

ON THE BULL'S EYE.

The New Creedmoor Near Fort Omaha.

A Visit to the Rifle Range of the Department of the Platte

And a Glance at the Modern Operand of Target Practice.

Those who remember the opening of the Creedmoor rifle range in 1873 will recall the sharp interest in marksmanship which rapidly followed its inauguration. This interest was not confined to private marksmen. The National Guard of the state of New York at once began a regular practice, relieved by individual, company and regiment contests, which are still continued, and other states, notably New Jersey, constructed ranges and instituted regular target practice among their militia. The lack of skill shown by the beginners proved the necessity for the work if an organized citizen soldiery could be expected to do effective firing in an active campaign. Drills and the manual of arms might serve for a parade, but it was found that nothing but actual firing at battle distance could teach the men the use of their pieces and fit them for doing and economical service on the field. The success of Creedmoor first turned the attention of our regular army officers to the deficiency which existed among the troops in rifle firing, and a contest for teams from the military divisions was accordingly instituted at that range in competition with the state militia. In April, 1880, Colonel Ludley issued his manual of target practice for army teams. Up to this time army contests had been held at Creedmoor, but in 1881 General Sherman issued a general order mapping out a regular drill in target practice for the entire army, prescribing the conditions under which it should be exercised and instituting competitive contests. In 1882

THE PRESENT SYSTEM

of rifle practice was adopted. Under its provisions regular target practice is enforced on all soldiers during certain periods of the year at every post under the inspection of commissioned officers. There are three grades of competition, viz: Department, Division and Army. In all these competitions the distances are 200 yards, position, standing; 300 yards kneeling, and 600 yards, lying. Two marksmen constitute the department team. Of these, the best marksman making the best score, a gold medal is awarded. At the Division competition the several department teams of twelve compete for places on the division team, which also consists of twelve men. The first prize is a gold medal, the next three also gold medals, while the remaining eight are awarded silver medals. Every alternate year, beginning with 1882, twelve of the best shots from the entire army compete for the army prizes, which consist of three gold and three silver medals. The competition for the department team takes place in Omaha in August, and later in the fall the division match will come off at Leavenworth.

To carry out this elaborate program, much attention has been paid during the last three years to the building of suitable ranges in the various departments, and a great deal of experimenting has been done to secure the best results for the least expenditure of money. The construction of the new rifle range for the department of the Platte has been under charge of Captain Coolidge, Seventh Infantry, Inspector of rifle practice for the department, and on Wednesday a representative of THE BEE accepted an invitation to inspect the completed work and witness the practice of the men at the various firing points. The party which climbed in the government ambulances at the headquarters consisted of the aforementioned Gen. Man, Captain Coolidge, Lieut. Guy Howard, Dr. J. H. Lott and Major Dennis, an old Creedmoor shot and medalist, formerly of the Twenty-first New York regiment, and now of Omaha.

Passing up Sixteenth street, over runs and holes and narrowly escaping disaster from collision with the exposed water pipe on Sherman avenue, we turn into the county road by Saratoga school house, and after a ride of a few minutes due west strike the new

BULL'S EYE RANGE

of the department of the Platte. The grounds, which were secured after considerable difficulty, lie due south of Fort Omaha on the road leading from the barracks to the city. As laid out the range is 150 feet wide and about 800 yards long. It trends slightly north of west from the east end to the butte rises some thirty feet. The grounds are carefully and conveniently laid out. Adjoining the road is a neat stand for the use of spectators during the rifle contests, roofed and provided with seats, and commanding a full view of the entire field. To the right and front a small but convenient range officer's house is in process of construction which will be occupied by the official scorers and connected by telephone with the markers at the butts. The range looks bright and fresh in its dress of green, which contrasts well with the adjoining lands. An ambulance stands in the road and groups of soldiers, with their rifles on their shoulders are scattering towards the short distance positions.

Major Dennis, with his Remington rifle in hand, puts on his glasses and squints along the field. "A pretty good range," he says approvingly, "if it only faced to the north. You see the sun wouldn't bother you." Captain Coolidge explains that as practice is only taken in the morning, the sun does not have to be considered, and directs our attention to the proceedings.

AT THE FIRING POINTS.

