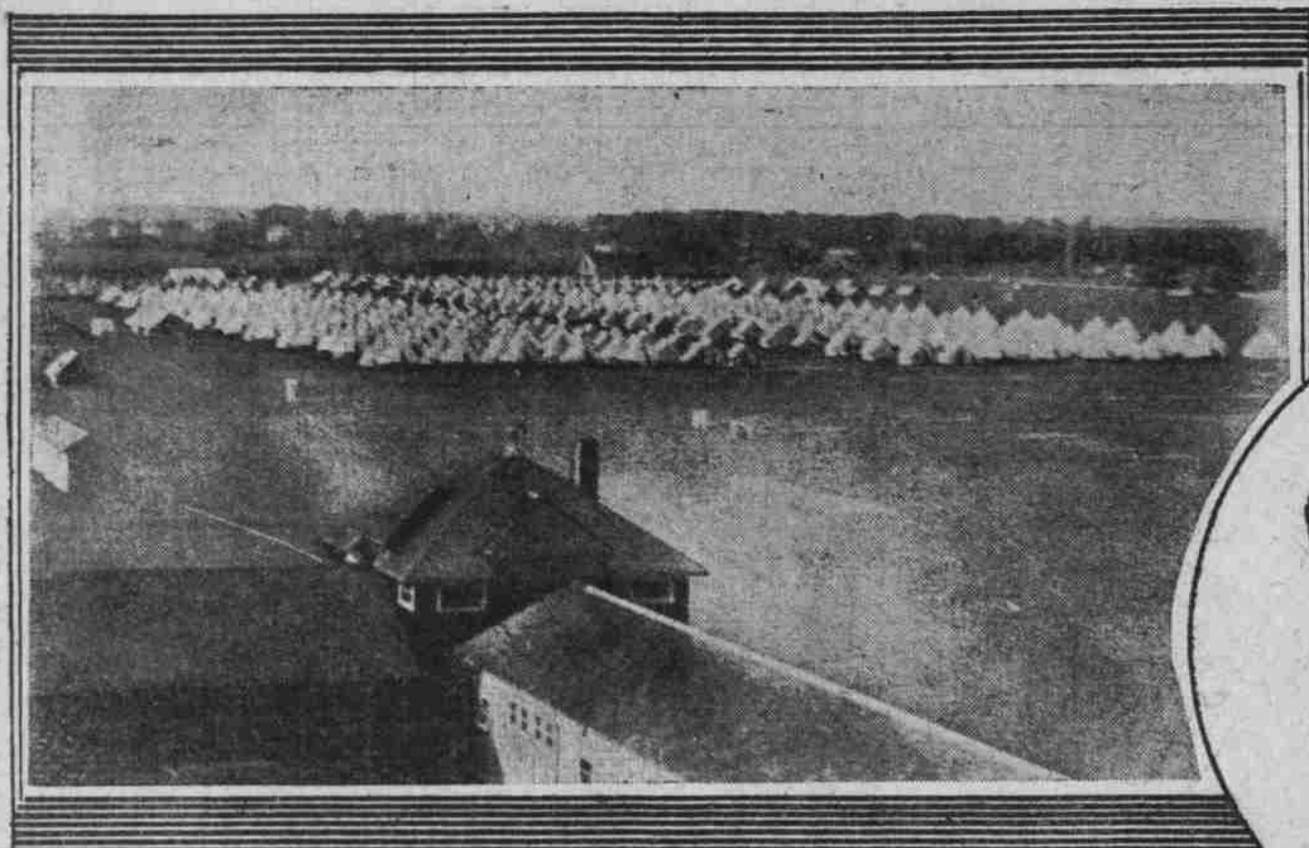


Building up a Nation of Sharpshooters



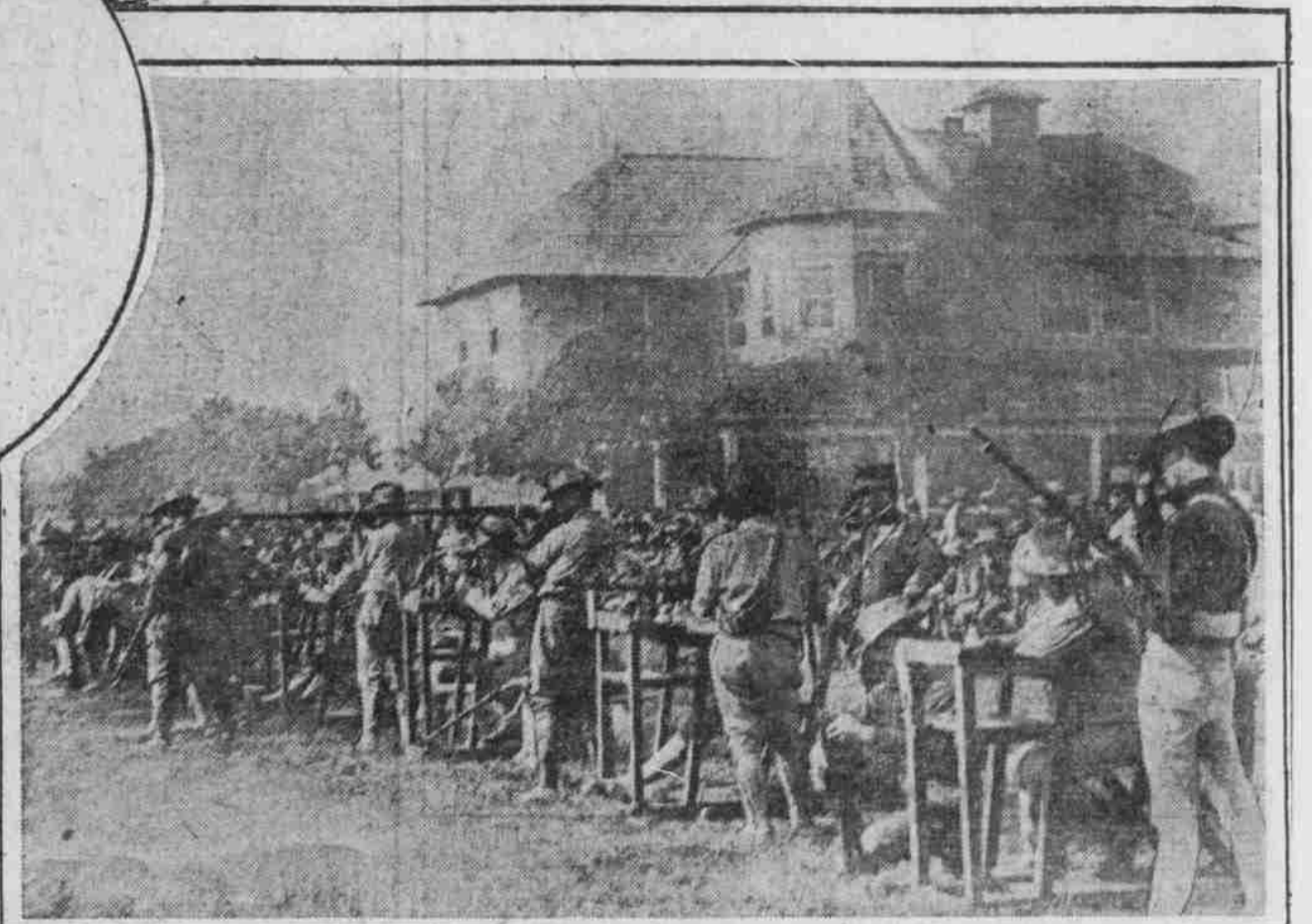
THE CAMP SEA GIRT.



FIRING PRONE, THE NATIONAL MATCH, SEA GIRT 1905



Uncle Sam's Great Military Event This Week at Sea Girt, N. J.



SEA GIRT RANGE.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28.—(Special Correspondence of the Sunday Oregonian.)—Uncle Sam is preparing for his great annual shooting match to be held at the famous Sea Girt, N. J., rifle range on September 4, 5 and 6. One team each from the cavalry, artillery, Navy, Marine Corps, Military Academy, Naval Academy and various state National Guards will appear on the first two days in authorized uniforms to compete in the first event, the national team match. These carefully picked teams of 12 men each have for the past several weeks been under systematic training at various posts.

The Government is leaving nothing undone to make the defenders of its flag the most expert rifle shots in the world. Congress some time ago authorized the casting in bronze of a beautifully sculptured tablet representing Mars, the god of battle, holding in leash the dogs of war. This, the "National trophy," which cost \$1000, will be presented to the team making the highest aggregate total in this national team match. In addition, the victorious team receives a cash prize of \$200. That making the second highest aggregate will receive the Hilton trophy, presented by the late Henry Hilton, of New York, and \$200 in cash, while the third team will receive the bronze Soldier of Marathon, presented by the State of New York, and \$100 in cash. The teams ranking fourth, fifth and sixth will be given, respectively, \$100, \$75 and \$50. The National trophy was won last year at Sea Girt by the team picked by the New York National Guard, the Hilton trophy by that of the regular Infantry and the Soldier of Marathon by that of the Ohio National Guard. Out of 6000, the greatest possible score in this match, the team of the New York National Guard made 4325 last year.

