

THE PLATTE SHARPSHOOTERS

They Assemble This Week for the Annual Rifle Competition.

PREPARING THE RANGE FOR THE EVENT.

The Days of the Fighting and How Awards are to Be Made—News from Department Posts.

Tomorrow at Bellevue rifle range there will assemble the picked shots from the army in the department of the Platte. They come to take part in the seventh annual rifle competition of the department and represent the following posts: Fort Douglas, Fort DuChesne, Utah; Camp Pilot Butte, Fort McKinney, Fort Washburn, Fort B. A. Russell, Wyoming; Fort Stanton, Fort Omaha, Fort Robinson, Fort Sidney, Neb.; Fort Randall, S. D.; Fort Logan and Fort Lewis, Col. These representatives will comprise fifty-eight infantrymen, five of whom are officers. The regiments in the department will be represented as follows: Second, 3; Seventh, 7; Eighth, 8; Tenth, 1; Sixteenth, 3; Seventeenth, 5; and Twentieth, 5.

These men have been selected by their commanding officers to represent their commands in the competition and are generally considered the best shots in the regiment. This estimate is based upon the record made by them in the rifle practice on their respective ranges. As a rule, the rifle practice on the target practice has not yet been brought to a close but it has progressed sufficiently to determine which will be the best rifle shot to obtain the best prize.

The competition at Bellevue range, which in a certain manner opens tomorrow is to determine who will be the best marksman in the department of ten sharpshooters. When selected, this team will go to Chicago and compete with the department teams from other sections of the country. From among the ten teams will be selected the best ten shots, and these will be known as the army team of the republic for the year.

Until the abolition of the division in the army, a division competition obtained between that of the department and that of the army, in which a division of the department team was selected to compete with the army team. The present system is consequently less involved and more agreeable to everybody interested.

At the close of the department competition heavy prizes will be awarded as follows: A heavy rifle medal to the competitor making the highest aggregate score during the competition; a silver medal to each of the next three in order of merit, and a bronze medal to each of the remaining members of the team.

These medals will be presented to the victor at the close of the competition by General Brooke, department commander.

This presentation is an occasion of both interest and importance to the soldiers. The competitors are all men of high character and the officers of the company are full dress. The soldiers who have earned the medals are called by name and ordered to advance a certain number of paces from the line. They are distinguished from their comrades, the trophies they have won are pinned upon their breasts. The commanding general then delivers a few words to the victors and the value of a secure firing of the rifle.

He commends the work of the competitors because of their general commendation and congratulates the men upon the manner in which they have demeaned themselves as gentlemen and soldiers.

These presentations have long been occasions of social gatherings at the range and have never failed to repay the victors for their attendance. As a rule, however, they have been effected through the leadership of some well known social gentleman. When at home, Senator Alexander expected to have pleasure in taking the lead, both out of compliment to the general and officers in command as also the men whose reputation had been made.

This year the presentation, weather permitting, will be made the occasion of grand social affairs to the range, the matter is now being discussed in social circles throughout the city.

In a social sense, this competition will differ in some respects from those of other years. During the days of active firing on the range the work will be witnessed by a number of ladies and gentlemen from this city. On the B. & M. tower at 9:30 a. m. and return in the evening at 6:30 o'clock. This will enable the ladies to observe the odds employed by Uncle Sam to reach valuable places in the persons of an imaginary enemy.

Besides, there is an excellent drive through Sylvan park, South Omaha and Bellevue to the range, which offers charms which cannot be enjoyed at any other place.

The range and everything connected with it is in readiness, the former which is absolutely complete. Those who have visited this beautiful spot can readily appreciate this fact. Those, however, who have never been to the range, will find the natural beauty which lies about at their door.

The range proper is an "opening" level is a table 300 yards in width and 600 yards in length. At the northern end of the range, a series of terraces of varying heights are built against the dark foliage of the woods behind. These are denominated "benches." Above the benches there are eight broad targets. Toward these targets are directed the shots of the soldiers at distances varying from 300 to 600 yards.

Out of sight of both marksmen and spectators, are the simple machinery by which the target is moved, revolve after each shot; also the markers, between whom and the bullets is a good deal of wall with a breakwork of a dozen feet height. The duty of the marker is to observe the direction of the wind is blowing.

This is an important element in rifle firing and is always taken into consideration by the marksmen.

CAVALRY COMPETITION WILL TAKE PLACE.

will continue three days when the competition will be closed. The prizes are as follows: A heavy rifle medal to the competitor making the highest aggregate score during the competition; a silver medal to each of the next three in order of merit, and a bronze medal to each of the remaining members of the team.

Fort Robinson. A. Blood, jr., was awarded the contract for supplying the new recruits now being raised in this competition there will be about forty cavalrymen who will use both carbine and revolver. They will come from the departments of the Platte, California and the coast as far away as Virginia. The officers in charge of the competition will be those who have already been designated in connection with the competition.

The cavalry rifle practice commenced Tuesday. Dress parade every morning and large fatigue parties every day would lead one to think that "there are no flies" on our cavalry men.

