

SHOOTERS IN HIGH FETTLE

Meeting of State and City Teams is Cause of Their Joy.

ANCIENT RIVALRY AT THE TRAPS CLASH

Contests for Supremacy that Have Been Going on for Years and Are Still Enthusiastic Are Given New Life.

General joy has existed among devotees and admirers of the trap-shooting game all during last week. The reassembling of famous expert shots of Nebraska in Omaha for the match between the city and state teams has been the occasion of a general informal re-viewing of all the fine known trigger artists, and once more the old times and the old shoots and the old records have been rehearsed and revised. The daytimes have been devoted to shooting, but the night times have been given to reminiscence. In this gossip and yarns has cropped out a list of interesting stories of the things that were in the shooting history of Nebraska and many a gunner has recalled vividly to him scenes at past shoots which had escaped his mind.

This is not the first time that these two teams have met each other. Last February they were met here in Nebraska and the state team beat the local boys by only five birds, scoring 231 to 226 out of 240 trapped for each team. As usual, Bray was against Parmelee and they closed the match with the last round. Parmelee took all his birds and Bray lost only two. Not only is he the last man for these teams. No later than next April they will come together again at Grand Island. The clubs of that town and North Platte give a big shoot there on April 1, 2 and 3. The Omaha team has been asked to come down for another with the Nebraska men at large, and they say sure they'll go. Most of yesterday's team will participate, although a few will be unable to get away. The members of each team spent their time before the shoot last week telling the others that they would never get to Grand Island after Saturday was past, for very shame at their showing.

Organized trap shooting has been going on in Nebraska now for twenty-seven years. Few people would believe this at a thought, but the twenty-seventh annual state shoot will occur at Lincoln next April 8 and 9 and May 1. The first shoot was held at Plattsmouth in 1876. None of the men who were assembled here yesterday participated in that shoot, but some of them have been shooting almost that long. Dan Bray of Columbus holds the record of being the man who has shot at traps longer than any one else in Nebraska, and he has actively engaged in the sport. Bray won a live bird race at Nebraska City in 1878, his first introduction to the traps. In 1878, his first year, he shot 219, his best year. W. T. Denn of Brownville, Neb., holds the palm as the oldest trap shooter in the state. He is 80 years of age, but he still is a formidable opponent. He has been shooting at traps a score of years. He could not get in for yesterday's shoot.

A large attendance is expected at the coming state shoot, as trap interest this year seems to be stronger than ever. In talking it over last week, the assembled gunners one and all harked back to the shoot of 1901, held at Lincoln also, which was the occasion of the hottest back race for first honors ever known in the west. It was Dan Bray, the old-timer, who led the going all the way. He entered in every event and started by killing 116 straight before he was done. Then he went at it again, and killed eighty more without a break. Finally he ended up the shoot, having missed only three out of 215 trapped. That was a most phenomenal record, but, as Dan puts it grimly today, "even then I couldn't have the glory." This Bill Crosby of O'Fallon, Ill., goes one better and loses only two out of 215, and I stand second after doing a line of shooting that'll never equal again." And it is almost a safe bet that Crosby never will, either.

In no sport does rivalry become more intense than in the shooting game. One thing that leads to this is the custom of always pitting men according to precedent. That is, to put against each other always men who have opposed each other previously. In this middle west there are a half dozen shooters or more who would not miss being pitted against each other for any money. George B. Simpkins of Lincoln and Charles Lewis of Omaha have carried this rivalry farther than any other men. These two cannot wait for their turns to come when a race is on, and they would be in favor of a team shoot every week. Frank Fogg of Omaha and the old veteran B. 27, or Frank Beard of Herman, Neb., form another pair that are out for each other's blood at the trap game. Frank Parmelee of Omaha and Dan Bray of Columbus are another couple that refuse to shoot against anyone but each other. These little rivalries have come to be recognized by the other shoot-

ers, and they never lose a chance to pair off the men this way.

