

LIKE A CHINESE PUZZLE.

R. S. ELLIOTT'S SYSTEM OF DIVIDING SWEEPSTAKES SHOOT PURSES.

The Plan Tried at the Washington Park Shooting Ground Yesterday Must Be Simplified to Be of Practical Use—
General Sporting Notes.

Elliott's new shooting ground at Washington park was formally opened yesterday with sweepstakes shoots at live birds and targets, and was participated in by about 100 sportsmen who enjoy an afternoon over the traps. Everybody was delighted with the park, which promises to be the most picturesque and best arranged of any shooting ground in the country. The feature of yesterday's sport was the ten live bird sweep which drew out twenty-five entries at \$5, making a purse of \$125, less the price of the birds. This left \$62.50 in the pot and the greatest interest was manifested in the division of moneys, which was governed by Robert Sage Elliott's new system, which, it is claimed, will prevent a few crack shots from pooling their issues and getting away with the bulk of the money.

Under the old system of division of moneys the \$62.50 would have been divided into four parts of 40, 30, 20 and 10 per cent respectively for shooters having scored 10, 9, 8 and 7. The ties on those scores would then have shot off for the money to which each class was entitled. Mr. Elliott's new plan, however, is much more complicated and the result was a good natured argument as to the merits of the scheme. The general expression was that it was too intricate for practical purposes and the old classification will prevail at the state tournament which opens at Washington park on Monday.

There being twenty-five entries, the main purse was divided into three classes under Mr. Elliott's plan, 45 per cent going to class A, the ten men; 30 per cent to the class B or nine men and 25 per cent to the class C or eight men. These class purses were then to be subdivided into three moneys.

First and second money of the original class C was still left and Mr. Elliott ruled that this should be shot for by the ties on seven, who had considered themselves out of the game. This proved a good thing for Bradley who shot out Keek for the \$6.24, the top money, and the latter took second money, \$5.36, and they sympathized with Keene who killed nine and only got \$7.50.

The system was so intricate that it gave rise to innumerable arguments and the shooters who were mixed up in it, together with Mr. Elliott and the scorers, were troubled with a nightmare of mathematical problems during their sleep last night. The system may have its good points, but it is so intricate and ramifying in its various phases that it will need a good deal of revision and simplification to ever bring it into general use. Mr. Elliott is not dismayed, however, but will continue to work on it until he does get something practical out of it, and as he is still young and full of vigor, he may be successful.

The shooting on the whole yesterday, considering the disadvantage of new grounds and unfamiliarity with the surroundings and peculiarities of flight of the birds, was good. There will be shooting every afternoon from now until the opening of the state tournament to give the men who are to take part in the championship events an opportunity for practice. The score of yesterday's shoot follows:

E. Harrison	2011022222	8
L. Biederman	1112010021	7
G. Hammond	0010110022	5
J. E. Riley	0222122220	8
J. Bradley	0091211222	7
J. Kerns	2111112221	10
F. J. Smith	2022001012	6
James Bronson	1020011121	7
W. S. Hall	1220110023	5
Ed House	0012200022	5
A. L. Bennett	2111112121	10
J. P. Knoche	2121122222	10
B. D. Keek	110022210	7
O. Cogswell	2011222120	8
L. W. Scott	0010211221	7
C. F. Sklingbloke	2201021221	8
V. W. Sherry	2220100222	7
A. Geisman	1111110110	8
J. H. Durkee	0022020101	5
F. Mason	2112111221	10
G. Beckers	1100011101	8
G. Wasson	0112122011	8
W. West	0100200010	8
J. Keene	0222211222	9
G. Carter	1021111012	8
F. S. Jones	0001120210	5