Mr. Jewett, the contractor, has broken ground for the foundation of the new guard house. It will be on the same place as that at Fort Omaha and is to be completed December 30, 1891.

Last Monday the foundation was laid for an addition to the club house. It will be 60 feet long by 15 wide, with an L. 2x30, and one-story high. It will be used as a mess hall for the officers and as an emergency for officers' families.

A sample of swift military justice under the new order of military courts let me cite an instance said to have occurred here. A cavalryman is galloping along. Summary court officer in high dudgeon with him. "You say, 'Yes, sir.' 'Were you absent from drill last night?' 'Yes, sir.' 'Three dollars.' 'Yes, sir.' The soldier leaping right along at a gallop.

Our troop horses have been in the habit of stampeding from the herding grounds, without any apparent effort on the part of the herders. In the morning Lieutenant Hutchison, adjutant Ninth cavalry, read the report to the non-commissioned officers in charge of herding parties, and today the horses all came in at a walk.

Monday a four-man team took it into its head to accompany the stampeding herd for a quarter of a mile, when one of them fell, injuring the others.

Mr. W. G. Hunt of Detroit, Mich., son-in-law of Captain John S. Loud, Ninth cavalry, is on a visit to the latter. Mrs. Hunt has been spending the summer with her parents. Mrs. Captain Loud and her mother and sister are making a tour of the mountain resorts of Colorado.

Captain Lane, United States army, retired, and Mrs. Lane are visiting their daughter, Mrs. Captain Garrard.

Lieutenant Hubert's horse got away from his hitch last night around the barracks and was captured by the mounted patrol men. Harness and buggy were considerably damaged.

Every afternoon at stable call a few of the men march up and down the picket line, discharging blank cartridges from their pistols. Most of the horses pay little attention to the shooting, but a few of the young horses do not quite like it.

The following officers and their families are on a riding trip to the hot springs of Dakota. They are: Lieut. Col. J. H. Smith, C. O. Dr. A. M. Adams, Captains Loug, Garrard, Day and Lynch, and Lieutenant Hinchey. They will return at 4 p. m. on Tuesday and returned at 9 p. m. the same day.

Lieutenant Lahl, A. A. Q. M., is in California on official duty. Lieutenant Hinchey, adjutant Ninth cavalry, has temporary charge of quartermaster duties in addition to his work as adjutant.

Fort Sidney. Sergeant Oliver, Company E, and Private Campbell, Company C, Twenty-first infantry, left for Fort Omaha, Neb., on the 17th, in the morning. After turning these convicts over to the commanding officer at the latter place they will proceed to their department rifle camp at Bellevue, Neb., the former being the senior and the latter a marker during the rifle competition.

Private Michael Kelly, Company C, Two-ty infantry, has been appointed lance corporal. Lieutenants Samuel Seay and Edmund L. Butts are on route from Fort Douglas, Neb., to Fort Omaha, Neb., on the 17th.

Our greatest social event this summer was the return on the 20th of Miss Julia E. Blanchard, daughter of Hon. George E. Blanchard, rear admiral of the United States navy, from a three months' visit in Omaha and Rapid City, S. D. Miss Blanchard is a lovely girl, both in person and intellectually, and is a great favorite with all of us.

A Musket. HERRICK, Neb., July 19.—To the Editor of the Bee: Will you kindly answer in next Sunday's Bee the following queries: 1. What battles of the late war did the First Nebraska infantry take part in? 2. What were their losses, killed and wounded? 3. How long did it serve?

Ans.—The regiment left for the seat of war July 30, 1861. From September 3 till 10 of the same year, they served on the Missouri whackers. On the latter date they marched, under General Pope, to a point near Warsaw, Mo., where they were engaged in the battle of the Clouds, in which they were defeated. In the latter place is located the gallant Captain Charles A. Coolidge, Seventh infantry, who has charge of the camp. The captain has spent several seasons on the range and for the past two years had command of the department teams which shot at Fort Douglas, Wyo., and Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The other officers are as follows: Adjutant and signal officer, Second Lieutenant Stephen M. Hanson, First Nebraska infantry; quartermaster and ordnance officer, Sergeant Lieutenant Harry E. Wilkins, Second Nebraska infantry; commissary and ration officer, Second Lieutenant Charles D. Vance, Sixthteenth infantry; statistical officer, Captain John F. Guilfoyle, Ninth cavalry. Second Lieutenant Edwin V. Hooper, Sixthteenth infantry; medical officer, Captain William G. Spencer, assistant surgeon, U. S. A.; range officers, First Lieutenant Robert J. Dowdy, Seventeenth infantry; First Lieutenant Henry Nichols, Fourteenth infantry; Second Lieutenant Charles H. Allen, Seventeenth infantry; Second Lieutenant John S. Caskey, Twenty-first infantry; Second Lieutenant Samuel Seay, jr., Twenty-first infantry; Second Lieutenant Almon Gray, Sixthteenth infantry; Second Lieutenant Robert L. Howe, Sixth cavalry.

These are courteous gentlemen and excellent soldiers and will make a visit to the range a source of exceeding pleasure.

