

# TRAP SHOOTING

## PITTSBURG PICKINGS.

### OLD HOSS TALKS ABOUT PIGEON MATCHES.

#### A. H. King Defeated Sandy McPherson —The Kind of Ammunition Used by Smoky City Gunners—Something About Loads and Measures.

Pittsburg, Pa., Jan. 11.—Gun Editor "Sporting Life."—As very few of Pittsburg's trap shooters go away for the purpose of game shooting after the first of Jan. there is always more or less of a revival of interest in contests before the traps. This year is no exception, or rather is an exception, from the fact that there is more excitement in trap shooting circles than has ever been known before. Matches, team races or sweepstakes at pigeons are shot almost every day on some one of the many grounds, and about all the lovers of the sport talk about is match, team race or shoot from morning till night. Of course, the abilities of the various shooters are thoroughly discussed, and their status settled to the satisfaction of some at least if not to all. At least eight or ten new aspirants for trap shooting honors have come to the front very rapidly, and judging from the good scores they are rolling up no one would suppose but that they had been shooting for some years. Trap shooting is certainly on the boom here, and the indications point to one of the most successful years Pittsburg has ever enjoyed in this line. Elmer Jones, of Beaver, was in the city the other day and reports things in a very healthy condition down in the Beaver Valley. A handicap pigeon shoot held on the Beaver fair grounds last week, was quite a success. L. N. Crable, of East Liverpool, made his first appearance at the traps for several years. Ike is a favorite, and received a hearty welcome from his many friends. Mr. Hill, of Newcastle, "Bill" Clark's friend, was on hand, and made some of the best scores of the day. Rev. Fouts, of Steubenville, and J. A. Penn, of Wheeling, were on hand of course, and put up their usual good scores; Fred Grace, of Newcastle, is always around whenever there is any shooting going on. L. B. Fleming and Doc Ewing, of this city, took a hand in the proceedings. Mr. Fleming is quite a new hand at pigeon shooting, but that did not prevent him from putting up a better score than that old stager, Doc Ewing, could do. Baltz Greisinger, of Steubenville, could not stay away from such a good thing, so he just waltzed up and killed 26 out of 30. It is said that Mr. Hill in shooting at 600 birds has made the splendid average of 94 3/4 per cent. There are plenty of good and game shots in the valley, and they are generally on hand. Nair (Bad Shot), Suris, Wilkinson, Dr. Magaw and others, of Beaver Falls, should get together and reorganize the old "Spring Chicken Club."

C. A. May and "Fargo" were again successful in defeating their opponents in a team race, 50 birds per man. May and Fargo seem to be a pretty hard pair to down, though on this occasion Strong was badly out of form, and did not make anything like his usual score. Not to be behind in the match shooting line Sandy McPherson and A. H. King had a little argument over 100 birds each at the traps. Sandy is not in the best condition for shooting, having injured his knee playing indoor base ball, but he managed to talk 86 birds to death, while Alex. was doing the same to 91. The match shooting fever is raging now, and several more have been arranged for this week and more talked of, so that the boys will have a busy time of it.

When shooting his match with W. G. Clark, W. S. King used 3-inch trap shells, loaded with 45 grains Du Pont Smokeless and 1/4 ounce of No. 7 chilled shot in first barrel and No. 7 chilled in second barrel. Will swears by Du Pont and 7 1/2 and 7.

W. G. Clark prefers Schultze powder, and loads his 2 3/4-inch trap shells with 3 1/2 drams and 1/4 ounce Nos. 7 and 6 chilled.

Sandy McPherson thinks there is no other powder quite so good as old reliable E. C. He uses 2 3/4-inch trap shells, loaded with 47 grains E. C. and 1/4 ounce No. 7 1/2 chilled shot.

Secretary J. U. Crossland, of the Hazelwood Gun Club, is delighted with his new Smith pigeon gun. His load is 3 1/2 drams E. C. and 1/4 ounce No. 7 chilled in 2 3/4-inch trap shells, for both targets and pigeons.

