

ARMS AND  
THE MAN

"TUBE SIGHTING" THE SPRINGFIELD  
MILITIA BUREAU REVIEWS PASSING OF  
NATIONAL GUARD

MORE ABOUT THE REAL "OLD TIMERS"  
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POSSIBILITIES OF THE U. S. R. A. TO RENDER  
NATIONAL SERVICE

EDITORIALS and  
LATEST NEWS OF RIFLE, REVOLVER AND  
SHOTGUN, THE ARMY, THE NAVY AND  
THE NATIONAL GUARD

VOL. LXIII, NO. 16



JANUARY 12, 1918

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## General Pershing Urges Rifle Practice



We quote from General Pershing's statement in the New York Tribune, October 5th:

"Longer experience with conditions in France confirms my opinion that it is highly important that infantry soldiers should be excellent shots.

Thorough instructions in range practice prescribed by our small arms firing manual is very necessary. Our allies now fully realize their deficiency in rifle training. It is difficult to procure areas for

target range in France even now, when crops are off the ground. Much greater difficulty soon when ploughing begins.

"I therefore strongly renew my previous recommendations that all troops be given a complete course in rifle practice, prescribed in our firing manual, before leaving the United States. Specially, trench warfare instruction at home should not be allowed to interfere with rifle practice nor with intensive preliminary training in our schools of soldiers, companies and battalions."

Its close similarity to the .30 caliber army service rifle together with its excellent accuracy shown in the tests to which it has been submitted, especially recommend for use in Military target practice, the

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**Winchester Repeating Arms Co.**

**New Haven, Conn.**



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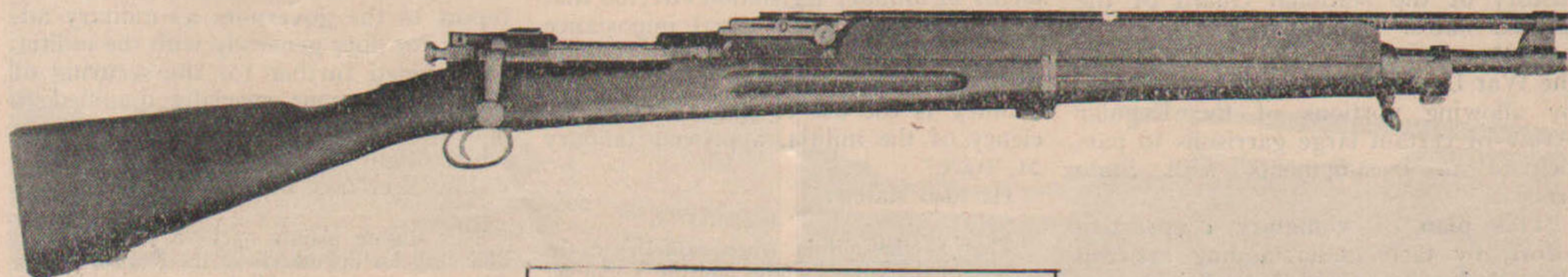
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\$3 a year. 10 cents a copy

## "Tube Sighting" the Springfield

By "SNIPER"