Before entering the match all contestants will have to present certificates showing that they have performed 75 per cent of their regular military duty, in parades, drills, encampments, etc., in the past year. This requirement is exacted in the same spirit as is that of our universities, demanding that athletes competing for honors must have good standing in scholarship. Besides the 12 principals, each team will bring with it a captain, coach, spotter and three alternates. None of the principals or alternates competing for the National trophy last year will be allowed to shoot for it in the coming match. This arrangement prevents any teams from monopolizing the honors and gives every branch of the fighting service an equal zeal of spirit of competition. Furthermore, the members actually firing on any prize-winning team will be forbidden to compete again for three years. The four to be thus eliminated will be those who have participated in the greatest number of competitions for the National trophy.

Thousand-Dollar Purse for Best Shot

The second great event will be the National individual match of September 5, open without entrance fee to the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Annapolis and West Point cadets, the National Guards, the National Rifle Association of America and affiliated clubs. Prizes aggregating over \$3000 offered by voluntary contributions and \$250 offered by Congress will be awarded in this contest. The first prize will be a gold medal and \$1000; the second, third and fourth prizes, gold medals and \$400, \$300 and \$150 respectively. There will also be silver and bronze medals and cash prizes in a further graduated scale down to \$5 awarded the twenty-sixth man. The winner of the

first prize last year was Private James Durward, Fifth Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard.

The National pistol match, open to the same organizations, will be shot the day of the National individual match. The four competitors making the highest aggregate will receive gold medals and cash prizes of \$50, \$35, \$20 and \$15.

Building Up a Nation of Sharpshooters.

These National matches will be conducted by the National board of promotion of rifle practice, of which Assistant Secretary of War Oliver is president. This board is requesting the adjutants-general of the National Guards to take steps toward the formation of state rifle associations, to be affiliated with the National Rifle Association, and has requested the latter organization to prepare by-laws for affiliated clubs. The members of these will be competed annually with medals to be presented for among them and will have the privilege to purchase from the War Department the army rifle, ammunition and ordnance at cost price. For the season's events at Sea Girt the State of New Jersey is supplying contestants with tents, cots, blankets and camp stools.

The Government's policy is to encourage skill with the rifle broadcast throughout the country, through the National Rifle Association and these affiliated organizations, with the view of building up a Nation of sharpshooters, who, as volunteers, would be the real bone and sinew of the Army. At the same time the War Department is exercising every means within its power to encourage expertness with the rifle among the soldiers and National Guardsmen. The ordinary private entering the service at \$12 per month now receives \$14 as soon as qualifying as a marksman, \$15 when earning his sharpshooter's badge and \$18 per month when qualifying as a rifleman. This sliding scale, depending entirely on work at the rifle range, has proven to be a wonderful impetus to good marksmanship in our military establishment.

Training Eye to Judge Distance.

At Army posts large poles have lately been erected 100 yards apart, with short stakes interspersed at 25-yard intervals between. Soldiers are now required to pace off these distances, counting their steps, until they learn how many of their paces cover 100 yards or fractions thereof. At the same time they unconsciously become familiar with the appearance of these distances when laid out before them in unmarked landscape. Afterward some mark distant more or less than 100 yards is pointed out by an officer and the soldier is required to estimate it with the 100-yard unit, the estimate being noted down on a record sheet. Finally the man receiving this new eye-training is told to correct his figures by pacing off the unknown stretch. The mark is moved to various distances, the soldier being required to make a new estimate each time and correct his figures, as before, when they are materially erroneous. In this way the eye of each man is being trained to accurate judgment of distances. It is surprising how far the untrained eye falls short in this respect yet how readily, except in a few instances, can be educated. Of course, accuracy in the judgment of distance is a prime prerequisite to good marksmanship.

How to Tell How Far Off a Man Is.

At 30 yards the white of a man's eyes is still plainly visible. Up to 50 yards the eyes themselves continue distinctly visible. At 100 yards all parts of the body are seen, slight movements are perceptible and the minute details of the uniform can be distinguished. At 200 yards the outlines of the face become confused and rows of brass buttons look like stripes. At 400 yards the face is a mere dot, but all movements of the legs and arms are still distinct. At 500 yards details of an individual human form can no longer be distinguished, although the files of a squad of men can be counted if the light be strong. At 800 yards the men in such a group cannot always be counted, nor can their individual movements be distinguished. At 1000 yards a line of men resembles a broad belt; the direction of their movements can, however, be determined. At 1200 yards men afoot can be distinguished from men on horseback. At 2000 yards a mounted man will usually appear a mere speck or spot.

The soldier is next posted in the field while men detailed as markers are sent in various directions and placed in different positions, while he is questioned as to how far away they are and just why he thinks so.

Some optical illusions and delusions also figure in this interesting training. The soldier is taught that objects seem nearer when in a bright light, when different in color from the background, when viewed over water, snow or any other uniform surface without intervening objects, such as a wheat field or in the clear atmosphere of high altitudes. He learns also that objects seem more distant than otherwise when he is looking over a depression in the ground, when a poor light or fog intervenes, when only a small part of the object can be seen, or when the eye is looking from low toward higher ground.