At a gathering of the shooters last Thursday a story was told on Dan Bray that almost made that old war horse blush beneath his tan. Said Sandy McDonald: "The best joke we ever got on Bray was two years ago, when we were shooting against Kansas City's team here. Bray was shooting against J. A. R. Elliott, the Kansas City crack. Parmelee, Bray's Nebraska bitter rival, but his team mate on this occasion, was shooting against Chris Gottlieb, another shooting good man from the southern city. I called Bray out and asked him to pick 125 of the fattest pigeons he could find for Parmelee and Gottlieb. Dan's eyes lighted up. If anyone knew a hard pigeon in a coop he did, and here was a scheme to spoil Parmelee's score and to lower Gottlieb's too. So Dan came out to the coop, where there were about 2,000 birds. He spent just an hour going over them and when he was done he had the pick of the lot, sure. There was not a bird left in the coop that was as good as any one of the 125 he had picked. Not one of them had a speck of white in it. All dull blue and little bits of things no bigger with their feathers than a golf ball. And they all had their crops empty and were game and active as only a starved bird can be. I shuddered when I thought of trying to shoot these birds, and Bray smiled grimly. It was certainly a game to go up against. Well, to make a long story short, I took the birds out and instead of giving them to Parmelee and Gottlieb I gave them out for Bray and Elliott. It was a funny sight. When Dan came to the mark he gave the word and the trap flew open. The little bird went out and away like a flash of blue lightning, and Bray stood there holding his gun. Then he caught onto the game and worked as he never had before. He knew what those birds were like and he caught forty-seven of the fifty—remarkable work on that bunch of pigeons. Let me say also that he made a world's record for trapping and retrieving on that bunch. We trapped and retrieved 100 birds in just thirty-one minutes. There wasn't a 'no bird' in the bunch. That record has never been equalled."

Nebraska's crack shots are rejoiced to hear that Kansas City's team wants to try them on again. Chris Gottlieb, one of the best men on the Kansas City team, has been visiting Frank Parmelee, and he says that his team is anxious to come up and try conclusions once more. Seven times now have teams from two cities met, and the Omahans have won six of the seven shoots. All were fifty-bird races but the last two, which were twenty-five each. The local men have jumped at the offer of the Missourians, and the match will probably be held in March. It is remarkable how close the total scores have always been in these races. Of five races at Kansas City, Omaha has won by two birds twice, by five once, by seven once and by eleven once. That is a small margin out of several hundred birds trapped.

In these Kansas City-Omaha matches Jim Smead holds the best record individually. He has participated in five of the races and holds high average, with a percentage of 95. Smead is still on the team, but the local sports hope he will come back to it before long. An interesting feature of these shoots also has been the rivalry between Frank Parmelee and Gottlieb. I gave them out for Bray and Elliott. It was a funny sight. When Dan came to the mark he gave the word and the trap flew open. The little bird went out and away like a flash of blue lightning, and Bray stood there holding his gun. Then he caught onto the game and worked as he never had before. He knew what those birds were like and he caught forty-seven of the fifty—remarkable work on that bunch of pigeons. Let me say also that he made a world's record for trapping and retrieving on that bunch. We trapped and retrieved 100 birds in just thirty-one minutes. There wasn't a 'no bird' in the bunch. That record has never been equalled."

On February 22 the Dickey Bird Gun club will give a shoot at the Omaha Gun club grounds across the river. An elaborate day's sport is planned, as there will be live bird and target events in profusion. This will be one of the last shoots before the hunters begin to scatter out after winter fowl, and a large attendance is expected.

BASKET BALL GETS NEW LIFE

Captain Miller of Y. M. C. A. Team Resigns and Tom Osborne Comes On.