From the grand stand along the slightly rising ground sown with osts

and clover the eye is carried also five parallel lines of small white posts, which mark the direction of the targets and the distances from the butts. These are placed at intervals of 200, 300, 400, 500 and 600 yards from the targets, and are each numbered with a figure indicating the target to which they apply. Half way down the range is an officer's tent, in which sit Major Powell and Major Von Herman at a table watching the shots as they strike and recording the scores. Farther up are a squad of soldiers lying on the green awaiting their turn, while on the opposite side of the range from the 200 yards firing point a number of men are taking their practice standing at the nearest range. The wind is blowing strongly across the range, its direction being indicated by four red flags, which stand firmly out from the staff and point with their tips towards the city. Farther down stands a large clock dial, surmounted by a wreath or vane, which indicates the force of the wind by a hand springing across its face and warns the marksmen to adjust their wind gauge "to half past one." As we look up the hill towards the butts, the faces of five targets apparently rising from the ground confront us in the distance, one of which wavers, turns and mysteriously appears below ground to give place to another precisely like it. A puff of smoke, a report, a short interval, and a pole, surmounted by a disc, shoots up from the ground, waves across the face of number two, and then disappears below as rapidly as it first came up, while a change is made in the group far to our front, and another soldier drops into the position occupied by the last marksman. We approach the firing point and shake hands with Lieutenant Mason. "A choppy wind," says the Lieutenant to Capt. Coolidge, who inquires how many points have been allowed on the wind gauge and suggests that an allowance of two degrees would carry the bullets more to the right. The wind puffs in gusts and the clock varies from half past one to two as a sergeant takes his place at the 200 yard post of target No. 2, draws a bullet from his belt, wets it in his mouth and inserts it in the breech of his Springfield rifle. A sharp report follows. "An inner call," says Mr. Dennis who has shot at Creedmoor, "two inches to the left," remarks Captain Coolidge as the white disc comes up and the target turns. The captain waves his hand, a red flag appears on the right of the line of targets, and firing ceases as we make our way towards

THE BUTTS.

which occupy the western portion of the range and contain the targets and arrangements for recording the shots. As no plan has yet been devised by which a bullet will strike a target, mark its value, inform the marksmen when it has hit and erase the mark on the target to read for another shot, it is plain that these essentials must be accomplished by human agencies. The problem then presents itself how the markers and target tenders can be safely shielded from stray shots and the bullets after passing through the targets, restrained from doing any damage to travelers beyond the range. The butts at the Fort Omaha rifle range, which have been constructed under Captain Coolidge's personal supervision fully solve the problem and are undoubtedly the most complete in the west. Led by the captain we pass around a high bank of earth which stretches across the range, and while the red flag signals "danger," and prevents firing from down the slope, we descend in the deep trench, which contains the targets and markers. The excavation is eight feet deep, 16 feet wide and 110 feet long, boarded on three sides and flanked by an abutment of earth and plank fifteen feet high and ten feet thick, into which ten feet above our heads the bullets plunge after passing through the targets. The trench is well filled with soldiers, Lieutenants Treat and Laydon directing the marking. Through the center rise five frames, each containing two targets resting on a horizontal axle like the wheel of a wagon, so that one is above the trench, while the other fastens firmly below in a slot ready to be elevated when the upper one has been used.

THE TARGETS

consist of frames of wood, 4x6 feet, across which heavy cloth is stretched, and over which a sheet of brown paper with three concentric black rings is pasted. This gives four divisions in which the bullet may enter; the black outer or "bull's-eye," which counts 5 in the score, the next ring or "outer," which counts as 4, the third or "inner," for which 3 is credited, and the margin between the frame and largest ring or the "outer," which counts as 2. Two sizes of targets are used called respectively the "A" and "B" targets the frames for each being the same, but the paper target is varying in size as noted. The "A" targets are 4x6 feet, with a bull's-eye eight inches in diameter, and are used at the 100, 200 and 300 yard ranges. The "B" targets, 6x6 feet with a bull's-eye inches in diameter, are used at the 400 500 and 600 yard ranges. On ranges where firing is done at distances from 700 to 100 yards a "C" target 6x12 feet with a bull's-eye thirty-eight inches in diameter is made use of, but as at Fort Omaha, the longest range is 600 yards none of the larger targets are in use. While we examine the targets the red flag descends. We start nervously as the report of a rifle again rings out and a sharp "ping" and spat sounds above our head. Target "No. 2" has been hit. A sergeant grasps a lever revolves the axle and brings it down as the second target rises to its place. A small hole just outside the bull's-eye appears on the paper. "Four," calls out Lieutenant Laydon. Another soldier grasps a pole, on which is nailed a red disc and raises it above the trench and waves it in front of the target, thus signaling the shot down the range; a third passes a white paper over the bullet hole and the target is ready again for duty. Another shot, "Ah, that's Von Herman, I'll bet," says Lieutenant Treat, as a white disc goes up and a "bull's-eye" is recorded. "The beauty of this system of targets," says Captain Coolidge impressively, "is their perfect safety. There is absolutely no dan-