President John S. McIntosh, of the Spring Hill Gun Club, has great faith in Schultze. He uses 2 3/4-inch Smokeless Shells, loaded with 45 grains powder and 1/4 ounce No. 7 chilled for pigeons and 7 1/2 for Blue Rocks. Dave McNaughton, President McIntosh's running mate, uses the same shell and load.

"Uncle" John Gelm is a little "betwixt and between" on the powder question. "So far the 'clouds will roll away' when he gets a new gun."

Bessemer is another one of the good shots who is "on the fence." There is nothing mean about Bess. He will give every new powder that comes along a trial.

A. H. King prefers Du Pont and has 3-inch trap shells, loaded with 42 grains and 1/4 ounce No. 7 chilled shot for pigeons and 7 1/2 for targets.

Dr. E. J. Stillely finds that the factory load is good enough for him. He uses the Smokeless shell loaded with E. C. powder and No. 7 chilled shot, for both pigeons and Blue Rocks.

A. A. Jack, treasurer of the Wilkinsburg Gun Club, and one of its better shots, is a firm believer in the U. M. C. factory loaded shells. He uses the Smokeless shell, loaded with E. C. powder and 7 1/2 for targets.

"Bob" Anderson is a friend of Mr. Jacks, and uses the same ammunition. He made the good score of 88 out of a 100 Blue Rocks not long ago, and now wants to shoot Jack a race.

Oliver McElroy is a very good shot, but changes powder too often. If some company does not get out a new Smokeless powder soon he will be compelled to try black, for luck.

Geo. A. Wilson is shooting pigeons at a pretty swift gait just now. He says that 42 grains of Du Pont in a 2 3/4 inch trap shell, and No. 7 shot is "swift enough" for him.

Wm. Sharrard is shooting a 90 per cent. gait at Blue Rocks just now. His load is 45 grains of E. C. and 1/4 ounce No. 7 1/2 chilled, in a 2 3/4 inch Smokeless shell.

It does not make much difference to J. B. Sawyer what he shoots: "Just whatever you have loaded." Nevertheless J. B. gets there.

S. T. McClarren and D. N. Moyer are two of last year's crop of beginners at trap shooting, but if they keep on improving some of the older shots will have to "look a little out." They have made some very good scores with factory-loaded shells. Three drams of E. C. and 1/4 ounce, 7 1/2 inch Smokeless shells.

Captain Steve Boli says that as long as he does not fall below 8 out of 10 or 12 out of 15 Blue Rocks he is satisfied with 3 drams of E. C. and 1/4 No. 7 1/2 inch Smokeless shells. But Dave Boyd, his partner, thinks he can do a little better than that with 3 drams of Schultze.

President McNeil, of the Hazlewood Gun Club, is not doing a thing but killing pigeons and breaking Blue Rocks with his new Smith gun and trap shells loaded with E. C. powder.

C. S. Guthrie, of the Herron Hill Club, is shooting pigeons like a house on fire. He thinks there is nothing like 2 3/4 inch trap shells, 42 grains Du Pont and 1/4 ounce No. 7 chilled.

E. Reed Shaner, the youngest shooter in the county, shoots the "old man's" gun, with 50 grains E. C. in 2 3/4 inch trap shells.

How amused and amazed the practical and intelligent sportsmen must be while reading the correspondence published in some of the sportsmen's journals of the present day at the immense amount of rot that is written and many mistakes that are made, whether written by some one who gets his guns, shells or powder for nothing, and wishes to advertise the donor's goods, or by some backwoods jay who knows no better. A letter published in a Chicago journal of Dec. 26 is a fair sample. The writer of the letter referred to gives a table of velocities obtained from two kinds of shells, with different wadding in each kind. The medium shell with good wadding giving a fair average velocity of 820 feet, and the cheap shell and wadding giving the very low velocity of 763 feet, a difference of about 60 feet. It would take a charge of shot from the medium grade shell about one-seventh of a second to travel 40 yards, and one from the cheap shell a little less than one-sixth of a second to travel the same distance, consequently the charge of shot from the medium shell would be about 10 feet in advance of the charge from the cheap shell, at a distance of 40 yards. Yet, strange as it may seem, the writer of the letter recommends the cheap shell, with its inferior velocity or penetration, because it gives a close pattern. While all sportsmen are trying to get the best and hardest shooting guns they can buy, this writer advises, or practically so, cheap shells with low penetration. What is the use in buying a good hard shooting gun and then handicap it by using inferior ammunition. In another part of the letter referred to there is an awful blunder made, and one the editor should have corrected, as it may lead to very serious accidents. He writes: "The dram that we bought weighs but 27.34 grains, the dram we load weighs 60 grains." We do nothing of the kind. The dram of black powder we load weighs 27 1-3 grains, and not 60 grains by a jug full. If anyone should be so foolish or so stupid as to load with three drams, of 60 grains to the dram, of even black powder, he will soon learn that the dram we load does not contain 60 grains.

