

# STRECKER BEATS BEST RECORDS OF WORLD'S GREATEST RIFLEMEN

## "THE KING IS DEAD; LONG LIVE THE KING"

**H**AIL! HAIL! The king has come." This was heard on every side yesterday at Shell Mound as Adolph Strecker passed in and out of the shooting boxes. Not yet vested with authority nor king by right he is the man of the hour on the Shell Mound ranges. His scores shattered into bits everything that has ever been done on the point target here or anywhere. Of course there is a possibility that some greater shooter may be developed before the Third National Bundes Festival is a thing of the past, but there are no men in Shell Mound these days with a liking for the short end of three to one bets that he will not be produced. Strecker's score of 394 points stands by itself and will make him famous throughout the land and in the country across the water where native Germans shoot as if it were their religion. King Hayes is not yet dead, but his shooting life blood is oozing out of his veins every minute. His body is not yet cold, but the populace is shouting "King Hayes is dead! Long live King Strecker."

## Peerless California Marksman Completes a Score Which None Dare Hope to Equal and Which May Make Him the Honored King

## LESS OF CONVIVIALITY AND MORE INTENSE WORK

**T**HE contest for final honors on the ranges is narrowing down. It is no longer the East against the West, for the West is capturing prize after prize in unremitting fashion. With the kingship practically settled and imposed, the interest has switched from that point to the honorary target. In the glass cases the fierce rifle battles from which no casualties result will furnish the sport for spectators and participants. Good shooting is so common at Shell Mound that even extraordinary scores go for nothing. Only the miraculous is of any consequence. These men, local and Easterners, are showing what it is to have hairbreadth sights and iron nerves. There is a feverish, nervous atmosphere in the shooting section, and conviviality is being postponed until the close of the festival. From now on it will be bitter, crackling, fire-splitting business.



**ON** the fifth day of the Schuetzenfest a new claimant of regal honors gave signal proof of his prowess at the range, and there are none who have the hardihood to deny him the crown. Adolph Strecker, a Californian, has broken all records at the king target and he will be "Schuetzen Koenig" of the Third National Bundesfest, unless by miraculous marksmanship some other contestant snatches the honor from him.

It is not at every shooting festival that a world's record is broken. Never before has a Californian proved himself to be the premier marksman of the world, and Californians were not slow to recognize the worth of the man whose steadiness of nerve and muscle and keenness of eye eclipsed the greatest feats of the sharpshooters of all ages. The Eastern crackshots bend the knee to him and join in the acclaim which greets the new shooting king wherever he appears. For while Strecker is still uncrowned there is scarcely a chance that any one will surpass his record and take the honors of the tournament from him.

Strecker completed his 200 shots at the king target at 9:30 a. m. yesterday. His total of points scored was 394—so far beyond previous achievements that all marksmen characterize his shooting as marvelous. European records are left far behind and so high a mark is set by the California rifeman that experts say it will not be excelled within fifty years. William Hayes of Newark won the title of shooting king in 1896 by a total of 373 points, or twenty-one fewer than Strecker made in the achievement which he completed yesterday. And Hayes' shooting was hailed as the greatest of the world had seen. Three years prior to that, in the first national schuetzenfest, F. C. Ross won kindly honors by a total of 371.

**RED-LETTER DAY FOR CALIFORNIA MARKSMEN**  
Not even under less strenuous conditions, with less in honor and prizes at stake and less of excitement to unnerve the contestant, has Strecker's feat ever been approached.

It was a great day at Shell Mound Park, and it will live always in the memory of the marksmen who were so fortunate as to be present. More than the usual number of sharpshooters were present, and as Strecker drew nearer to the two hundredth shot every one of them gave over individual efforts and watched breathlessly as the peerless marksman scored centers and bullseyes one after the other. And when the last shot had been fired and the full import of it all dawned upon Strecker's local admirers and the visitors from the East, the ranges rang with cheers and the crowd gave way to wild enthusiasm such as had never before been seen at a Schuetzenfest in the New World. For the remainder of the day there was but one toast, "Zum neuen Schuetzen Koenig," and that was drunk numberless times in the rarest of Rhine wines and the driest of champagnes. The remainder of the day was a celebration—for all but the marksmen who kept doggedly to their work. With hope low in their breasts, but with grim determination they did their best, though the crown of the shooting king seemed no longer among things attainable.

Strecker began shooting at half past 8 o'clock. He had already fired 160 shots of his 200, and was only six points below the "bullseye average," as marksmen put it. He had slept but three hours, so great was the nervous strain upon him, and he began the day with the fear that his nerve would fail him. But he warmed up to the work and soon he was oblivious of all surroundings and as calm and steady of nerve as if it were only practice shooting. He shot steadily and rapidly, and within less than an hour he started upon his last ten shots. He scored seven bullseyes in succession, and then something happened.

