

IT is superfluous to say that the Thirteenth Annual Mid-Winter Handicap opened with a bang. Never before in the history of Pinehurst have such throngs of experts signed up for this classic event which opens the trapshooting game every year. On Sunday, the 11th, the leading guns of the United States and Canada were already on hand, 150 strong, and the promise that there would easily be 200 on the firing line was soon fulfilled. A record-breaking field of 217 took part in the first day's program.

As we looked over the regiment of shooters we noted there were present the leading luminaries of the shooting business. But let us speak first of the absent ones. Everyone regretted the absence of the genial Charles Newcomb, whose labors for the glory of the tournament have been unceasing from year to year and to whom Pinehurst owes so much for the success of its shoots. Sickness kept him away and the crowd of shooters had to remain satisfied with occasional bulletins from his bedside. Another absentee of note was John Philip Sousa, who wields a gun almost as skillfully as a baton. It was the first Midwinter Handicap he has missed in some time. Another Midwinter regular counted out was C. W. Billings. And let us not forget J. P. Breneman of Lancaster, Pa. Where was he and his knitting outfit? He was absent when the roll was called.

Among those present, State Champions were as plentiful as blackberries. There were nine of them. There were also two National Champions, three Midwinter Handicap winners and three recent winners of the Great American Handicap. From which it will be gathered that the field assembled at this shoot was as remarkable for its quality as its size. Those attending the Pinehurst Shoots are always assured of competing against the best in the world and any one who succeeds in carting home a part of the \$10,000.00 in prizes has good ground for patting himself on the back. Among the well-known guns present we may mention Frank S. Wright of Buffalo, who now holds the amateur championship title of the United States, Canada and New York State. Dr. A. H. Aber, who hails from Draversburg, Pa., and is the leading gun of the Alleghany district, was a notable contestant. There were also the numerous State Champions and the following seven were all registered at one hotel: L. M. Weedon of Ohio, R. D. Morgan of Maryland and the District of Columbia, Frank Wright of New York, C. H. Dillon of Rhode Island, H. A. Morson of North Carolina, Paul Earle of South Carolina and Sam Vance of eastern Canada.

William Wettleaf of Nicholas, Iowa, winner of last year's Midwinter Handicap, and A. G. Healey of Windsor, Ontario, who won the handicap the year before came in together.

The list of bright, particular stars might be prolonged indefinitely: F. S. Tomlin of Glassboro, N. J., the former New Jersey Champion, who tied for the Grand American two years ago; Bart Lewis of Auburn, Ill., who broke 200 straight at eighteen yards, although the last Grand American winner and who

The Midwinter Handicap Shoot

holds the United States professional championship title is Joe Jennings of Todmorden, Ontario, the eighteen-yard champion of the United States; Guy Deering of Columbus, Wis., the former United States double champion; State Senator George Gray of Frankford, Pa., and J. L. Morehead of Charlotte, N. C.

The New York Athletic Club was represented by Tracy Lewis, Martin McVoy, Jr., F. A. Siebert and several others. Lewis led the metropolitan guns in this event last year, with McVoy a close second.

Jay Clarke Wins on First Day

Warm and sunny weather greeted the shooters on Monday, the 19th, the first day of the shoot, when lining up for the day's work they found a high wind blowing out of the south-west, which worried a number of those who took part in the big event. The day's proceedings comprised five events of 20 targets each at 16 yards.



Annie Oakley Doing One of Her Famous Stunts

Jay Clarke, Jr., the crack gunner from Worcester, Mass., lead the field with a break of 97x100. He lost two birds in his first twenty and one in the last. Paul Earle, of Anderson, S. C., hung on his heels with a total of 96, taking second money. For third place there was a triple tie at 95x100 between S. M. Crothers of Philadelphia, W. C. Skutt of Morton, N. Y., and John I. Chipley of Greenwood, S. C.

Tracy H. Lewis of Great Neck, L. I., and E. J. Doerken of Paterson, N. J., led the gunners from the Metropolitan district at 94 and tied at that figure with Frank S. Wright of Buffalo, and A. F. Healey of Windsor, Ontario.