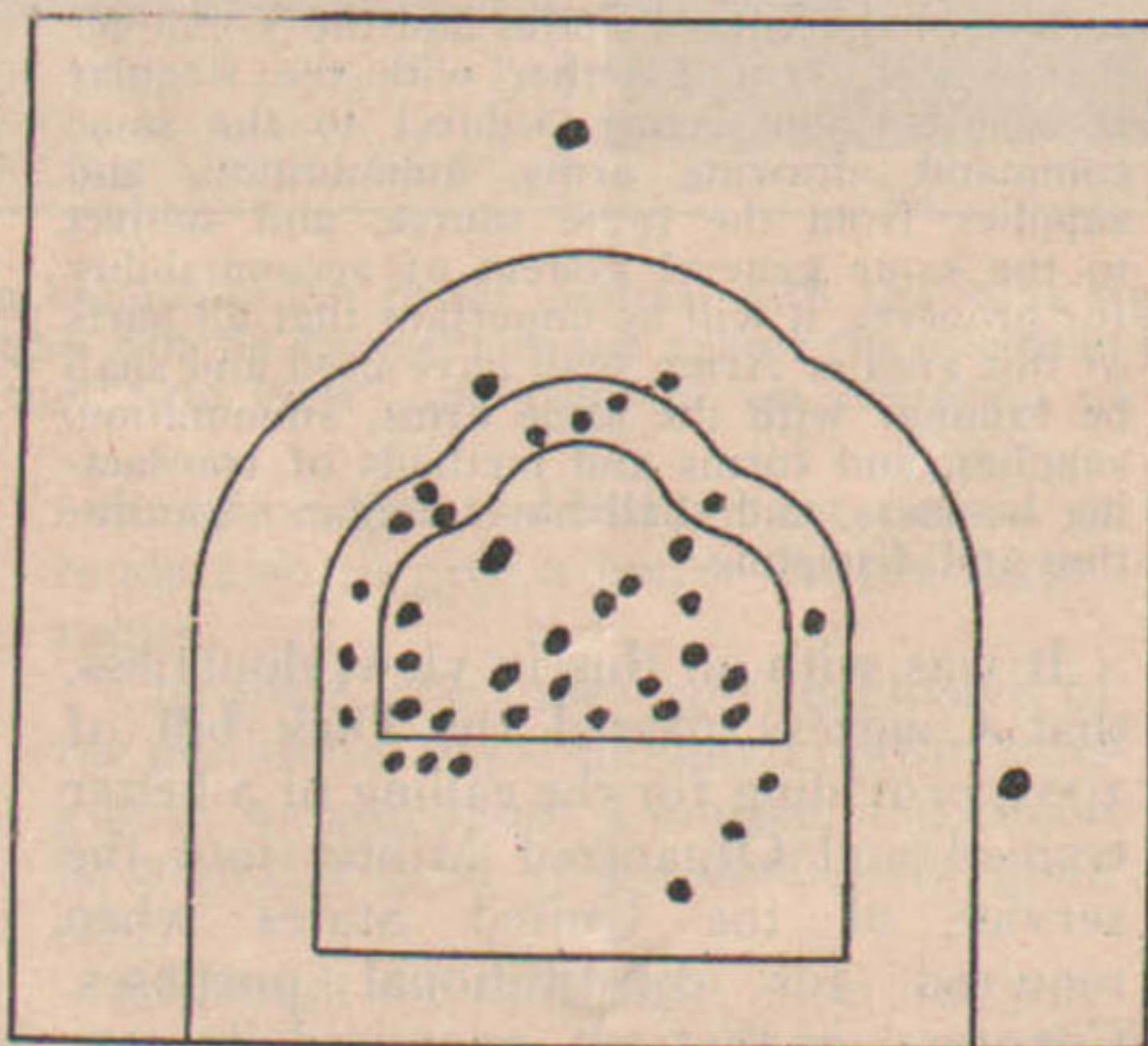
OUT at Camp Proctor, near Cincinnati, a few months ago, twenty recruits who had never fired a shot from a service rifle were called to the firing line. When they arrived, they found a Springfield "buried in" beneath a pile of sand bags. Against the outer face of the shelter, a few bunches of grass had been scattered, completely masking the inch of rifle barrel which protruded through a crevice smaller than any practical "loop hole" could heretofore be made. Behind that sand-bag shelter, through which no enemy bullet could penetrate, each man was told to lie down in turn, look through the small end of a tube affixed to the rifle barrel, align the front sight on a D target 200 yards away, and fire two shots.

Not one of the forty steel-jacketed bullets which the twenty green recruits fired missed the target. Nineteen of them were "Fives"; 17 were "Fours." With this showing, the Winder Tube Sight for the Model 1903 made its bow to the shooting game.