"The strain became unbearable," said Strecker afterwards, "and from pure nervousness I saw the head of my rifle double. I knew I ought to wait, but I had to make an end of the agony. So I picked one of the heads and fired. A miss—I had picked the phantom head, and the bullet went wide of the bullseye."

But the error served to steady the

marksman's nerve and he followed with two bullseyes for his last two shots. Then pandemonium broke loose and stayed at large for the day.

**BUT THREE BULLETS MISS TARGET'S "BLACK."**

Of Strecker's 200 shots, 146 were within three inches of the center, or "needle point," of the target. Of this 146, sixty-one were within one and a half inches of "needle point"; fifty-one more bullets struck within six inches of the center. The three shots that went wide, so far as results were concerned, struck within half an inch of the "black," or within six and a half inches of the center.

"I am glad," Strecker said afterward, "that I was able to do so much to demonstrate the prowess of California marksmen. If it be my fortune to win the honored title of shooting king I would not surrender it for a present of the finest home on Asbury Heights. I am a poor man, but my money would not tempt me to part with the honor."

"Strecker is king," F. C. Ross, king of the first National Schuetzenfest and a royal good fellow, said. "No one expects his wonderful score to be beaten. It was a great exhibition, and none of the Eastern crackshots hope now to win the crown. American marksmen lead the world, and Californians lead America. The conditions are right for it here. Your atmosphere is superb for shooting. Opportunities for practice here are most favorable also. You have an open Sunday, and men of moderate means are able to go to the ranges on that day. In consequence you have ten active marksmen to our one, though our Schuetzen clubs have a much larger membership. Again, we have to shoot through 'port holes' located thirty feet from the targets. These port holes are about six inches wide by twenty inches high. The object of this arrangement is to prevent stray bullets doing damage in adjacent houses. Here your shooting ranges are remote and the target is open, affording better practice. But, however, attained results, good, and Strecker has done a wonderful thing."

**MOST WONDERFUL FEAT OF ALL COMPETITIONS**  
"Those who watched Strecker's shoot-

ing," H. M. Pope said, "saw the most remarkable shooting of any tournament. It was wonderful, superb, and the rifle with five little holes in the end of the barrel showed itself to be about right."

"That record will stand for years," Captain F. A. Kuhls, president of the National Schuetzen Bund, said. "This is a proud day for us. The Third National Schuetzenfest will live in history because of Strecker's remarkable scores."

Charles Zinkand offered to bet \$100 even that no other marksmen would score within 20 points of the mark set by Strecker.

Adolph Strecker first came into prominence as a marksman in 1874 at Baltimore, when he was but 22 years old. In six days' shooting at a four-inch target he made the most bullseyes and was proclaimed king of American riflemen. His nearest competitor was William Hayes of Newark, then 27 years old, who won the title of king three years ago at New York, and who is here shooting at the Shell Mound ranges in defense of that title. Strecker and Hayes met again in New York in 1885 at the first National Bundes-

fest, but Fred C. Ross won the honors of the festival. In 1887 Strecker won first prize at the man target, scoring 37 out of a possible 100, and a week later he repeated the performance in New York.

Strecker has won numerous honors at tournaments all over the country and has been king of the California Schuetzen Club more than fifteen times. He considers his very best performance was achieved at San Rafael ten years ago, when he fired 235 shots without missing a 12-inch "black." His score of points, however, was much less than that of his latest feat.

**MANY PEOPLE ENJOY INTERNATIONAL DAY**

Yesterday was International day. Hon. Adolph Rosenthal, Consul General of the German empire, and Consuls of other nations visited the park and range. They were received by President Kuhls and the officers of the National Bund.

Fifteen members of the Colorado delegation were the guests of President Kuhls at lunch yesterday. Captain Kuhls, on behalf of the federation, bade the Coloradoans a hearty welcome and praised them for sending so numerous a delegation and for their good shooting. Responses were made by C. J. Barnes of Rifle, M. Jacobson of Denver, W. W. Yeager of Pueblo, M. C. Ramsey of Grand Junction and J. C. Hudelson of Trinidad. The Coloradoans shoot well and will capture some valuable prizes.

Emil Bergman of Hoboken, N. Y., scored 77 on the man target yesterday, which will entitle him to one of the top prizes.

**KING HAYES SHOOT'S BUT MAKES SMALL SCORE**

King Hayes shot a number of rounds at the various targets yesterday, but failed to make a score in keeping with his record. He has not been able to round into form during this festival, and in no instance did he make a score that would entitle him to a place among the top-notchers against whom he was pitted. His best score yesterday was 19, 25, 18, on the honorary target. He was beaten by four points by President Kuhls of the

National Shooting Bund, who scored 22, 23, 21.