Que Miller, right forward and captain on the Young Men's Christian association first basketball team, has resigned from the team. In years gone by Miller was known as one of the best forwards in the west. He has not played till this season for some years, and in the interim grew fat and heavy. This year Miller got out on the floor again. He worked hard to reduce his weight and get down into proper training

condition, but it was impossible to do so much in the short season and with the frequent hours he could devote to practice. He has played through all the games so far, having met the Lincoln association team, the Haskell Indians, Kansas University and Sioux City association. The last two games were lost, and because of that Miller decided to leave the team. He realized that he is too fleshy to be fast, and that he could not play to his former star game. He is regarded as a fine basketball coach, as he knows the game from end to end.

Miller is highly commended for his consideration in getting off the team when he thought it would be bettered thereby. The other members, too, think that with a speedy forward on the right side they can build up the team to championship form again. It was overwhelmingly victorious in its first two games, defeating even the Haskell Indians, the fastest team in the transmissouri country, by a big score. But in the Kansas game here Miller was run off his feet by the opposing guard, The Omaha captain is a sure goal thrower when he gets the ball, but he never got it. At Sioux City the same thing happened a week ago Thursday. Miller realized the condition of things and gracefully left the team.

Tom Osborne, a young divinity student, is picked to play that forward job. Just at the close of last season he got into the game for a short time and played with the first team. He showed up remarkably well, so that this year they went to get him again. He was unable to arrange his study hours so as to play, but now can do so. Osborne is wiry, strong, rather light and generally well suited for a forward save that he is not tall enough. It is expected that with his advent the team will regain form and confidence, and will suffer no more reverses this season. The defeats that came so unexpectedly were very unfortunate, in that they marred a season that had started out like a sure clean card. Teams much inferior to those that had fallen before the Omahans defeated them at the last.

Although no captain has yet been selected to Bill Miller's capacity it is almost assured that Jardine, the left forward, will be the man. He has played on the team two years, and has, during that time, been the star of the quietest always. He is wiry, quick, fast on his feet and fast in the head as well. In the game with the Haskell Indians he was the only white man to approximate the speed of the red ones.

With its team rehabilitated the association is looking forward eagerly to the rest of its games. On Friday, February 20, the men go to Lincoln to play with the Omaha team there a return game. Then on March 6 the Sioux City team comes here for a return match. This last will be a chance for a squaring up, and the locals hope to double the score. The southern trip to Kansas and Missouri is still on the tapis, but it may be abandoned. It was practically assured two weeks ago, but the terrific slump the team took about that time rather gave a quietus to any proposition for an elaborate trip.

ATHLETICS AT THE UNIVERSITY

Charter Day Trials Have the Lead, but All Departments Are Busy.

During no week of the year has there been so much actual activity along so many different lines of athletic work at the University of Nebraska as the one just past. It has, it is true, been work of a preparatory sort, action "behind the scenes" as it were, but to the few who have been on the inside it has been a week of great accomplishments, nevertheless. In every department save foot ball, and even the gridiron has come in for its share of gossip. The gymnasium has been a theater of excitement during the last six days, seldom equaled at the institution, and during every afternoon has been crowded with dozens of muscular men, getting into shape for track team events, basketball and base ball.

Most prominent during the week, perhaps, has been Captain Tobin's track team. Some thirty earnest candidates are now out for places. The several events scheduled for Charter day (tomorrow) have given added interest and made a few of the best men of the crowd get down to serious training. The Charter day contest are always held in the armory, and always draw great crowds of those who are fond of clean, fast athletics. This year the day promises especial interest, from the fact that the university is for the first time under an active physical director, Dr. Clapp, who goes into training with the men and gives them the benefit of his own experience. Dr. Clapp is one of the most finished athletes ever turned out by Yale, and has as a souvenir of his college days the championship of the world at pole vaulting. Tomorrow will be his initial appearance before the public with his proteges and thus the events will be watched with eagerness, to note his methods of going at things.