After so much having been written on the subject as there has been in the last few years there can be no excuse offered for such blunders.

OLD HOSS.

### FARGO AND MAY WON.

#### Strong and W. S. King Four Birds Behind in a Team Match.

C. A. May and Fargo defeated W. S. King and Strong in a team match at Pittsburg, on Jan. 7. The birds were furnished by Wm. McCrickart, and were an excellent lot of flyers. W. S. King had the best individual score, killing 45 out of 50, but his partner was not equal to his name and fell down to 39 out of the 50, giving this pair a total of 84 out of 100. Fargo and partner each killed 44, which gave them a total of 88. Following are the scores:

Strong	01022	10212	10221	20220	22021	—18
W. S. King	10222	00122	12211	11012	11111	—21-39
Fargo	22220	20222	22222	22211	20200	—22
C. A. May	22220	20222	22220	22212	22222	—32
Totals	21102	12122	12221	20121	10122	—84
Fargo	22220	02222	21012	21212	21122	—22-44
C. A. May	22220	20222	22220	22212	22222	—32
Totals	22220	22122	22222	22222	20201	—22-44
Totals						—88



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### A NEW YEAR'S SHOOT

#### Held by the Hackensack Gun Club at Targets.

A New Year's day shoot was held by the Hackensack Gun Club on the grounds of the Bergen County Gun Club, at Hackensack, N. J., and drew out a goodly number of sportsmen. Among the visitors were Ed Taylor and M. Herrington, of Laffin & Rand's W. A. Powder; James Hildreth and F. Van Dyke, of the Winchester Repeating Arms Co.; Noel Money, of the American Powder Co.; Tom Morfe, of Paterson, N. J.; G. H. Piercy, of the Endeavor Gun Club, and William Harding, of New York.

There were two special events on the programme, the first being a match at 30 targets, with a handicap of misses and breaks. The targets were thrown at unknown angles, with entrance at \$2. The first prize was a Winchester repeating shotgun, second prize \$5, third prize \$2. Herrington and Van Keuren tied on 28 each, and in the shoot-off Herrington won. Hildreth and Edwards divided second money and Strader and Lou Piercy did the same with third.

The second event was a team match between F. Edwards and G. H. Piercy on one side against Ferd Van Dyke and Ed Taylor on the other. Each man shot at 100 targets, unknown angles.

Van Dyke started out poorly, being obliged to use a borrowed gun and any kind of shells he could find. The weather was favorable for good scores, but the background was anything but good, while the targets flew very irregular.

Two sets of traps were kept busy all day and a pleasant time was enjoyed by all present. Following are the scores:

Handicap, 30 targets, handicap allowance added to score:

