Upole Sam's Soldiers Win Medals by Good Work on Rifle Range.

TEACHING SOLDIERS HOW TO SHOOT

How the Competitions Are Arranged and Carried Out, with Some Stories of Results Obtained in Former Years.

The infantry rifle competition just consluded at Fort Leavenworth, is the first to be held under the present organization of the army by which the headquarters of the Department of the Missouri were located at Omaha, but it is not by any means the said, he did not miss once. At the time first in which the troops stationed at or hear the city have taken part, and at army that the shooting meant a renewal of the headquarters there is the liveliest interest rush upon the hole in which he had conong officers and men as to the result of

. The competitions were first authorized long before the civil war, but they did not reach their present state of perfection until afterwards, when the officers in charge found that the men required something more than the ordinary drill to instill in them a love practice at the targets. The desire on the part of the officers for a high state of skill in marksmanship on the part of the nilated men was the prime reason for the establishment of the annual competitions in the departments, and recent events have shown that, coupled with the general use of Brearms in the United States, these an-nual contests with their subordinate contests between the members of the various anies of the regiment have made the coldiers of the United States army the best individual markemen in any of the armies of the world, now that the army of the late Boer republics has been disbauded.

General Bates an Enthusiast.

The prevent regulations are somewhat different from those in force during the greater part of the time the contests have peen held, for the reason that the introduc tion of the magazine gun made the rules which applied to the operation of the pringfield rifle inapplicable. On the board which framed the present regulations for the contests was Major General John C. Bates, commander of the Department of the Missouri, than whom no man has taken a greater interest in the markmanship of the enlisted men. As colonel of the Second regiment General Bates not only took gres interest in the target practice, but also gave his men every opportunity to perfect themselves in rapid and sudden firing at owing objects. It is related of him on good authority that when commanding a post in Montana, just before the beginning of the Spanish war, he not only permitted but insisted upon his men taking part in the hunting which was carried on to a great extent in that part of the country, said an officer who was at the post at that time: The general never refused the application of a man to go upon a hunting expedition, intens he had gone on one since other members of his company. The result was not only that the post was supplied with more than enough deer and antelops to run it, but the men had learned to see the object their pursuit before the pursued saw them and that is about all that is necessary to make a man a good scout in time

Confidence in Hunters.

Another illustration showing the high unidence that General Bates placed in men having experience as hunters is shown by conversation between him and Captain The general met the captain and asked him the sea and said: it he had no acouts in his company. "No," replied the captain, "my men are

largely recruits brought in since the beginning of the war." "Have you say men who have been hunt-

ere?" he was nsked. "I believe I have a few who have done

some hunting," he replied. "Woll, I want you to give them permismation they may learn of the enemy."

Advantage of Competition. Speaking of the advantage of individual

er always returned all right."

mpetition, General Bates has said: "Such practice not only raises the efficloney of the army, but it gives the men confidence in thermelves. If they know that the chances are that they will hit the enemy at whom they shoot, they are not no apt to become panic-stricken as if they were in doubt of the result. In warfare, th as we have carried on against the Indians and such as the Filipinos have forced upon us, this is especially valuable, as in engagements with a concealed

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and when alone defending themselves it is of the utmost importance that the soldier may not only be able to shoot straight, but that he should know that he can. This of a Kentuckian who was in one of the regiments in my command in the Philip-The man was separated from his squad and cut off by a band of insurgents. He was out three days before he was rescued by a party sent to find him, and in that time he killed forty Filipines, according to his own statement, and the Filipinos of the party admitted when captured that they had buried eighteen of the men at whom he had shot. The man said that when he found himself alone with the insurgent band between him and his fellows he fired three shots which did not take effect. Then he became aroused to his situation and from that time on, he cealed himself, and resolving to sell his life dearly he braced himself against a tree and shot at the nearest of the enemy.

fainted in the arms of his comrades." Result of Experience.

At that moment the Americans broke through the lines and the Kentuckian

Not only the general, but other officers of the army, say that such deeds could only be performed by men who had had experience not only in the ordinary duty of soldier life, but at the targets, where they learn exactly what they can do with the guns which they carry.