The list of events scheduled for the Charter day exhibition is a good one and will bring upon the floor some of the most agile acrobats in the university. There will be a short sprint, a running high jump, a pole vault, shotput, fence vault,

running high kick and rope climbing, besides which there is a possibility of the various fraternities take an interest, of an inter-fraternity potato race. Such an event has never been tried and if the entries can be secured it promises to be one of the most interesting numbers of the day. It is not possible at present to give the names of the men who will try for the different honors, because the entry list is left open until the last minute, but it is safe to state that a big bunch of men will go in.

In the short sprints States will make a strong showing, but will be pressed by Burg, Hiltner, Lueder, Corr and Manning, or whoever of them enter. In the running high jump Benedict should find a fairly easy proposition, but "Bill" Johnson has a chance to beat him. These two men will compete for the high notch at pole vaulting, and the outcome is merely a matter of conjecture. Last year Johnson cleared the bar higher up than anyone else in school, but "Benny" is a fast all-around athlete. He is a fast runner, a fast jumper, and does well at pretty nearly anything in the way of athletics, from track work to foot ball. At putting the shot and other weight work Captain Tobin himself will do things, together with Hickle and Martin. As to the other events, the chances are all up in the air and any definite estimate is impossible.

For the track work in the spring, prospects were never better. Dr. Clapp is an enthusiastic trainer in this line, and already the interest in track training shows the effect of his personal influence. The team was called out for the first time last week. He went to the stadium and immediately began working out, taking at first a little run around the "gym" and increasing the time of work each day. About thirty responded to the call and every day sees them all on the floor. Next week preliminary training will be begun on the individual events, with out-of-door exercise to come later. "The material," said Captain Tobin yesterday, "is here for a first-class track team. Never before have we had the opportunity to train under a man like Dr. Clapp, and I think we will get all the difference in the world when it comes to getting results. If the fellows develop into extraordinary stuff, and I see no reason why they may not, I think we should be able to take the crown in for the Chicago meet and to beat the Big Nine. This fall ball is not our only strong point, after all."

Among the most promising of those who have so far entered for the track work, may be mentioned States, the fast little mile man, who runs to school "to get a mile"; Benedict, who will get a half mile quickly and touch the high places at the pole vault and high jump; Herman Lehmer, an Omaha sophomore, who runs a mile well; Mouch, a hurdler of more than ordinary ability; Burg, a speedy fellow at the two-year dash, the 100-yard dash, the mile, who also speeds on the cinder path for a mile and for the half; Lueder, another rapid runner; "Bill" Johnson, the popular little colored boy, who gets out with the foot ball squad, plays base ball and is just now getting ready to defend his vault title; Corr, a good man at the half mile and mile runs; Martin, who made quite a bit last year and will spend some time this year with the weights; Hickle, another heavy man, who will handle the hammer and shot; Bender, the foot ball captain, has ball "stars" and 100-yard dasher, and Bentley, Seizer, Reed, Borg, Kanzler, G. E. Lee, Pimbrook, Collins and E. F. Myers, who will all appear on Nebraska fields at the meets, in one way or another. Names of some of the men from Omaha are: Urding, who hails from Lawrence school, at Lawrence, N. J., and who looks good to the critics. He has been used to going the mile, and will undoubtedly do something worth while in Nebraska. "Lawrence," he remarked, "we began to train for the track immediately after Thanksgiving, but Nebraska seems to have remarkably strong men, for all of that."

Another man upon whom the coaches are placing much hope, is Manning, a Lincoln High school boy, who won a thing intercollegiate last spring, tore things up nicely at the St. Joseph meet, and will, if he can be persuaded to enter, unquestionably make a strong addition to the Nebraska aggregation. Manning participated in the 440 and 220-yard dashes, and he is said to be one of the fastest in the west. Another promising bunch are Newton, the basket ball man, Sampson, Green, Sergeant, Shannon, Gladis and Morris, all whom are in the preliminary list for the track team, this year. They are yet a trifle unsettled. Manager Ed Walton is in constant correspondence, however, and thinks there will be several good tournaments. One has already been booked for the University of Nebraska, on May 16, and others are pending awaiting action of the athletic board tomorrow night.