M. Herrington	11101	11111	10110	—12	
G. Van Keuren	11110	10110	10100	—10	
F. Van Dyke	11101	00110	10111	—10	
F. Edwards	11110	10111	10111	—12	
J. Hildreth	11111	10111	11111	—13	
L. Piercy	00011	11001	11011	—9	
A. Strader	11101	11110	11011	—11	
F. Van Dyke	00110	10111	11111	—13	
N. E. Money	10101	11111	11111	—14	
G. H. Piercy	00111	10111	10111	—11	
Ed. Taylor	11110	11110	00111	—11	
R. O. Beatty	11011	10110	10110	—9	
Litterington	10000	00110	11000	—5	
Jackson	00001	11001	11111	—9	
Griffith	00110	00000	11010	—5	
Team match, 100 targets per man:				—21	
Edwards	11110	11011	11111	10111	—21
11111	11110	11111	11111	11111	—24
10011	10111	10111	11110	11110	—20
11111	11111	11111	11111	11111	—25
Piercy	00111	10111	10111	11110	—19
00111	10111	11111	11111	11000	—20
01111	11111	11011	11011	11011	—21
11111	11111	10101	11111	11111	—23
Team total				—83	
Van Dyke	11110	10111	11111	10111	—21
00111	00110	10111	11111	10110	—17
11111	11111	11111	01011	11111	—23
11101	11111	11111	11111	11111	—24
Taylor	11111	01010	01011	11011	—18
11110	11111	01011	11010	11110	—20
00011	11011	11011	11011	11101	—18
11001	00011	11010	11011	11111	—17
Team total				—158	

The following are scores of the sweeps:

Edwards	17	13	18	15	12	12	14	14	15
Strader	15	10	10	8	8	10	11	12	12
G. Piercy	18	13	12	9	14	12	9	13	14
Warner	13	6	10	6	5	10	11	14	14
Harding	14	11	8	10	10	13	11	11	11
Jackson	13	8	10	6	5	10	11	11	11
Chaffee	10	7	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Walters	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
James	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Bell	11	8	10	6	9	10	10	10	10
Hall	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Beatty	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Titterington	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Fleischmann	6	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Griffith	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Hildreth	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Herrington	11	13	12	12	14	13	11	11	11
Craft	10	10	11	14	13	11	11	11	11
Van Dyke	10	6	12	10	10	10	10	10	10
Van Keuren	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Ward	6	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
L. Piercy	15	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
N. E. Money	6	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
C. O. Gardner	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
T. Morfe	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

### BUCKEYE CLUB DEFEATED.

#### The Limited Gun Club Too Much For Them This Time.

Last spring the Limited Gun Club, of Indianapolis, paid a social visit to the Buckeye Gun Club, of Dayton, O., and was royally entertained. Incidentally there was a team race, ten men from each club shooting at 50 targets each. Friendship ceased when the match began, to be resumed when it was over, and the visitors were beaten something over 70 targets.

On Jan. 1 the Buckeyes repaid the visit and there was another race, 12 men from each club. The Limited Club didn't succeed in wiping out all the margin against them, but only a few points remain.

The visitors were short some of their strongest men, notably Mr. Helkes, who was kept at home by the illness of his wife, and such good shots as McDonald and Rike were decidedly off, both of them shooting strange guns.

The day, aside from the beastly weather, was a most enjoyable one. A nice lunch was served in the club house at noon, and in the evening all sat down to an elegant spread at the Grand Hotel. A number of sweeps, 15 targets, entrance \$1.50, preceded the team race. Scores in the main event follow. Conditions, 50 Empire targets, unknown angles. This was shot in a steady downpour of rain, which, with the bad light, affected the scores unfavorably:

LIMITED GUN CLUB.		BUCKEYE GUN CLUB.	
Cooper	48	Raymond	48
Beck	45	Rike	42
Tripp	45	Craig	42
Robinson	43	Wroe	42
Griffith	43	Wilson	37
Grube	42	Glaser	37
Lockwood	41	Makley	35
Erlton	41	McDonald	35
Townsend	40	Kelfaber	31
Wildhack	40	Curphy	29
Parry	36	Achey	28
Tutewiler	33	Adams	27
	497		431

### Shot at Live Birds.

Norristown, Jan. 7.—A live pigeon sweepstakes shoot at Jeffersonville this afternoon attracted most of the local shots. There were ten entries for three five-bird sweeps. The winners were William Weidman, Isaac Johnson, J. R. Yost and Frank Gross. Weidman and Johnson won the first event, each hitting five birds. On the second Weidman, Gross and Yost tied on 4 and the third was tied by Weidman, Johnson and Gross on five straight. The latter contest was shot off. Gross winning, killing two more birds.