With this high idea of the benefits to be

derived from individual practice and competition, which creates interest in the practice, it is not strange that when called upon to sit on a board to prepare rules for the competition the general paid great attention to the work, and was one of the men who arranged the present regulations, which are considered the best which have ever been prepared.

The rules not only were changed to allow for the difference in guns, but an important innovation was made in separating the officers and men in the competi-tions. Speaking of this innovation a former enlisted man who has taken part in several competitions said:

"On the part of the enlisted men there firing. was a feeling that the officers had a little the better of it when it came to the competitions. To illustrate what I mean will relate an lucident which took place at Fort Wingate, Aris., in the '80's. A captain, who is now a colonel, wanted to represent the company at a departmental shoot at the Bellevue rifle range. He was already a 'distinguished marksman' and so was L A rule had been promulgated that during the year after the introduction of the magacompetition of the regiment no one would be permitted to practice except at the times specified in the rules. At that time we shot in the morning only. The struggle was at the skirmish firing, as I was weak in that particular. This captain, after the day's contest was over, would load the skirmish targets on a wagon and with a number of men, including a bugier detailed from his the target often enough to establish his company, would go out on the prairie a mile or more from the post and practice all afternoon. The soldiers could not do this, and did not think that officers should be

Tended to Weaken Discipline.

Not only did the superior advantages of the officers appeal to the board chang-The the rules; but some of the members of the board believed that the competition between officers and men on equal terms tended to weaken discipline. In this connection a story is told by one of the old guard. Shortly after the war, when the Wassels of the Twenty-second, now at the competitions were resumed, Generals Sher-rife competition at Fort Leavenworth. The idea and Sherman were present at a range where a captain and a private were shoot-Twenty-second was part of the command where a captain and a private were shoothaving seven men from the Ninth infantry. was apparently crippled for videts or scouts, turned to the hero who had marched to

"What would the generals of the old army have said had they seen such a mixing of ranks?" "If 'Old Bull' Sumner had seen it," re-

plied General Sherman, "he would have had us all arrested for permitting it." It was the co-operation of both of these thoughts which caused the board to provide separate competitions for the officers and sion to go in advance of your company, to men. As it is of more importance that the scout around your camp and bring in any men be good marksmen with the rifle than that the officers be zuch, the opportunity The captain acted upon the advice and for the men is given the widest scope. In since his return to the United States he posts the men are excountged to practice told the general that the action of those as often as possible with the rifle and the hunters surprised him. They would range department competitions are held annually. for a mile to a mile and a half shead of The regulations provide that upon the even the company and secured information which numbered years there shall be a competition was of great value. "They would go so of the army, and at that competition there far," said the captain, "that I would be is held a competition among the officers. afraid that they had been captured, but The officers who are to take part in the officer competition are placed in charge of the competition of the army and after the nen have decided their relative ranks as marksmen the officers' competition takes place. The officers who are to compete are selected by the colonels of the regiments, while for the competition of the enlisted men the captains of companies make the

How to Get on the Team.

In selecting them to take part in the annual competitions the captains are not solely governed by the ability of the men as marksmen, the regulations requiring them to take into consideration the man's record as a soldier. With this provision the men who take part in the contests are not only good markamen, but they are the sest specimens of the American soldier. There is a great desire on the part of every good soldier to represent his company at the departmental competition, and this has no small part in keeping the record of the

entest their names are sent to the adjutant general or inspector of small arms lee of the department and they are earolled. The department communder appoints an officer to take charge of the competition, selects one as chief range officer, another as statistical officer, and another as commissary and quartermaster of the range. In addition to this, eight range officers are selected, the latter being generally Heutensais, while the other officers are of higher rank. The officer in charge has general control of the range and the competition. He is empowered to rule on points not specifically covered by the regunations, to fix the hours of firing and to suforce police regulations upon the grounds. The range officers attend to the murking and scoring of the shots. They see that the competitors observe the regulations inspect the work of the men in skirmfiring. The statistical officer assigns the men to targets and to order of firing. verifies the scores made by the score keep-ers and prepares the announcement of the