Coburn Breaks 147

The Pinehurst Introductory, comprising the first 150 targets of the 450 target race at 16 yards, was shot on Tuesday, the 20th. The pace was a hot one and the old champions had to extend themselves somewhat to keep in the running. C. D. Coburn of Mechanicsburg, Ohio, blazed his way into fame and the front rank with a total of 147 breaks to his credit. In the morning he dropped

three birds, but in the afternoon he sailed serenely through the program without losing a bird. He was hard pressed by B. F. Elbert who hails from Iowa, the state which appears to be the national hotbed of trap shooting. He smashed a total of 146. And now come the old and famous names tied for third place. Frank M. Troeh, of Vancouver, Wash., the national 16-yard champion and winner of a dozen other titles in the past few years, landed in this group, pulling down a total of 145. Along with him were D. Livingston, of New Middletown, Ohio; the champion Wm. Wettleaf, of Nicholas, Iowa, and Frank Wright, the Buffalo dead shot.

Jay Clarke, Jr., of Worcester, who led the field in the preliminary event, had to content himself with 140.

E. D. Anderson led the New York City contingent with a highly respectable 142 and was followed by Tracy Lewis with 139. The rest of the New

Iowa, 290; Frank Troeh, Washington, 289; Harve Dixon, Missouri, 288; P. H. Obirne, Montana, 287; C. D. Eaton, Missouri, 284. Total 1,439.

Eastern Team.—Frank Wright, New York, 289; Jay Clarke, Massachusetts, 287; Dr. A. H. Aber, Pennsylvania, 286; C. D. Coburn, Ohio, 286; Paul Earle, South Carolina, 286. Total 1,434.

Wright Takes Lead

On Thursday, with only fifty targets still to be thrown, the redoubtable Frank Wright jumped into the lead by a margin of a single bird, with a total of 337 out of 350. The contest had been scheduled to go 450 targets but the impossibility of finishing the program of the day before dark made it necessary to cut down the allotted 75 to 50 targets. The great size of the field engaged in the shoot was proving very unweildy. On Thursday the weather conditions were the worst of the week. There was a fog over the traps all day and many lost birds may have been lost on account of what might be called the "low visibility." On the whole, the shooters were favored with good shooting weather, Saturday in particular, being a fine, warm day. William Wettleaf dropped six birds and wound up in a tie for third place at 334 with five other guns and the chance of last year's Champion to win out again looked slim. But they were as good as Dr. Aber's, who lined up with Wettleaf with a 334. Jay Clarke this day disposed of Harvey Dixon in the shoot off and took high money and with a break of 47 stood directly behind Wright, ready to jump into the lead if the amateur champion should suffer any reversal.

It was Wettleaf's slump that cut down the lead of the Western tribe over the Easterners to one single, solitary bird. However, in view of the fact that the Eastern team had about two hundred guns from which to recruit its team, the showing of the Western men was excellent. The teams now stood as follows:

Western team.—Harve Dixon, Missouri, 336; William Wettleaf, Iowa, 334; Frank Troeh, Washington, 334; P. H. O'Brien, Montana, 334; A. M. McCrea, Missouri, 332. Total, 1,670.

Eastern team.—Frank Wright, New York, 337; C. D. Coburn, Ohio, 334; Dr. A. H. Aber, Pennsylvania, 334; Jay Clarke, Jr., Massachusetts, 332; Paul Sarle, South Carolina, 332. Total 1,669.

Dr. Aber Wins

The Preliminary Handicap which was started on Thursday, was finished on Friday and was won by J. W. Essleman of Lanaster, Pa., with a 94 from the 18 yard line. None of the heavyweights did anything to speak of in this event.

All eyes were on the 400-target race. No one, it is safe to say, thought of watching the Doctor. He started out three targets behind Wright who was leading the field, but nothing daunted set out with determination to kill every bird even before it was hatched. Wright took a slump. He stepped up to the first frame and made an 8. Dr. Aber stepped up and ten birds were brought down in a row. The doctor was 1 bird behind the champion, and

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SECOND DAY

The Pinehurst Overture, as it is known, comprising the second 150 targets of the 450 sixteen yard target contest, resulted in a tie between Jay Clarke, Jr., who won the preliminary shoot, and Havre Dixon of Orango, Mo. On this day the Worcester gunner registered an unbroken run of 107 and was shooting at top form. He broke all but two of the first 149 and then fell down on his last target. William Wettleaf and David Wadsworth, 3rd, of Auburn, N. Y., followed the two leaders at 145. Wettleaf broke his last 72 birds without a miss.

Meanwhile the West had piled up a lead of five points on the team from the East and at the end of the second day the teams stood as follows:

Western Team.—William Wettleaf,