THE SAINTS OF TO-DAY.

Pen Sketches of Past and Coming Events at the Capital of Zion.

Barrett and Thomas Oaters to Patrons of Music and the Drama.

The Fourth and Twenty-Fourth Celebrations—Accidental Drowning.

Correspondence of THE BEE. SALT LAKE CITY, June 11.—Mayor William Jennings finding the duties of the mayoralty and those of superintendency of Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution too arduous, has resigned his position in the institution, and been succeeded by General Horace S. Eldridge, who formerly occupied that position. General Eldridge, who is also president of the Deseret National bank, of this city, and a "way up" Mormon dignitary, is well known to the business men of Nebraska and Iowa.

Salt Lake is all agog on musical and dramatic matters. This week the well known tragedian, Lawrence Barrett, plays an engagement of five nights and the Thomas orchestra gives three concerts in the large tabernacle. His monster organization will be supplemented by a chorus of 300 local vocalists. We expect a general influx of visitors from all parts of the compass, from Nevada, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming and all parts of Utah. The coming of such an orchestra was thought an event little anticipated by the denizens of this mountain region, but as it is coming, we expect to appreciate and enjoy it. The glorious Fourth will be celebrated, for the city, at Fort Douglas. The government officials and the army officers are taking the lead in the preparations. We are also to have a balloon ascension on that day, the first ever attempted in the Great Basin.

The "memorable twenty-fourth" is only memorable locally. It celebrates the day when the weary Mormon pioneers first entered these arid, but now lovely valleys. The Salt Lake region is as much a holiday as the Fourth. On the approaching anniversary there are to be two concerts given in the large tabernacle by twelve hundred members of Prof. Evan Stevens' juvenile classes; one of which is to be devoted entirely to the rendition of the compositions of local musical and poetical writers. With all these entertainments, concerts and celebrations ahead of us, we are expecting to pass the dog days quite merrily.

PERSONAL.