Details of Competition

In the competition there are two forms of firing, one at rectangular targets, placed at same instant the slings loosen the ball 200, 200, 500 and 500 yards, and what is drops off and the naked rod with its "bits" known as skirmish firing. In the latter the is drawn up to the surface, listance to the target is not known. The nen start at the firing point, and at the not only as regards strength, but as to sound of a bugie they begin to advance upon continuity of connection and perfect insulaskirmish firing there are three targets, one corresion would speedily destroy it, representing a man standing, the second a lt consists, in the first place, of a core man kneeling and the third a man recum- which comprises the conductor, made of a out. The men are given twenty cartridges to be fired at the figures, ten while advanc-ing and ten while retreating from the near-but occasionally of India rubber, to preest distance. Striking the recumbent figure counts five points, striking the kneeling fig-

ure counts four points and striking the

FINE MARKSMEN IN THE ARMY | coemy, where it is every man for himself, standing figure counts three points. Under the men are likely to become separated, these circumstances it is only the beginners who waste shots at the standing figures, and only in extreme cases and at the longest distance does the expert shoot at any but the recumbent figure. Elaborate schemes was foreibly illustrated by the experience have been prepared for deciding ties in the competition. If the total for two men to the same, the score is analyzed and the man making the best record at the longer distances or at skirmish firing is given the preference, or as a last resort, after exhausting a dozen methods of analysis, the men are permitted to shoot off the tie.

"Gunsling" Davidson. At army beadquarters and among the retired soldiers as well, as at the different posts, stories are told of the remarkable cores made by men when the Springfield the tales recounted there were certainly giants in those days. In and around Smaha the men are seldom weary of speaking of the record and style of R. N. Davidson, who because of his peculiar nethod of handling his gun at skirmish firing was given the name of "Gun-Sling Dave." This method of handling the gun was by some means to place the leg of the soldier between the gun and the leather strap, by which it could be slung on a saddle in such a manner that when the competing marksmen fell prope to make a shot he would aim the gun by a movement of the leg and have both hands to manipulate the lock of the gun, the breach and the cartridges. It was gen-erally understood that "Gun-Sling Dave" was the originator of this method, and hence his name, but according to A. W. Stay of this city, a man who was among the "distinguished marksmen" of his day in the army, the inventor of this method of handling the gun in skirmish firing was Sergeant Weeks of the Sixth infantry. The sergeant came to Omaha one time to contest for a place on the department cam which was to go to Fort Snelling to take part in the division competition. He had tried every method to improve his record, but failed to make a place on the team. At that time he was experimethod, and when he returned to his post in the northwest he practiced for a year with the result that the next year at Omaha he carried off every prize he shot at by reason of his efficiency at skirmish

The method "caught on" among the men who desired to make high scores at akirmish firing and by Sergeant Davidson of the Sixteenth infantry was probably developed to a higher degree of efficiency than by any of the other men. It was said by men familiar with the army that a zine gun, "Gun-Sling Dave" could load and fire twenty shots from his Springfield rifle as rapidly and as accurately as the average soldier could shoot twenty shots from the magazine rifle. So far as known the actual test was never made, but timed. Sergeant Davidson has fired ten shots in considerably less than twenty seconds and struck reputation as one of the crack shots of the

Local Record for Army.

of the Platte was held at Omaha in 1881. If the government offered any prizes that year they were not sufficient to satisfy the demands of the officers or men, and the late General Guy V. Henry, who was officer in charge, went among the business men of the city and secured prizes in merchandise and cash which were added to the government prizes. The result of that competition was that a team was selected to represent the Department of the Platte at the division contest. This team was made up in defiance of the regulations, Company F. By a ruling of the general of the army it was permitted to enter the mpetition of the division, and made a good record for the department. The department competition that year was held to be held until 1885, when the rifle range at Bellevue was established. This was continued until 1884, when the range at Fort Crook was opened. General Bates was the first officer to attempt to use the range at Fort Crook. He decided after ooking the matter over that the range was unsafe, as with the magazine guns the live stock of the farmers would be endangered, and he took his regiment upon the Omaha Indian reservation for practice. Other post commanders have followed this course, and it is said that not without the expenditure of considerable Fort Crook range ever be utilised.