The new tube sight to all intents and purposes is a telescope sight *without glass*. It was designed to meet the conditions of trench warfare in Europe, where the issuance of telescope sights to the rank and file of fighting forces is neither desirable nor practicable.

The sight was invented and has been patented by Major C. B. Winder, of Ohio, who is now attached to the Ordnance Department, United States Army. Through a shooting career of twenty years Major Winder has been known as one of the foremost authorities on telescopic sights in the United States, and in the Winder Tube Sight he believes that he has embodied all of the advantages of a low-power telescope with none of its disadvantages, together with some points of superiority over the ordinary glass sight.

The Major, in undertaking to produce his tube sight, took into consideration the demands which must be met by a sight before it is suitable for the kind of firing done in the trenches, and endeavored to reconcile them to telescopic principles, eliminating, however, all mechanical intricacies likely to cause complications.



Above—The Winder Tube Sight mounted on the U. S. Magazine rifle model of 1903. Below—Hits on the "D" target made at 200 yards by twenty absolutely untrained recruits using the tube sight.

There were several compromises to be made. First and foremost, the ordinary telescope sight, while excellent for deliberate fire, and even for the single-shot-fired-rapidly which constitutes the sniper's chief performance, has been found not nearly so satisfactory for accurate rapid fire, in the hands of average shots, as is the ordinary sighting equipment. Again, it is not practicable to issue telescopes to troops unlearned in intricacies

of such sights, and expect them to produce results, since the 'scope is necessarily a delicate instrument, depending upon fine adjustment for precision; consequently the man who handles a telescope sight so that it will produce worth-while results must be a specialist in his line. Also, a sighting equipment costing upwards of \$30 for every 'scope cannot be considered unless it is better adapted to the work in hand than the ordinary sight.

On the other hand, many of the advantages which recommend the 'scope for snipers' work are desirable features in the sighting equipment of any rifle. The telescope sight permits the marksman to take cover from view, as well as cover from fire. It brings a clear definition to a hazy target. To the trained man, it makes quick aiming easier. With it accurate fire can be maintained in half-lights, where ordinary sights blur and fade away.

Therefore, Major Winder, who is a confirmed believer in the virtues of the telescope, set about providing an equipment which would possess the advantages of a glass sight, while eliminating its disadvantages as affecting the proposition of issuing such sights to the rank and file of troops.

The sight which has resulted from Major Winder's experiments is unbelievably simple. It can be applied to the Springfield without materially altering or in any way interfering with the service equipment—in fact, it works in conjunction with the ordinary sights, and can be dismantled at will. Nei-

(Continued on page 305)

## Militia Bureau Reviews

### Passing of National Guard

WITH the absorption of the National Guard into the National Army, the Chief of the Militia Bureau of the War Department devotes considerable space in his annual report to the events which in 1903 led to Government aid for State troops, the developments which resulted in the "federalization" of the militia, and the final passing of this great body of citizen soldiery.

The comments of the Militia Bureau form an interesting contribution to the history of the National Guard of the United States. The report says:

In the closing 80's effort was made by the War Department to assist the militia, by allowing portions of the Regular Army of certain large garrisons to participate in encampments with State troops.

This plan of voluntary cooperative effort, by tacit understanding between the Regular Army and the militia in certain sections, was begun and conducted for some time without any official formal sanction of either State or Federal law, and went on from year to year, on a more or less limited scale, without any officially announced prearranged plans of coordinated effort.

This continued up to the War with Spain in 1898. The militia at that time had no place in the Federal military establishment except in the event that it might be called forth as a constitutional instrumentality to preserve the peace locally, or nationally to resist invasion by foreign foes.