Estimation of distance by sound also enters into the course. It is explained that sound travels at the rate of about 1100 feet, or 336 yards, per second. A distant gun being fired, the soldier must count the number of seconds or parts of seconds between flash and report. Multiplying these by 336 he obtains approximately the distance of the gun in yards. This method will, of course, be of great

Effect of Weather on Marksmanship.

Meteorological conditions have a great effect upon accuracy of fire. Inaccurate shooting is noted especially on bright, hot days, when local currents, produced by the differently heated ground, cause unaccountable deflections. When portions of the range are in the shade, and therefore cooler, the adjacent air, being of greater density, offers increased resistance to bullets, and inaccuracy of shooting will result. When the light is alternately bright and shaded by passing clouds bad records may be looked for. The most favorable weather for accurate practice is that offered when the sky is overcast, the light being of a dull gray, evenly diffused, and the air over the entire range being of a uniform temperature and free from local eddies.

Calculations of the distances beyond which firing at various objects becomes ineffective have also been made to a nicety. The fire of the average soldier will not tell when directed upon a single man lying at a distance greater than 500 yards, upon a man kneeling beyond 600 yards, upon one standing beyond 700 yards, or upon a squad lying beyond 1000 yards. But columns of companies or small compact bodies of artillery or cavalry can

Standard of Accuracy.

"A standard of accuracy" has also been established. Every soldier not physically defective is expected to effectively hit individual objects up to 500 yards. The more expert will extend these limits to 1000 or 1200 yards, and the collected fire of a well-practiced company should, it is estimated, be effective against masses of men 1500 yards away.

Army horses are being put through a preliminary training to accustom them

to pistol shots.

Blank cartridges are being fired near them each day while they are being groomed on the picket line, and all forms of targets are shown them, until they cease to shy at such sounds and sights. The mounted men are drilled in rapid aim while their horses are in motion. They are taught to fire at silhouette targets, arranged about the riding tracks. A course in pistol practice, still more advanced, comprises shooting at swinging disks of leather, five inches in diameter, so suspended near the riding track that they are kept in motion by the blasts of the pistols.

For each army post a shooting gallery, 55 or 60 feet long, is being provided.

Each is so arranged that there is a strong light upon the target. The light at the firing point will be overhead, from the rear or from both sides, but never from one side only, as this last arrangement has been found to brighten only one side of the front sight and cause inaccuracies hitherto mysterious. Experiments have proved that windows between the firing point and target give cross lights and shadows which interfere with accuracy. The range of these galleries will be 53 feet, at which distance the marks made by bullets are readily discerned.

JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.



ARMY TEAM, NATIONAL MATCH 1905.

Nuisance of Vile Speech Should Be Suppressed

It is hardly possible for any man or woman of refined feelings to walk at any time on any of the crowded streets of most cities without being forced to listen in profane or indecent language. Blasphemous and obscene epithets are now constantly uttered by many young men as they go about the streets, in utter disregard of the offense they give to decent people, or the sadly-corrupting example they set to the younger children who are permitted the liberty of the streets.

What shall be done to put a stop to this defilement?

In our opinion the time has come when city authorities should make an earnest effort to suppress the nuisance of vile speech in public places. To induce them to take the necessary action all those who are conscious of the evil and are offended by it, should bring their influence to bear upon the Mayor of the city, the Chief of Police and the Judge of the Police Court to compel decency in

this matter. If every citizen, and especially the women, who are involuntary listeners to the vile conversation that is now habitual with so many young men, would write letters to the Mayor of the city and the Commissioner of Police, informing them of the extent of the annoyance and demanding protection from it, they would not only benefit themselves but would render a public service. The Chief of Police should call his whole force before him and instruct them to be as careful in repressing improper talk on the streets as they are in dealing with any other kind of indecent conduct. The careless offender should be warned, and a repetition of the offense should cause the foul-mouthed person to be arrested and summarily punished in court. The very first thing the head of the Police Department should do would be to impress upon the policemen themselves the necessity of decorous speech. There can be no real "cleaning up" until the sense of what is needed becomes general. The

fathers and mothers who are now tolerating the use of coarse and rough language by their young sons must be awakened to the necessity of exacting more civility and regard for the rights of others by their children, and employers may properly discriminate against the habitual users of profane and indecent language.—Hartford Times.

A Sign for the Heated.

A little store in Columbus avenue has this alluring sign painted on its windows, "Come on in! The water's fine!"

In smaller letters underneath is this line: "Our soda water, of course."

Setting Himself Right.

The lady—Why don't you wash the dirt off your face, little boy? The boy—Dat isn't dirt. It's pla-