Old Jack Best, the trainer, is happy. He again bears, all day long, the chug of the horse, as it sinks into the unpolestered walls of the "cage." For weeks he has been longing for a chance to get into all "the next men" of the horse ball boys as they stepped into the shower. The tooters were called out for the first time last week and since then there has been something doing among the candidates. There will, apparently, be nearly forty to try for the positions, and the prospects are that three or four scrub teams will play around on the diamond when the season opens. Captain Murray Townsend is now back in the university and is giving the training his personal attention. Townsend is a solid head and a good player, a wizard with his arm and popular with the men. Interest centers about the twirlers who are trying to get into the box with an "N" sweater over their chests. A few weeks ago there seemed to be a discouraging lack of throwing material, but, as Townsend noted, this week has brought out an number of them and the team will be able to play a pitchers' battle to a finish. One of the most promising who has yet gone into the cage is Longmacker, a Waboo man, who is also known in the vicinities of West Point and Watous. He is a tall fellow, has a motion like a drive wheel and a pretty set of curves. Another is Thomson, the halfbred Indian boy, who tried for the team last year and threw out his arm later in the season. He has good speed, but is shaky on control, which weakens his chances. Another who is never to come. Goar is another new man for the box and comes from California, where he made a great reputation last year with the Red Oak High school. From his indoor work he seems to possess plenty of the proper curve.

Prominent as candidates for the mack are Wilson, who will probably be a tackle on the foot ball team next fall, and Whitcomb, who has dropped in from Friend, Neb. Bender may also go in for the back to the foot ball team, but he is not likely to place on the infield, or anywhere else, where men are shy. Part of the time he pitches and part of the time he catches, and has come nearer doing both well than any one else in the school. Stein, of Waboo, will try for either second or third and may do well. It is possible that Wood, the speedy little third baseman of last year, will return. For the initial sack two men are prominent candidates, "Ollie" Mickel, the foot ball fullback, and Wright, a tall, slender fellow from the law school, who went to Kansas City to play with the Blue Jays last fall. Kansas and Nebraska for the trophy at angles. Shelmer, an Omaha man, will be in for his old place in the garden and

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The season for basket ball is nearing the end. Already it is taking a back seat in favor of the track work and base ball, and few more games are likely to be played. There is, however, a strong probability that the team will be proud of its Omaha Young Men's Christian association within a very short time now, and interest centers around the contest on account of the superb article of game that the Omahans boys have been putting upon the floor. It is very possible that the eastern trip for a time planned, may have to be given up. With the end of the play in sight, it is but natural to sum up the season's work. And in the process of summing up, the defenders of the Scarlet and Cream do not suffer. They have played the Lincoln Young Men's Christian association, the Haskell Indians, Kansas and the five of the recent trip. They have met some of the finest basket ball aggregations in the west, and they have won over half of their games, and this with the enormous disadvantage of not having a single old man back for the play. Every member of the team was comparatively "green" at it, they were all stran-

gers to each other's styles and not one of them had been before in an intercollegiate match. But despite this, the picked party of five, under the admirable personal direction of Dr. Clapp, took on the spirit of the true game with their own energy to more than hold their own. Next year they will all be old men, and next year a clean card is a possibility.

Priceless Relics Stolen.
Priceless Washington relics were stolen by burglars from the residence of Rev. Beverly D. Tucker at Norfolk, Va. Eight tablespoons bearing the crest of the Washington family, the property of Mrs. Tucker, and other pieces of silver used by George Washington were taken. If they are offered for sale they will be recognized at once and the arrest of the offenders will be easy. Mrs. Tucker before her marriage was a Miss Washington and inherited the Mount Vernon plate. Her father owned the estate before it was transferred to the Mount Vernon association.