Congress, doubtless realizing that something ought to be done toward helping to place the States' militia upon a higher plane of national usefulness, broke away from time-honored traditions and restrictions and passed two separate money-giving laws—one on June 6, 1900, allotting \$1,000,000 of Federal money annually for the supply of certain articles to the States' militia, and another, the law of March 2, 1903, appropriating the lump sum of \$2,000,000 for the procurement of certain articles of armament and equipment for the militia without raising any question as to commensurate cooperative State appropriations. These two Federal laws, calculated to stimulate the State militia, constituted a most important precedent in so far as, apart from the original \$200,000 annually allowed, they were the first donations made toward the support of the States' militia, and opened the door for those more extended and more liberal donations of later years.

Up to January 21, 1903, however, it must be borne in mind that there was no Organized Militia in the United

States, as we now understand the term. By whatever name the States' militia had previously been called, they were nothing more or less than local State soldiers. The militia act passed Congress January 21, 1903, and marked the beginning of new life for the active militia, which henceforth was to be officially designated "Organized Militia" of the United States.

In his report for 1903, the Secretary of War, Mr. Root, reviewing the achievements of military legislation effected that year, stated that "of equal importance with the General Staff act in its relation to the general military efficiency of the country is the act to promote the efficiency of the militia, approved January 21, 1903."

He also stated:

That as the militia when called into the service of the United States and the Volunteer forces will form, together with the Regular troops, but one Army, subject to the same command, drawing arms, ammunition, and supplies from the same source, and subject to the same general system of accountability for property, it will be important that all parts of this greater Army shall have used and shall be familiar with the same arms, ammunition, supplies, and forms and methods of transacting business, and shall have similar organization and discipline.

It was with all this in view, doubtless, that Congress passed the Dick bill of 1903, providing for the calling of a better trained and Organized Militia into the service of the United States when required for constitutional purposes. Congress, in that act, exercised its constitutional power "to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia" by a series of provisions designed to promote the strength, efficiency, and prosperity of these militia organizations; to make them, with the Regular Army, a homogenous force.

To accomplish the ends in view, the act provided that the organization, armament, and discipline of the Organized Militia should be the same as that prescribed for the Regular Army. It authorized the Secretary of War to issue to the militia, at the expense of the National Government, the same arms, ammunition, and supplies which are provided for the Regular Army. It provided for regular inspection by Army officers detailed by the Secretary of War and for regular returns by the adjutants general of the several States to the Secretary of War. It authorized the participation by the Organized Militia in joint maneuvers with the Regular Army, and provided that in such cases the Organized Militia so participating should receive the same pay, subsistence, and

transportation as is provided by law for the officers and men of the Regular Army, to be paid out of the regular appropriations for the support of the Army. It provided also for separate State encampments of the Organized Militia by allowing, out of an annual appropriation of \$1,000,000 for militia purposes, to officers and enlisted men engaged in such encampments, the same pay, subsistence, and transportation or travel allowances as are allowed to officers and enlisted men of the Regular Army. It provided for detailing officers of the Army to attend State encampments, upon the request of the governors of the States, to give instruction and information, and for detailing officers to report to the governors as military advisers for duty generally with the militia. It provided further for the securing of a list of persons specially qualified to hold commissions in any voluntary force which might be called out.

The Secretary of War, in 1903, said:

This statute plainly opens a wide field of new duty for the officers of the Regular Army. They can no longer fill the measure of their obligation to the country by perfecting themselves and the forces under their command in the performance of their own military duties. They are charged with the further duty of applying their military skill and experience to the preparation of the militia and volunteer force, which will be associated with them in the next war, for effective service. A new responsibility also rests upon the officers of the National Guard, to render to the Nation full and unstinted return for the enlarged means and opportunities which the liberality of Congress has afforded to them.

In the 15 years that have elapsed since the passage of the militia act of 1903, there has been steady improvement in the efficiency of the Organized Militia. At times this improvement seemed slow, but the ultimate results are gratifying.

Five years after the passage of the act of 1903 an amendatory law was passed, the act of February 12, 1908. That act instituted a relationship between the States' militia and the Federal Government, by creating "a board of five officers on the active list of the Organized Militia, so selected as to secure, as far as practicable, equitable representation to all sections of the United States, and which shall, from time to time, as the Secretary of War may direct, proceed to Washington, D. C., for consultation with the Secretary of War respecting conditions, status and needs of the whole body of the Organized Militia." The members of this board were appointed for four years unless sooner relieved by the Secretary of War.