**SILVER CUPS PRESENTED TO POPULAR MARKSMEN**

One of the prettiest features of the day was the presentation of a festival cup to Edward Goetze by President Kuhls. The presentation was made in the presence of a number of friends of the popular lieutenant. A neat little speech was made by President Kuhls as he handed the silver token to the marksman who had won it by scoring more than 300 points. It was filled immediately with foaming, sparkling wine and passed to the friends of the winner of the cup. It was filled and emptied several times before it was given back to the marksman whose skill had enabled him to thus add a pretty touch of sentiment to the schuetzen festival.

Fred Bushnell also won a cup yesterday at the butts. He scored more than 300 points on the standard target and was presented with one of the handsome silver goblets.

Al Lehrke, who has been one of the steady shooters since the opening of the fest, made the last bullseye of the day. While he has not made a brilliant score, his shooting has given him rank among those who are called "cracks."

The best shot on the bear target yesterday was made by C. Leighton of Los Angeles. He scored 12 out of a possible 15 points.

**BELKNAP AND RODGERS TIE ON PUBLIC TARGET**

F. W. Belknap of Los Angeles shot 74 on the public target yesterday, and for a time looked upon as one of the big winners of the festival. His score of 24-25 out of a possible 50 was an exceptionally good one, and few of the marksmen figured that it would be equaled. Congratulations were showered upon him, and he opened several bottles of Rhine wine on the strength of his shooting. It was while helping several friends to dispose of a few quarts of the German exhilarator that he received word that his score had been tied by Dr. L. O. Rodgers of the Golden Gate Rifle and Pistol Club. Dr. Rodgers and Belknap were close friends, and the news that he had been removed from the sharpshooters' throne by Dr. Rodgers gave

him no displeasure. He relinquished his seat of honor to Dr. Rodgers in a courtly manner, and wished the genial medical aid success in the trial for supremacy which the tied score necessitated.

The best scores on the honorary target yesterday were: Dr. Lee O. Rodgers, 81; J. H. Bean, Denver, Colo., 80; Louis Bendel, 80; W. W. Hayes, Zettler Rifle Club of New York, 80; J. P. Bridges, 80; John Wolkeke, 80; Otto Bremer, 81; A. Marquis, Los Angeles, 59; Captain Ludwig Stebe, 56; L. C. Babin, 56.

The following won prizes yesterday: First bullseye, F. E. Shuster; last bullseye, A. Lehrke.

Silver cup—H. M. Pope, Massachusetts; H. H. Uskottor, Cincinnati; F. S. Speth, Cincinnati; W. H. French, Colorado; A. Marquis, Los Angeles; C. A. Leighton, Los Angeles; George Keffel, San Jose; F. P. Schuster, San Francisco.

Gold medals—F. Mathie, Wisconsin; Emil Berg, Davenport, Iowa; R. Gutz, New York; T. J. Malana, Chicago; T. D. East, Colorado; L. P. Hansen, Jersey City; J. Meyer, Sacramento; F. N. Schomberg, San Diego; Dr. M. E. Taber, Los Angeles; Herman Huber, D. W. McLaughlin, W. E. Doell, A. Breuss, H. Loeker, H. Heilberg, G. J. Carroll, F. Beckman, K. Wertheimer, all of San Francisco.

Silver medals—O. Bermeister, Adolph Strecker, Major Falkenburg, John Berg, J. Jones, H. Enge, C. Schaffer, J. C. Hudelson, Carl Gut, L. Thierbach, C. Ott, F. P. Schuster, F. W. Belknap, H. Eckhardt, T. Blinner, W. Straub, H. T. Schumacher, W. Hasenzahl, M. Gindelf, F. Knie, H. Hinkel, P. H. Bangs, C. J. Barnes, A. W. Lehrke, S. Grounstein.

Highest scores for the day on the different targets: Man target—E. Berkmann, New York, 70; Ring target—Dr. Lee O. Rodgers, San Francisco, 74; F. W. Belknap, Los Angeles, 74; Standard target—J. P. Bridges, Pittsburg, 77; Bear target—C. A. Leighton, Los Angeles, 12.

To-day is ladies' day, and will be devoted to receiving the ladies who accompany the visiting sharpshooters from all parts of the Union. The ladies of the festival committee will also tender a banquet to the representatives of the press. In the afternoon a concert will be given by Ritzau's American ladies' orchestra, and a dance will be had in the pavilion. In the evening a ball and fireworks will be had, and the park will be illuminated.

**CAPTAIN BOTHA DIES IN BATTLE**  
Kitchener Reports the Killing of Three Boer Officers.

LONDON, July 18.—Lord Kitchener, commanding the British forces in South Africa, reports to the War Office as follows: "ELANDSPONTEIN, July 18.—Captain Charles Botha, son of Philip Botha, and

Field Cornets Humann and Oliver have been killed in the Orange River Colony." The War Office issued late to-night a despatch from Lord Kitchener in which he reports the correspondence between Mr. Reitz and Mr. Steyn that was captured with the latter's baggage near Lindley, July 11.