Medal with a History.

It is not probable the death of John W.

Mackay, the original projector of the en-

terprise, will delay the work materially.

Mr. Mackay's associates will undoubtedly

push the enterprise along the plans de-

San Francisco and the last link of globe-

encircling telegraph will in all probability

The laying of an oceanic cable is a work

of stupendous magnitude and cost. In the

first place the cable must be constructed

istain, and in order that this may be

done it is necessary to have correct sound-

ings of the ocean's bed along the entire

soundings has been Jevised that meets all

possible contingencies. It is very simple, consisting only of a cannon ball pierced

with an iron rod and held in place by

slings. As the ball goes down swiftly it

drives the rod into the bottom like the

point of a spear, when an opening at the

end catches the ooss in its iron lips. Tho

The cable must be constructed with care

strand of copper wires, and the insulating

be laid before the year 1904 rolls around.

required to lay it.

You Are Invited.

We have determined to dispose of every sample piece of furniture that has been on our floor beyond a certain time-\$6,000 worth, including Dining Room, Parlor, Bed Room and Library Furniture. Not one piece but what will be much less than cost and many at half cost. All go on sale Monday, Aug. 11th at 8 o'clock. This is positively the greatest price inducement we have made customers on furniture. A partial list herewith-





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\$300.00 Solid Mahogany L'Art Nouveau Bed Room Suite, consisting of dresser, chiffonier \$160.00 Brass Bed, handsome design, 8000 sale price

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\$33.00 Vernis Martin Music Cabinet 10.00	23.1
\$48.00 Mahogany Desk 24.00	
\$100.00 3-piece Parlor Suite 40.00	1
\$42.00 Bird's-Eye Dressing Table 21.00	
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\$48.00 Library Table 24.00	100
\$32.00 Library Table 16.00	1000
\$18.00 Library Table 7.25	100
\$40.00 Viking Table and Chair,burnt	100
work 12.50	5.A.7
\$34.75 3-piece Den Suite 18.00	10000
\$5.00 Oak Stand 2.00	
\$3.00 Folding Table 1.00	
\$23.00 Buffet 11.50	1000
\$37.00 Buffet	100
Folding Tables 500	1

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00.00 Davenport 25.00
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6.00 Cheval Glass 15.00
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art design, handsomely hand carved, sideboard, dining table, 5 regular and 1 arm chair, sale price 22500 \$185.00 Dining Suite, English oak,

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8	5.00 Flemish Sidoboard	25.00
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81	7.75 Rattan Chair	5.00
	8.00 Mahogany Cabinet	
\$1	5.00 Mahogany Chair	7.50
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\$1	1.00 Shoe Box	1.00
	.75 Shoe Box	750
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	2.00 Mahogany Bed	
\$1	.00 Imt. Mahogany Bed	4.00

Monday morning at 8 o'clock be on hand promptly. The above is simply a partial list of the hundreds of pieces in this sale.

Orchard & Wilhelm Carpet Co. 1414-16-18-20 DOUGLAS STREET.

when Mr. Stay was asked to take part in department. the preliminaries for a prize, he related The last a became interested and remarked:

man has any sense of honor." the belies of Omaha at a public gathering ment said: for the awarding of prizes held at Fort the medal by an attempt made to substi-tute the final diget "4" for that of "3."

money, probably more than would be war- in the work of its rifle team. The former with us they have introduced moving tarranted under the circumstances, can the year at the Believue range "Gun-Sling Dave" gets which come upon the soldier at unex-Mr. Stay has several medals won in de-partmental and division contests, and has certainly remarkable. The combined rec-one with an interesting local history. In of the department marksmen was ahead ground in a moment. The soldier is ex-1888 he attended a competition at Fort 1883 he attended a competition at Fort of that of any department, and when the Omaha, at which the bar of the city had army competition was held many persons offered a gold medal for the first prize-winner. Several officers and men struggled for the prize and Mr. Stay won. The

which it is kept under water.