B. F. Fuller, of Blair, is at the Millard. J. N. H. Patrick has returned from Europe. F. N. Shaw, of Minneapolis, is a guest of the Paxton. Chas. T. Boggs, of Lincoln, is a visitor at the Paxton. Tom Orr and wife returned from the east Wednesday. Mrs. H. E. Persons, of Central City, is at the Paxton. M. Upton, of New York, is at the Grand Pacific. C. T. Newton, of St. Joe, was at the Grand Pacific last night. W. A. Wilson, of Kansas City, is a guest of the Grand Pacific. H. D. Estabrook, E. q., started Wednesday on a trip to New York. Robt. E. Strathorn arrived in the city last evening, and is at the Paxton. Chas. J. K. Rosenberg, of Philadelphia, general agent of the American steamship line and the Star steamship line, is a guest of the Millard yesterday. H. P. Foster, of Lincoln, registered at the Paxton yesterday. E. L. Davis, of Bay City, Mich., is at the Grand Pacific. W. A. Hammond, of Buffalo, New York, is registered at the Grand Pacific. Mrs. Annie Durnall left Wednesday for a visit to her old home in Wilmington, Delaware. Mrs. E. Haney departed Wednesday on a visit to friends in Illinois. Alex. Q. Long, of Virginia, Nev., is at the Paxton. Mrs. Thos. Jones, of Seward, registered at the Paxton last night. Col. Frank P. Ireland is in the city. John Ogden, of St. Paul, registered at the Metropolitan last night. Wm. Marble and wife, of Iowa City, are guests of the Metropolitan. O. W. Buch, of St. Joe, is among the guests at the Metropolitan. James Ledwick, of Weber, is at the Millard. J. W. Penelope, of Ogden, is at the Millard. W. F. Beahel, auditor of the U. P. Express company, will be in Chicago last night. Mrs. Wm. Anderson went east last night by the Milwaukee line. Hon. James E. Boyd leaves for Chicago to-day. N. B. Falconer, of the firm of A. Crutcher & Co., left last night for a three weeks' tour of the east. G. F. Fink and family, S. P. Parker, of Pierce; L. C. Weber, of Arlington; J. Wesley Tucker, of Valentine; W. B. Thomas, of Tekamah; W. S. Kilbourne, of Junata; S. T. Caldwell, of Edgar; J. B. Hayes, of Seward; J. L. Watrous, of Clark; W. F. Norris, of Ponca, and F. P. Cook, of Oakland, were among the Nebraska guests at the Millard last night. W. H. B. Stout, of Lincoln, is in the city. Charles Haas, of Peru, Ill.; J. A. Dudgeon, of Annapolis, Ill.; W. F. Bauris, of Chicago; D. L. Zabrisky, of St. Charles, Ill.; Hon. E. B. Windham, of Plattsmouth; John Wycoff, W. C. Emerson, W. E. Clark, and John Moore, of Chicago, and H. L. Grant and wife, of Peru, Neb., were guests at the Grand Pacific yesterday.

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president; A. R. Davison, of Brownville, treasurer, and Mr. Jennings, of Plattsmouth, secretary. Executive Committee—George T. Mills, of Omaha; Gen. Geo. S. Smith, of Plattsmouth, and J. W. Petty, of Plattsmouth was the place selected for the next tournament, the time to be fixed by the executive committee.

THE TURF. COLUMBUS, O., June 14.—2:29 class, postponed from yesterday. Stranger won heat and race; time 2:20 1/2. Free for all race, Edwin Thorne won in straight heats, Wilson second, J. B. Thomas third, Ewing fourth; best time 2:31 1/2.

Class 2:25, Tony Newell won, Will Bunham second, Willie Woods third, Cyclone fourth; best time, 2:25. Class 2:40, Purcell won, Maudie second, George third; Raymond fourth; best time 2:31 1/2.

Covington, June 14.—The Latonia Jockey club: Club purse, for maiden two-year-olds, mile and one furlong, Chatter won, Ollie second, Little Joe third; time, 2:07 1/2.

Cincinnati hotel stakes, for all ages, mile and a quarter, Freehand won, Mediator second, Farrago third; time, 2:20 1/2.

Club purse, for gentlemen riders, three-quarters of a mile, Claude Brannon won, Wellington second, Florence third; time, 1:28.

Hurdle race, four hurdles, one mile, Katie Creel won, Snowbark second, Florence D. third; time, 1:57 1/2.

Club purse, handicap, mile and a half, Bassett won, Stanton second, Tagathether third; time, 2:47 1/2.

St. Louis, June 14.—First day, St. Louis Jockey Club races; track slow; five events. Inaugural scramble, all ages, mile and a furlong, club purse, Carson won, Black Gal second, Effie third; time, 2:01 1/2.

Missouri Derby, three-year-olds, mile and a half, Bondholder won, April Fool second, Tilford third; time, 2:43 1/2.

Cotton Exchange cash, handicap, mile and a furlong, Force won, Brad second, Brigand Belle third; time, 1:58 1/2.

Fourth race, match for \$500 a side, Lucy Morton won, Apansose second; time, 1:22 1/2.

Gentlemen's cup, steeple chase, for gentlemen riders, Charley Bush, ridden by Harry C. Fallow, won, Gay lady second; time, 5:23.

HARROD, June 14.—Charter Oak park races: 2:30 class, seven heats, Forest Patchen won, Josey second, Brandy Bay third; best time, 2:19 1/2, by Forest Patchen in the third heat, Brandy Bay took the first heat in 2:20 1/2.

Class 2:22; Blanchard won, Madeleine second, Stephen G. third, Tides fourth; best time 2:22 1/2 by Madeleine.

