

made on three consecutive shooting days, as he did not shoot at all on the third. One of the most interesting features of this record is the fact that it was made with odds and ends of shells he had on hand, many of them for four or five years.

In 1906 he did some wonderful work, notably at Des Moines, Ia., March 14-16 and at St. Joseph, Mo., March 23-25. At Des Moines he broke 590 out of 600 shot at in the three days shoot. While at St. Joseph he broke 588 out of the 600 he shot at there. His total for six days was therefore only 22 targets lost out of 1200 shot at. How his work is looked upon by handicap committees is plainly shown by the fact that he gets 21 and 22 yards right along, but makes some scores from those marks that it would puzzle many a 90 per cent man to equal from the 16 yards mark.

When the American team visited England and Scotland in 1901, "Fred" was of course one of the first men selected in the team, and his scores did much to make that trip the success it really was. As is always the case, he was the life and soul of the team while on shipboard, the torments of *mal de mer* failing to stop the ready witticisms which flow so smoothly and so frequently from his lips. His good nature and enthusiasm make him probably the most popular trap shooter of the day, the fact that he is not afflicted with even a trace of "swelled head" no doubt aiding materially in assuring him that popularity.

According to the official trap shooting record Mr. Gilbert made the highest average for the year 1907 with 8817 out of 9195 targets shot at. A grand average of 95.89 per cent.

At the 1908 Grand American handicap he was the fortunate one to win the professional handicap.

397 out of 400 (99.25 per cent) is his last star performance and was made at Council Bluffs, Iowa, November 16-17, 1908. In making this record Mr. Gilbert scored 197x200 on the first day with a run of 118 straight. On the second day he shot through the entire program without a miss.

MR. WALTER HUFF.

Among the trap shooters, few men are better known than Walter Huff, of Macon, Ga., the popular representative of the du Pont Company. Before Mr. Huff gave up his amateur standing in the trap shooting world, he had an excellent record of work done at the traps and in the field. But of late years he has come rapidly to the front, and in 1904 was fourth on the list of "high average winners" for that year. He was led only by Fred Gilbert of Spirit Lake, Ia., W. R. Crosby of O'Fallon, Ill., and W. H. Heer of Concordia, Kansas, a trio of mighty men with the shotgun. In 1905 he was slightly lower down in the scale but his average for about 9000 targets shot at in tournaments was within a fraction of 94 per cent. The season of 1906 showed no falling off in his work as he has put up some high totals and won (among other honors) the title of "Holder of Professional Championship of the United States", which is equivalent to saying that he holds the "Championship of the World. This title he won in open competition at the Grand American Handicap

tournament held in Indianapolis, Ind., June 19-22, when on June 22 he broke 145 out of 150 shot at in the championship event, all standing at the 18-yard mark. It was at this tournament that he made perhaps the best record of his career, for not only did he win the above honor, but also secured by consistent shooting on all four days of the tournament, "the high average for the entire tournament". On the first day, all shooting from the 16-yard mark, he tied for high average with Messrs. J. A. R. Elliott and J. L. D. Morrison, on 193 out of 200.

The program consisted of ten 20-target events, and Mr. Huff's record for the day showed six 20s, two 19s, one 18 and one 17. On the second day, June 20, he broke 92 out of 100 in the Preliminary Handicap, thus being only one behind the three men who tied for first place and the trophy. His mark in this event was 19 yards. On June 21, in the Grand American Handicap event itself, which was shot in a perfect gale of wind and frequent rainstorms, he only scored 87 from the same mark, but that comparatively low score was good for part of the purse. In the professional championship shot on the last day, his score of 145 out of 150 was made up of six 15s, three 14s and one 13. His average for the entire tournament was 94 per cent, or a total of 517 out of 550 shot at from all distances.

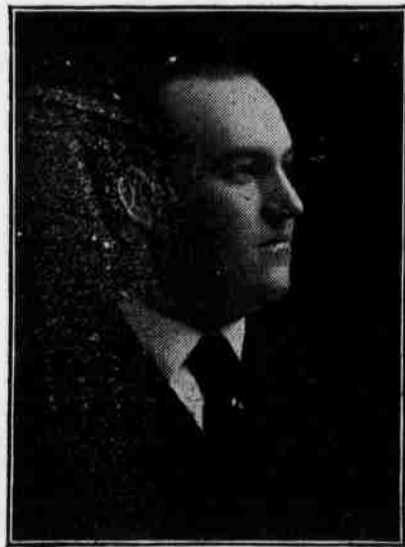
It will thus be seen that the man who bests Mr. Huff at the shotgun game, will always know that he has been in a shooting match.

MR. J. T. SKELLY.

If you were to try and find a trap shooter who did not know J. T. Skelly you would, without question, have to travel in foreign lands and toward the setting sun, for no man is better or more favorably known among followers of this sport.

Though a young man Mr. Skelly has been identified with the powder business so long that the general impression exists that he was born with a cake of Du Pont in his mouth, and at the traps he has always ranked with the Class A men, his average on the ninety per cent mark.

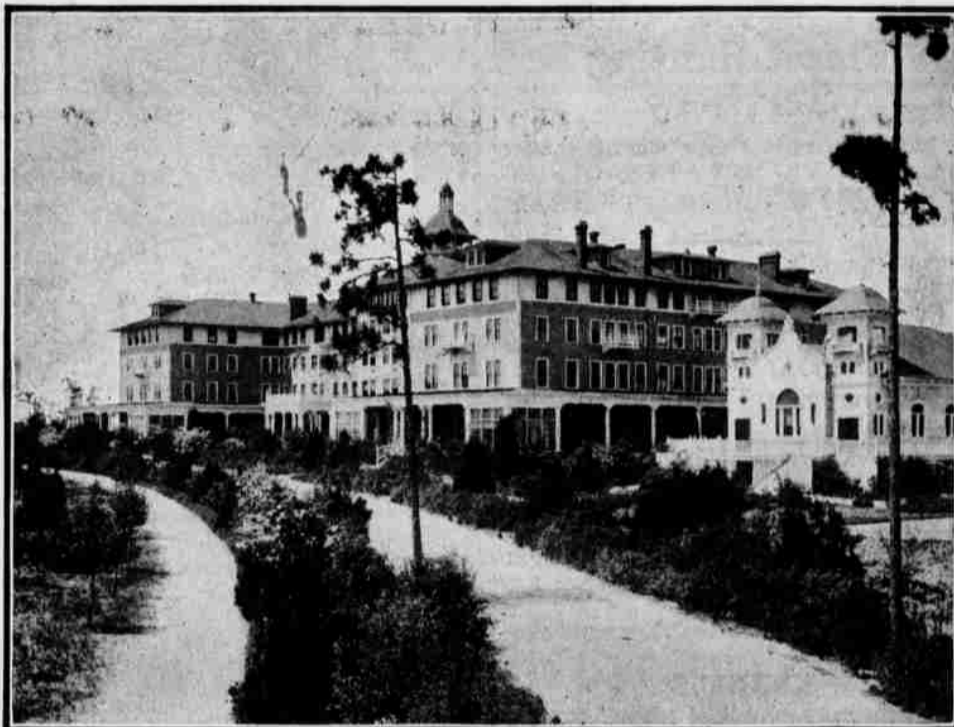
For a number of years past Mr. Skelly's various duties have made it impossible for him to give the time necessary to keep up with the "procession" on the firing line, but he has made it a point to keep in close touch with the social side and his genial face is always welcome when the crowd gathers at evening to shoot the match again.



MR. JAMES T. SKELLY.

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