facture, the rate at which the cable is made

is remarkably rapid, being for the deep-

pea type more than five nautical miles (a

nautical mile, 3,029 yards) per machine in twenty-four hours, and as the manufacture

noney to purchase the medal had been he went on the "distinguished marksman" placed in the hands of a prominent law- list. He stood third on the list of winners, and run in various angles. As I underthat an enlisted man bad won the medal Third infantry and T. O'Rourke of the Fif- make marksmen who will be unexcelled. over an officer who was his personal teenth, both of whom were from another de-friend, became so disgusted that he pro-partment. That year the team of the De-introduction of these moving targets at this ceeded to spend the money, drowning his partment of the Platte made the best team displeasure. The prize was offered in the record, the aggregate points being 5,710, establish the present system of competition

The last army competition was held in began and since that time the soldiers have fare." "I'll have that medal for you if that been so busy that they have not been able Just what the officer did may never be the competition at Fort Leavenworth at this mown, but at the close of the competition tme is in the nature of a revival and officers of 1884 the medal won in 1883 was pinned are watching it with considerable interest. upon the breast of the winner by one of | Speaking of this an officer of the depart-

"While our system of training the mer Omaha. The incident is commemorated on in individual marksmanship has been ahead asked the youngster, in entire innocence. of that of any of the other nations, England has adopted a new system which promises But it was in 1891 and 1892 that the De- of the Boer war. In addition to the partment of the Platte was most interested rectangular and skirmish targets in use had won the first place in the contest. His pected places, a squad will be marching method was novel and caused much com- over a field when at an unknown range a

yer, since deceased, who, when he learned being preceded by V. H. Sweinhart of the stand the system, if carried out, it will

preliminary contest, and the next year nearly 400 more than that made by any other in all departments and to awaken in the officers and men a keen interest in the work, after which the targets will doubtless be his former experience to an officer who was 1896 and the last departmental contest in improved and made to conform in a closer taking part in the competition. The officer 1897. The next year the war with Spain degree to the targets offered in actual war-

PRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS.

"I never went to a circus when I was a little boy," said the rather austere parent. "Was that because your father wouldn't let you go unless you would be good?"

He was having a good time at Lake Geneva, where the Swiss watches come from, but he did not forget to say his

"Oh, Lord," he said, as he knelt at his bedside one evening, "make me a good little boy. I asked you the other day to do Teacher-And what is that part of the

face called that extends from the bridge of the nose to the roots of the hair? Tommy-I-er-why, it's er-I dunno. Teacher-Brow, isn't 117 Tommy-W'at if de roots o' yer hair is at

Annie was late, and, like a sensible child,

le back o' yer neck, like my Uncle Bill's?

Laying an Ocean Cable Work of Stupendous Magnitude and Cost. she recognized the fact and stopped run-ning, relates the New York Sun. Not so, Johnnie. He belonged to the class that sever knows when it has enough of either loy or trouble, so he kept up his laborious trot until the school door was reached. There he leaned dejectedly and breathed heavily. Annie syed him with a acorn that grew as she looked. Later on they stood in the office looking like a set of illustrations for a new version of the "Lives of the Hunted," and Johnnie was interior arrangement, especially designed for talking. "I couldn't mean it," he sobbed the purpose. It is not only a huge storage It wur me big sister Katie's fault. She made me cat three eggs, an' me mudder sez well. In the hold there are three immense I can't hold that much till I'm 9 years old, definitely, the tears rolling off his fs" fooifor the storage of the cable, each having a ish little face, but the principal handed conical core for guiding the cable when it is him his admission slip and turned to Annie. being paid out. The space within these quisition, so without further ado she so-"I ate too many eggs, too, and it made

"Indeed," said the principal, "and ho many did you eat?" Annie's lips curied scornfully as she remembered Johnnie and his miserable three eggs. "I ate seventy-four," she replied blandly.