The board met from time to time and usually had present with them the head of the War Department Division of Militia Affairs, whose knowledge of militia affairs was useful to the board in considering the matters which the War Department desired to have passed upon.

(Continued on page 310)

## "TUBE SIGHTING" THE SPRINGFIELD

(Continued from page 303)

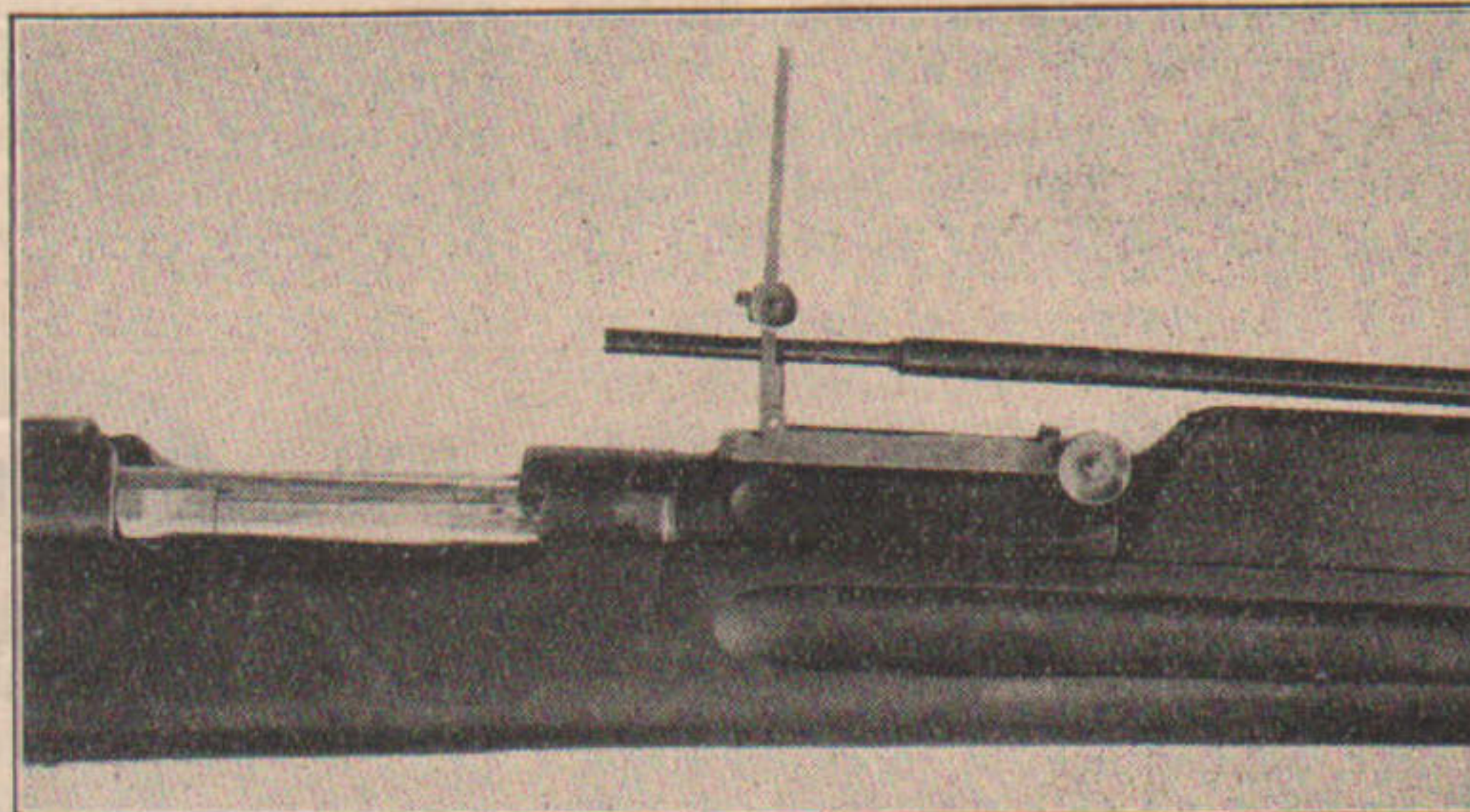
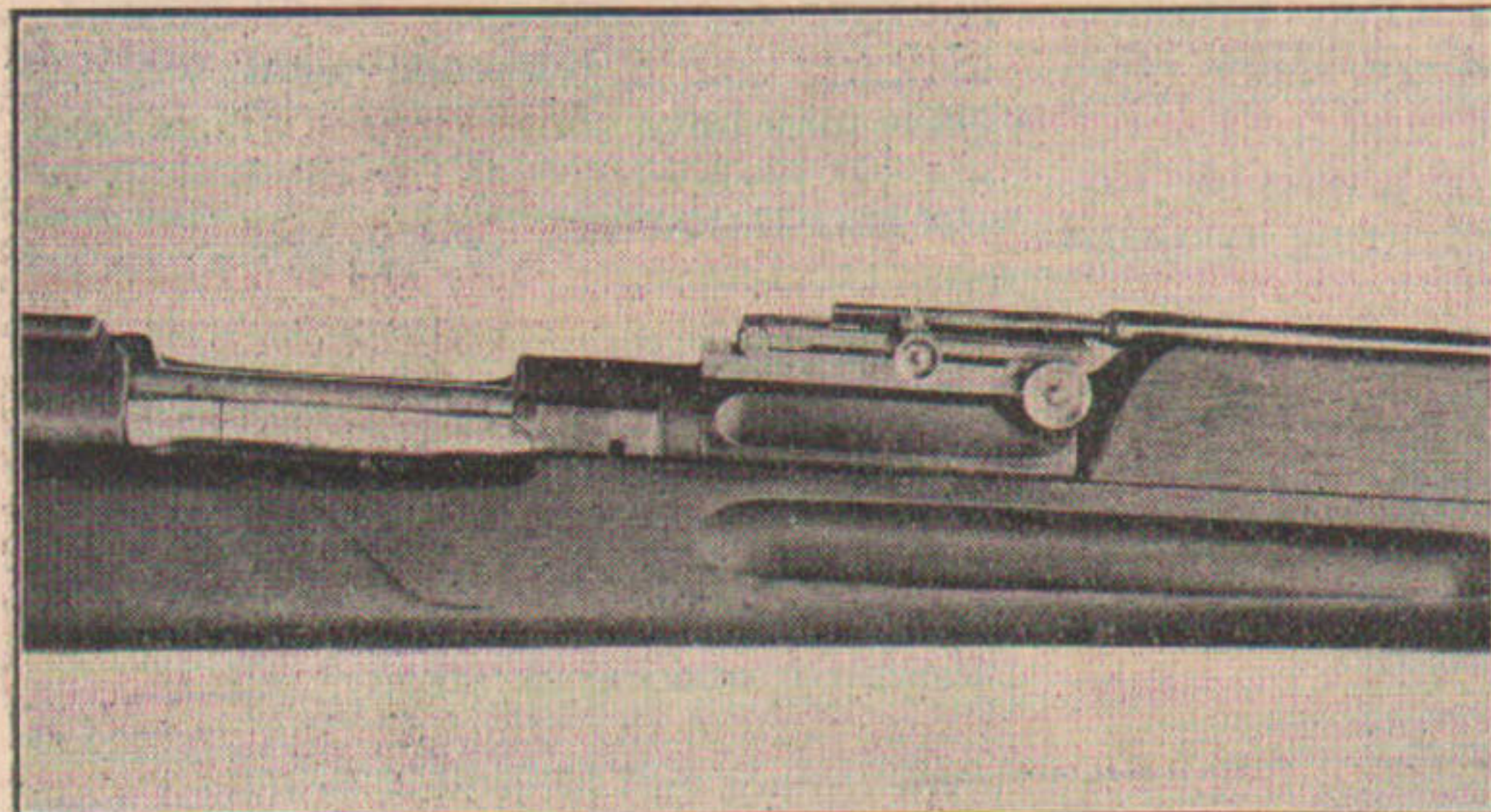
ther does it interfere with the use of the bayonet.