Mr. Reitz, under date of May 10, wrote Mr. Steyn that a meeting of the Transvaal Government had been held, attended by General Botha, General Riddey, and Mr. Smuts, to consider the national situation. He went on to catalogue the difficulties—the numerous surrenders of burghers entailing a heavy responsibility on the Government, the rapidly decreasing supply of ammunition, the disintegration of the Government and the lack of any definite assurances of European intervention.

"In view of these facts," he said, "the Government has decided to address a message to President Kruger, pointing out the terrible conditions. The time has passed for us to let matters remain as at present. We must take a final step."

Mr. Steyn, replying May 20, upbraids Mr. Reitz with weak-heartedness, saying: "There is still sufficient ammunition to continue the struggle. You ask what

prospect there is for a successful termination. I ask what chance was there for two small republics when they declared war against the mighty power of Great Britain? You will answer that we trusted in God and in foreign intervention. What reason is there now to place last trust in God?"

"I have seen recent European newspapers and I firmly believe that complications will occur in Europe in the course of a few months which will secure our good fortune."

Mr. Steyn also says the fact that Mr. Kruger and the Boer delegates remain in Europe convinces him that they consider the case not beyond hope. He adds that he has summoned General Dewet and urges Mr. Reitz to take no steps until he has heard further from him.

**JOHANNESBURG, July 18.**—In the course of an inquiry conducted under oath here to-day various commissioners of officers and men of the British army confirmed the statement that the Boers shot the British wounded at Viakfontein.

Physicians sometimes enable men to postpone the payment of the debt of nature.

**EDWIN HAWLEY SOON TO RESIGN**  
Will Sever Connection With the Southern Pacific.

Special Dispatch to The Call

NEW YORK, July 18.—It was reported in well informed quarters to-day that Edwin Hawley, assistant traffic manager and director of the Southern Pacific Rail-

road, will sever his connection with the road, with which he has been connected so long, and that he will soon assume the duties of president of the Minneapolis and St. Louis and the Iowa Central. Both these roads have now their offices located in the same suite of rooms in the Broad Exchange building, and an adjoining office is now being fitted up for Mr. Hawley and one for H. E. Huntington.

It was said to-day that Mr. Hawley's resignation was to be tendered at the meeting of the Southern Pacific directors held to-day, but Chairman Tweed said that this report was incorrect. At the office of the Iowa Central it was said that Mr. Hawley's friends believed he would soon sever his connection with the Southern Pacific to devote his entire time to the duties of president of the Minneapolis and St. Louis, a position he has held for several years.

**Philippine Troops Assigned.**  
WASHINGTON, July 18.—Orders issued by the War Department assign the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth companies, Artillery Corps, to the Department of Califor-

nia and the Thirty-second and Thirty-third companies to the Department of the Columbia. These troops have just arrived at San Francisco from the Indiana from service in the Philippines.

**PIERRE LORILLARD'S WILL ADMITTED TO PROBATE**  
Bulk of the Large Estate Is Left In Trust and Is Not to Be Divided.

TRENTON, N. J., July 18.—The will of the late Pierre Lorillard was submitted to probate to-day by Chancellor Magie without opposition. Mr. Lorillard's stock farm in Burlington County, New Jersey, together with the livestock there and the horses training in England and elsewhere, goes to "Lillian M. Barnes, also known as Lillian Allene, who also receives the carriage, furniture, bric-a-brac, etc., of the establishment. The rest of the estate left in trust and is not to be divided until after the death of the three children of the testator, Pierre Lorillard Jr., Mrs. T. Suffer Taylor and Mrs. William Kent.

An annuity of \$50,000 is left to Mrs. Pierre Lorillard, the widow. Provision is next made for the two sons of Pierre Lorillard Jr.—Pierre Lorillard III and Griswold Lorillard—to whom is given one-fifth of the entire estate. No statement was made as to the value of the estate, but it is generally understood to be in excess of \$4,000,000.

**Young Woman Commits Suicide.**  
YUBA CITY, July 18.—Martha Hart, a woman 21 years old, committed suicide early this morning by drinking carbolic acid. She was an orphan and had been dependent for several days.

**Two Day Excursions to Palo Alto, San Jose, Del Monte, Monterey and Pacific Grove.**  
Leave Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday next week. Round trip, Epworth League and friends, \$8.50, including hotels and Seventeen-mile Drive at Del Monte. Southern Pacific offices, 613 Market street, Third and Townsend streets, Valencia street and Mechanics' Pavilion.