The Thee. Noel Co., of Chicago, Ill., makes machines. Handling of the cable made a special offer on page 20 of this issue necessary by such transfer is usually done under the heading, "Personal to Subscribby means of a small engine connected to a ers." which should be of interest to every drum and all mounted on a truck by which reader of this paper who is alling or has a as the cable is brought from the tank it. This company is the proprietor of the farelative or friend who is in poor health. passes over an iron sheave, fastened to the mous Vitas-Ore, a natural mineral medi-framework of the batchway, thence around cine, discovered by Theo. Neel, a geologist another larger, deeply-grooved iron sheave, and the president of the company, many and the friction of the cable at this point years ago while prospecting in the southacts as a tension. It then passes several west. This company offers to send a full times around the giant drums of the great \$1.00 package of this mineral medicine on dynamometer, over several pulleys on the trial to every subscriber or reader of The deck and out over the sheave of the stern to its resting place at the bottom of the sea.

The dynamometer indicates the amount of medicine for a month's time and to pay if strain to which the cable is subjected at benefited. The company is regarded as once if will be seen that from fifty to fifty- any moment and also enables the man in preliable, and will do just as they agree to



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under American auspices is expected to from the sheathing of steel wires over parts: Copper wire, 426 tons; gutta percha, begin at the Golden Gate before the year which come again jute yarn and a bitumi- 315 tens; jute yarn, 575 tons; steel wire, closes. The first land station will be nous compound. The sheathing varies in 3,000 tons and compound and tar, 1,075 tons. Honolulu, thence to Guam and Manila. type with the depth of the water in which Over three times as much material will be Over three times as much material will be The total sea distance to be covered by it is laid. The deep-sea type has a sheath-the cable approximates 7,000 miles, and ing of many small steel wires; then through required for the Pacific cable. the greater portion of two years will be several intermediate types the sheathing wires become gradually larger until finally at the shore end the deep-sea sheather department, but a big floating workshop as fron tanks, similar to the land tanks at the and-" He would have babbled on manufactory, thirty-four feet in diameter,

made up of three steel wires set triangu-larly. It will be noticed, however, that the core is the same throughout. The copper wires for the conductor are the cable were let over a year ago and twisted up together or stranded. They are much of it has been manufactured. The then passed through the covering machine cable-laying ship is being made ready at by which the guita percha is equeezed cores is utilized to hold fresh water. The around the conductor in a continuous encapacity of its tanks in the regular cable quired Johnnie's excuse. velope touching it throughout. The coll ship is about 1,400 tons of cable, this being is then served with jute yaras, which are the equivalent of about 100 miles of inshore laid spirally around it, forming an elastic cable, weighing fourteen tons to the mile, or soft bedding for the sheathing wires. These latter, as well as the outer serving and 700 miles of the deep-sea type, weighing about two tons per mile. compound, are put on in one machine. The served coil passes through a hollow shaft of a circular skeleton framework of iron on which are mounted bobbins filled with steel wire or jute yarn, as the case may be. This framework can be rotated and the

"ways" or troughs, so that a transfer may be made from one tank to another or from any tank to either of the huge paying-out cable at the same time being drawn along, around the core. The bituminous compound is applied by the cable being passed under a spout from which the melted com- it may be moved about the deck. pound runs. The finished cable is then coiled in large circular tron tanks, in

is carried on continuously day and night with ten-cable machines in operation ad at five nautical miles can be turned out in Then comes a layer of tanned jute yarn length, aggregated a total of 5,460 tons in its sinuous way into the sea.

The nautical miles can be turned out in charge of the brake wheel to regulate the do, and expect no pay for the medicine unstrain put on by the brake to suit the vary—less the patient has improved by using it.

The last cable that was made for Mr. ing conditions of laying. After leaving the Mackay several years ago, which stretched dynamometer it passes under and over several rearrange. Which stretched dynamometer it passes under and over several rearrange of the brake who have not yet accepted this offer would do well to give accepted the other accepted the other control of the series of the passes under and over several rearrange of the brake wheels before wending the series of our readers who have not yet accepted this offer would do well to give accepted the other can be turned out in the series of the passes under and over several rearrange of the brake wheels before wending the series of the passes under and over several rearrange of the passes under and over several rearrange of the brake wheels to regulate the do, and expect no pay for the medicine under the passes under and over several rearrange of the passes are rearranged to the passes of the passes of the passes are rearranged to the passes of the passes of