It is nothing more complicated than a collapsible steel tube, made in five sections. At the smaller end, the outside diameter is  $\frac{5}{16}$  of an inch; at the larger end, the outside diameter is  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch. When fully extended, the tube runs from the muzzle of the rifle along the entire length of the barrel—a distance of about 24 inches.



send out betraying reflections, and the sand bags can be so arranged about the rifle as to make impossible the entrance of a bullet in the aperture, as is so often the case with loopholes.

Now for fighting outside of trenches: whenever a man can find a clump of scrub behind which to lie, he can continue firing, the tube under all conditions maintaining a hood over the line of sight and preventing the interference of leaves or branches. None of these things can be accomplished with the types of telescope sight at present in vogue. Of



Above—Major C. B. Winder shooting from behind bullet proof shelter with the tube-sighted rifle. Below—Left, the tube sight in position for firing at battle range. The tube can be brought much nearer the eye than is shown in the photograph. Right, the tube sight mounted in the "field view" aperture at an elevation of about 1,000 yards.

The mounting of the tube is likewise extremely simple. At the muzzle, the tube fits inside of what is practically an ordinary Springfield front-sight cover, slightly enlarged. In the bottom of the tube, near the mouth, a slot is provided to permit the front sight of the rifle to enter the tube. The tube is steadied along the barrel by a strip of grooved wood, fitted onto the hand guard. Two methods of rear mounting are used, depending upon whether the tube is used as a battle sight, with the rear-sight leaf flat, or whether it is used for shooting with windage and elevation when the rear-sight leaf is raised.

When used as a battle sight, the rear of the tube is slipped through a split ring, brazed on the flat face of the drift slide, and held in place by a small stud which passes through the split in the ring. In this way the small end of the tube can be pulled back, if desired, to bring the aperture nearly two inches nearer the eye than is the ordinary battle sight.

If the shooter desires to use elevation and windage, he simply slips the small end of the tube from the split ring, flips up the leaf of the sight, inserts the tube in the triangular "field view" sight, and goes ahead, taking his windage and elevation as usual. The only change necessary in the ordinary sighting equipment is a slightly higher front sight, in order to get the tube low enough for the regular graduations when the "field view" sight is used. This, however, is not con-

sidered a great disadvantage, since it tends also to give a better "battle sight" range.

Complete, the tube sight, exclusive of the additional wood mounted on the hand guard, weighs about 5 ounces, and it can be manufactured at a ridiculously small cost.

Although the tube sight is an inexpensive one and can be adapted to the Springfield with very little difficulty, there would be no practical value in its use unless it showed marked superiority for trench use over the sights as now provided. Therefore, here are some of the points which are made in favor of the tube sight.

Whether a soldier is engaged in sniping or not, cover from view and cover from fire are important considerations, and at times cover from view will answer all the purposes of cover from fire. Also, the fighter in the trenches of Europe should be equipped with a means of observing without exposing himself to enemy fire. Usually, for this latter purpose the troops abroad have been supplied with clumsy periscopes which have been found to betray a man's position more than to conceal it.

With the tube sight a rifle can be "buried in" under sand bags, or even loose dirt if care is taken that none gets into the muzzle of the weapon. By means of the tube sight, the rifleman, while protected by the overhang of the trench parapet, can observe as well as fire. There is no glass in the tube to

course it was possible to "bury in" a rifle equipped with 'scopes of the old Mogg and Malcom types, which ran the full length of the rifle barrel, but the present-day "glass sight" is much shorter and a loop-hole from which it can be used for observation or fire must be at least 2 inches square, unless the marksman can risk having several inches of his rifle protrude.