THE DIAMONDS. CINCINNATI, June 14.—Bostons 4, Chicago 1. New York, June 14.—New York 5, Cleveland nothing.

PHILADELPHIA, June 14.—Philadelphia 2, Buffalo nothing.

PROVIDENCE, June 14.—Providence 9, Detroit 8.

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TESTIMONIALS

Superintendent of Police, Chicago, West Division, Chicago, December 5, 1892.—E. E. Ewell, President of Sioux Falls Jasper Stone Company, Dear Sir:—I have received from your company since October 1, 1892, about 100 car loads of granite paving blocks and have laid them between the rails of one street railway tracks in the April of this city. I have been using your material in this city for my years, and I take pleasure in saying that in my opinion the granite paving blocks furnished by your company are the most regular in shape and perfect in form, and so far as I have been able to judge, are possessed of durable features as any material that has ever been offered or laid in this city. Yours, JAS. K. LAKE.

(Copy.) St. Louis, March 22, 1893. TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:—This is to certify that I have examined a piece of granite taken from the Sioux Falls Granite Quarries, and in my opinion, it is the best grade for street paving I have seen in America. (Signed) HENRY FLAD, Pres. Board Public Improvement.

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NERVOUS DEBILITY.

The symptoms of which are a dull, distressed mind, which, untids them from performing each business and social duties, makes happy marriage impossible, distresses the action of the heart, causing flushes of heat, loss of vision, evil foreboding, cowardice, fears, dreams, restless nights, dizziness, forgetfulness, unnatural discharges, pain in the back and hips, short breathing, melancholy, the easily of company and have uret-remes to be alone, feeling as tired in the morning as when retiring, animal weakness, loss of manhood, white bone deposit in the urine, nervousness, confusion of thought, trembling, watery and weak eyes, dyspepsia, constipation, pale skin, pain and weakness in the limbs, etc., should consult me immediately and be restored to perfect health.

YOUNG MEN

Who have become victims of solitary vice, that dreadful and destructive habit which annually sweeps to an untimely grave thousands of young men of excellent talent and brilliant intellect who might otherwise entrance listening senators with the thunder of their eloquence or wake to scenery of the living life, may call with full confidence.

MARRIAGE.

Married persons or young men contemplating marriage be aware of physical weakness, loss of progressive power, impotency, or any other disqualification, unappreciated. He who places a wife under the care of Dr. Fishblatt may religiously confide in his honor as a gentleman, and a husband rely upon his skill as a physician.

ORGANIC WEAKNESS

Immediately cured and full vigor restored. This disease, arising from improper indulgence in a hurried and marriage impossible, is the penalty paid by the victim for improper indulgence. Young persons are apt to commit excesses from not being aware of the dreadful consequences that may ensue. Few who understand this subject will deny that prostration is lost sooner by those falling into lascivious habits than by prudents. Besides being deprived of the pleasure of healthy offspring, the most serious and distressing symptoms of both body and mind arise. The system becomes deranged, the physical and mental functions weaken. Loss of progressive powers, nervous instability, dyspepsia, palpitation of the heart, indigestion, constitutional debility, wasting of the frame, cough, consumption and death.

A CURE WARRANTED.

Persons ruined in health by unskilled pretenders who keep them tritling month after month taking poisonous and injurious compounds, should apply immediately.

DR. FISHBLATT

graduate of one of the most eminent colleges of the United States, has effected some of the most astonishing cures that were ever known; many troubled with ringing in the ears and head, when asleep, great nervousness being alarmed at certain sounds, with frequent blushing, attended some times with derangement of the mind were cured immediately.

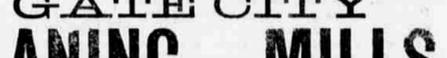
TAKE PARTICULAR NOTICE.

Dr. Fishblatt addresses all those who have injured themselves by improper indulgence and solitary habits which ruin both body and mind, advising them for business, study, society or marriage. These are some of the melancholy effects produced by the early habits of youth, viz: Weakness of the back and limbs, pain in the back and joints, loss of muscular power, palpitation of the heart, dyspepsia, nervous irritability, derangement of digestive functions, debility, consumption, etc.

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