

«Twelve chairs» by Ilja Ilf and Evgenij Petrov, written 1928

Explanation of words:

Vasyuki - small provincial town in Russia

Kopeek - like Euro Sent

Ostap Bender or O. Bender - the main actor of this Story

Volga - river in Russia

Rybinsk to Yaroslavl - towns in Russia

chapter

THE INTERPLANETARY CHESS CONGRESS

Since morning across Vasyuki the high, thin old man in short, very dirty paints and boots was sticking (affixing) on walls hand-written posters:

On June, 22nd, 1927

In club

«Kartonaschnik»

takes place

lecture on a theme:

« FRUITFUL DEBUT IDEA «

and

SIMULTANEOUS CHESS GAME

on

160 chessboards with grand master O.Bender.

Everyone should come with own chess boards.

A payment for game - 50 Kopeek.

The payment for an admission - 20 Kopeek.

The beginning is accurate at 6 pm.

on behalf of Administration:

K.Mihelson

FRUITFUL DEBUT IDEA :

- A chess! - spoke Ostap Bender. - Do you know, what is Chess?

Chess moves forward not only culture, but also economy!

Do you know that your «Chessclub four horses» can under the right circumstances absolutely change the city of Vasyuki?

- Yes! - shouted he - Chess enrichs the country!

If you will agree on my project then you will go down from town to haven with marble stairs!

Vasyuki will become the center of ten Provinces!

Did you heard about the city of Simmering before? Now this small town is rich and well-known only because there the international tournament took place.

It is necessary to arrange in Vasyuki the international chess tournament!

- How? - cried all.

- Quite real thing, - answered grand master, - personal communications and your engagement.

That's all, what is necessary and sufficient for the organization of international Vasyukinsky tournament. Think, how beautifully sounds: «International Vasyukinsky tournament of 1927».

José Raúl Capablancas, Emanuel Laskers, Aljechin, Nemzovichs, Pettits, Rubinsteins, Marozzis, Terrasches, Widmars and doctor Grigorievs arrival is provided.

Besides of that my participation is provided also!

- But money! - moaned people - it will be necessary to pay them money! Lots of thousands ! Where should we take them?
- All is considered by me, - told O.Bender,- money will be given us.
- Who will pay us such money? People from Vasyuki?...
-People from Vasyuki will not pay! They will be paid! This all is extremely simple. In fact the tournament with participation of such greatest grand masters will gather fans of a chess of all over the world. Hundreds thousand people, rich people will aspire to Vasyuki.
Then at first - our river transport would be not able to operate with such quantity of passengers. According to this NKPS will construct a railway line Moscow-Vasyuki. This is first. Second - are hotels and skyscrapers for accommodations of visitors. Third - a raising of an agriculture in radius of one thousand kilometers: it is necessary to supply the visitors with vegetables, fruits, caviar, chocolates! A palace in which will take place the tournament - that is fourth. Fifth - construction of garages for guests motor transport. For transfer to all world sensational results of tournament it is necessary to construct super-power Radio station - sixthly. Now concerning railway line Moscow-Vasyuki: undoubtedly, those will not provide good enough all interested persons to come to Vasyuki and we will have to build the airport: «The greater Vasyuki» - regular departure of planes and dirigible balloons in all countries of the world, including Los Angeles and Melbourne.

Dazzling potentials were developed in minds of chessfans from Vasyuki. Limits of a room have suddenly expired. Rotten walls have changed and instead of them in the blue sky appeared a grate glass palace of a chess idea. In its each hall, in each room and even in the lifts were people sitting and playing chess on the chess boards made by malachite...

Marble stairs were going down to dark blue Volga. On the river stood ocean ships. In city were coming foreigners, chess ladies, the Australian admirers of Indian Protection, hindus in white turbans, adherents of a Spanish party, Germans, the Frenchmen, new zealanders, inhabitants of a river basin of Amazon and envying Muscovites, Siberians, people from Odessa, Kiev, Leningrad. Cars were moving among marble hotels. But look - suddenly everything stopped to move: from luxury hotel « The Checkpoint Pawn » appear world champion José Raúl Capablanca. He was surrounded by ladies. The policeman dressed in the special chess uniform (with trousers in a black and white cell pattern and tiny elephants on buttonholes) were polite protecting him. One-eyed chairman of « Chessclub four horses » come up to the champion and they started conversation in English, which was interrupted by an arrival of doctor Grigoriev and the future world champion Aljechin.

Suddenly on horizon the black point appeared. It came fast nearer and grew, having turned in big emerald Parachute. The person hung on a parachute ring with a small suitcase.

-Hurrah! Ur! Ur! This is the great philosopher-chess player, doctor Lasker. Only he all over the world carries such green socks.

José Raúl Capablanca frowned.

One-eyed chairman of « Chessclub four horses » took Lasker to a waist, brought him to the champion Capablanca and told him:

- Reconcile! I am asking you on behalf in name of all people from Vasyukin. Reconcile!

Capablanca shook hand of the old chess veteran and told him:

- I always admired your idea of translation of the elephant in the Spanish party from b5 on c4.

- Vivat! - exclaimed one-eyed chairman. - Simply and convincingly, in style of the champion! And all unimaginable crowd has picked up:

- Vivat! Simply and convincingly, in style of the champion!!!

Express trains drove to twelve stations of Vasyuki bringing new and new crowds of chess fans. The sky was full with shining advertisement, while on streets of the city walked a white horse. It was the only one horse, which survived after mechanization of city transport. Admirers of a chess welcomed it, swinging palm branches and chessboards.

- Do not worry, - told Ostap Bender, - my project guarantees to your city unprecedented blossoming productive forces. Think, what will be, when tournament will be over and when all visitors will leave. The inhabitants of Moscow constrained by a housing crisis will rush to your magnificent city. Capital city automatically passes to Vasyuki. The government will move here. Vasyuki will renamed into New-Moscow, Moscow - to Old Vasyuki. And at the end New-Moscow becomes the most elegant center of the Europe and soon of all world.

- All world!!! - moaned deafened people.

- Yes! And subsequently of the universe. A chess idea, transformed district city in capital of globe, will invent new ways of interplanetary communication. From Vasyuki signals to Mars and the Neptune will depart. The communication with Venus will become as easy, as crossing from Rybinsk to Yaroslavl. And there, who knows, maybe, years after in Vasyuki will takes place the first in history of a universe INTERPLANETARY CHESS CONGRESS!