The competition will be in charge of Major Daniel W. Bonham, Seventh infantry, inspector of the competition last year and the showing was a credit both to the inspector and men.

The preliminary practice will commence on Thursday next. Competitive firing, however, will not open till August 3. This will continue till the following Tuesday.

On August 13, preliminary practice for the

CO-OPERATIVE CROOKEDNESS.

The State Authorities Declare War on Associated Swindlers. THE BUILDING AND LOAN LAW.

A Vigorous Enforcement of Its Provisions Against the Nationals—A New York Concern Officially Roasted—A Scathing Letter.

One of the most important laws passed by the last legislature was the act regulating building and loan associations and providing for frequent examinations of their affairs. The enforcement of the law was vested in the state banking board, which is now diligently disposing of the work before it.

The following letter shows how the board proposes to enforce the law and protect the people of the state from dishonest foreign associations:

BRUNSWICK, N. Y., July 17.—B. C. Graham, Esq., Franklin, Neb.—Dear Sir: I am directed by the board to reply to your recent letter of inquiry regarding the national Mutual Building and Loan association of New York.

This association filed papers as required by the act, and applied for a certificate of incorporation authorizing it to transact business in this state. The application was denied.

Because of your statement that you were delayed in the completion of a loan, awaiting the issue of a certificate, the association claiming to have fulfilled all requirements of the act of April 4, 1891, the board feels that you are entitled to a full explanation of the reasons upon which is based the refusal to permit the association to operate in Nebraska, and directs me to write you accordingly.

In issuing upon the application of a foreign association for authority to transact business in the state, the board will examine: 1. The articles of association and by-laws of the association.

The financial statements of the association; and in the event of objectionable features being met with in the first two items of the above, the board will satisfy itself that the interests of the stockholders are not afforded an ample protection as is afforded by the laws of this state to members of our national building and loan associations, and under which the applicant is incorporated.

The articles of association and by-laws of the association, as filed, contain statements of the association; and in the event of objectionable features being met with in the first two items of the above, the board will satisfy itself that the interests of the stockholders are not afforded an ample protection as is afforded by the laws of this state to members of our national building and loan associations, and under which the applicant is incorporated.

The papers filed by the National Mutual Building and Loan association were procured with an understanding that the articles of the association contained objectionable provisions in respect to withdrawals, fines and forfeitures, repayment of loans and interest, and greater than all else, is the objection to the provision of the article entitled "Expense Fund."

The capital of the association is \$100,000, payable in installments of 50 cents per month. Article 17 provides for an expense fund consisting of 10 cents of every share received; that is, 10 cents of every 50 cents paid to the association is confiscated for expenses to be used to pay the interest on all of the shares. There are seven directors, and seven officers to be elected out among themselves; there is the office of president, first vice-president, secretary, treasurer, general manager, and secretary and treasurer. Article 5, section 1, is in part: "The officers shall be elected by ballot by the stockholders, and later on in the section of the board of directors shall fix the salaries of all officers."

You see it is a nice little family matter. Twenty-five stockholders, 250 shares, constitute a quorum for the annual election held in the city of New York. The association is incorporated in New York, but operates principally in other states. It is a very simple matter for the coteries of organizers to perpetuate themselves in office from year to year. It is not necessary that the articles of the association, however, provide for a "yearly financial examination" of the association, and the committee is appointed by the president.

The provisions of the monthly stock installments, as provided for in the articles, appear to you a true proportion. In reality it is taking 10% per cent of every dollar paid in stock, and the aggregate is an enormous amount and out of the pocket of the actual commissions charged by responsibly trust companies with capital to guarantee their transactions, for the investment and care of funds.

The statements accompanying the application show a dividend of \$100,000, \$50,000 of which is paid to the stockholders. The balance of \$50,000 is paid to the directors and officers. The directors are to receive \$10,000 each, and the officers \$5,000 each. The directors are to receive \$10,000 each, and the officers \$5,000 each.

In fact of all this enormous expenditure you have doubtless been told that if you will invest in this association, you will receive an average rate of interest of 10% per annum. At the end of that time you will get from the association \$100,000. Fifty-seven dollars and 60 cents will be the amount paid in; this "expense" will cause the share to cost \$150 as the amount of investment capital.

The average time the management would require for investing a sum of money, say \$100,000, is 18 months. In other words they propose that you give them \$100,000 for investment, pay in an average time of 18 months, and receive \$150,000. This is a conservative calculation, and \$100,000 is your share.

If the officers were not of larger caliber, they would be justly, in view of the large amount of money they are to receive, and the association is now and must not possibly exhaust the guarantee capital until after the first term. There is no guarantee, however, that the association will not be liquidated, and the association report is a very interesting one.

In the foregoing calculation I neglected to state that you will be expected to contribute \$100,000 to the association, and the association report is a very interesting one.

Considerable pressure has been brought to bear to blind the loan to the true character of the association. The share of the "expense fund" is measured by the number of shares issued and paid upon the basis of the amount of the loan. It falls upon the loan holder, and it falls upon the loan holder, and it falls upon the loan holder.

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