg3+ ♖h4 45. d5+-; 41... Bb6 42. Bg8+ Bg6 43. Bg3+ ♖h5 44. B×e4! d×e4 45. Bg7 c3 46. B×h7+ ♖g6 47. Bc7 and d4-d5+-) 42. Bg3+ ♖h4 43. Bf4+ ♖h5 44. Bb3+ ♖g6 45. Bg4+ ♖f7 46. B×e4! d×e4 47. B×h7+ ♖g6 48. B×a7, winning easily.

40... Bb8 41. Bg7 Bc8+ 42. Bc6?

42. ♖d6! a5 43. a4 and ♖c7-b6, etc., winning.

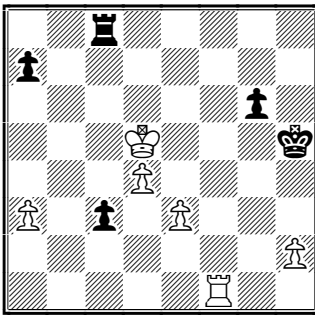
42... Bc8 43. Bf6



43...♙g6?

Teichmann can stay in it with 43...c3 44.♜f4 (threatening mate in two) 44...♙g6 45.♞f×g6 (eliminating this bishop is the only winning attempt) 45...♞f8+ (45...h×g6? 46.♞h7#) 46.♜g3 h×g6 47.♞c7 g5 48.♞×c3 g4, intending ...♜g5 and ...♞f3+, with quite enough counterplay to draw.

44.♞g×g6 h×g6 45.♜×d5 c3 46.♞f1



46...♜g4

Also insufficient is 46...c2 47.♞c1 ♜g4 48.♜e4 ♞e8+ 49.♜d3 ♜f3 50.♞×c2 ♞×e3+ because of 51.♜c4 ♜e4 52.d5 ♜e5 53.♜c5 ♞×a3 (53...♞d3 54.♞e2+ ♜f6 55.d5 and Black will have to give up his rook for the pawn) 54.d6 ♞d3 55.♞e2+ ♜f6 56.♜c6.

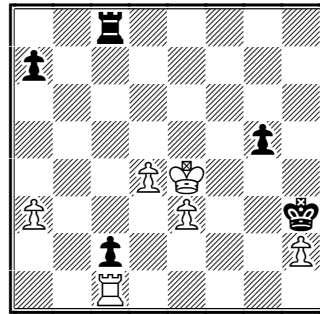
Black's king is cut off and White will win the a-pawn with his rook. Then after the black rook sacrifices itself for the d-pawn, White's king and rook will be successful in stopping the g-pawn.

47.♜e4 c2

47...♜h3 48.♞c1 ♜×h2 49.d5 g5 (49...♞d8 50.♞×c3 g5 51.♞c2+ ♜g3 52.♞d2 g4 53.d6 ♜h3 54.♜d5 g3 55.e4+-) 50.♜f5+-, etc.

48.♞g1+ ♜h3 49.♞c1 g5

49...♜×h2 50.d5 g5 51.d6 g4 52.♜e5 g3 53.d7 ♞d8 54.♞×c2+ g2 55.♜d6+-.



50.d5!

50.♜d3? ♜×h2 51.♞×c2+ ♞×c2 52.♜×c2 g4 is only a draw. But now, the pawns move up the board.

50...g4

50...♜×h2 51.d6 ♜g3 52.♜d5 and e3-e4, etc.

51.d6 ♜×h2 52.♜e5 ♞c3

52...g3 53.d7+-, as Black is a tempo short with the g-pawn.

53.e4 ♜g3 54.♜d4 ♞c8 55.e5 ♜f4 56.d7 ♞d8 57.e6 ♜f5 58.♜d5 1-0 "An unusually interesting game throughout." (Tarrasch)