With the telescope sight, it is not always possible to shoot in a driving rain, since the moisture will cloud and fog the lenses. There being no lenses in the tube sight, this disadvantage is eliminated. In effect, the tube sight is comparable to a 'scope of about 1 power, giving as it does about 100 per cent better definition of a target. This makes it especially good for use in dim lights where other sights will blur. Another thing: when properly buried in it apparently reduces the tendency of the untrained soldier to shoot high during excitement.

One of the points which the inventor emphasizes in connection with his device is that its use simplifies the art of properly aiming a rifle. Here it combines the virtue of the peep sight and the telescope. The new man, if told simply to look through the tube, put his front sight on the target and pull the trigger, almost always gets on the paper. Because of this, the man's confidence in himself is increased, with consequent increase of accuracy in his shooting. It is almost

impossible for him to use wrong methods of sighting.

One point about the tube sight, when used "buried in," is worthy of mention. It permits the shooter to get the benefit of his full eye-power, without eye strain, by shooting *with both eyes open*, the sand bags or other cover cutting off the view of the left eye.

The tube sight does not interfere with the use of the bayonet. It is not likely to become unserviceable, but if it does it is the work of a moment to slip it from the rifle, collapse it, and go on shooting with service sights unimpaired. Also, the tube sight can be carried in the butt of the gun when not in use.

A few firing tests have been made with the tube sight. The one held at Camp Proctor last September is perhaps the

most illuminating. The first test made with the twenty untrained men, shooting with the rifle "buried in"—slow fire of course—resulted in 19 "Fives," 17 "Fours," 2 "Threes" and 2 "Twos." There were no misses.

Following this, the men were marched down the firing line and required to repeat the test, this time firing with the battle sight over the sand bags. This trial resulted in 14 "Fives," 8 "Fours," 6 "Threes," 5 "Twos" and 7 misses.

To check up on the work of the green men, Major Winder obtained the services of an expert rifleman—Sergeant Hicks, of Co. F, 1st Ohio Infantry. Buried in, Hicks fired 25 shots rapid fire, making 21 "Fives" and 4 "Fours," or a score of 121 out of a possible 125. In the firing, each 5-shot string averaged

22 seconds, the best time made for any string being 16 seconds. Hicks then undertook to shoot a string of rapid fire with the tube sight from the sand-bag rest. He pulled 4 "Fives" and 1 "Three," occupying 17 seconds in the performance. Early in November the tube sight was tried out by Sergeant Ollie M. Shriver, U. S. M. C., on the Congress Heights Range, Washington, D. C. He made 24 out of 25, rapid fire, buried, in 24 seconds, and repeated his score under the same conditions in 22 seconds.

Naturally, these tests were not exhaustive ones, but they would seem to indicate that a telescope sight without glass may have some virtues which have not yet been exploited for the benefit of the riflemen of the United States.

## Club Shooting and War Shooting

By "Akeriman," Musketry Officer, in *The Rifleman*, London

THE opinion held by most old target-shots, that a man who is expert with any rifle on the practice range can generally be developed in a short time into a useful war shot, is certainly quite sound. There are, however, points of marked difference in the two forms of shooting, and a knowledge of these should be possessed by any club-man who wishes to train himself with a view to eventual active service.

Perhaps the chief difference which immediately strikes one between shooting on a range and shooting "in the field," is the difference in what may be called the *comfort* of the situations. On the range, to start with, there is always a more or less flat and even firing-point, upon which the rifle shot can lie and assume a correct and comfortable position. Every time he fires he is able to assume the same position, with his two elbows at the same level, and to get a clear and uninterrupted view of his target. Being able to get a steady position, all his faculties can be concentrated on judgment of and making allowance for the "error of the day," with the full knowledge that his own steadiness and skill in holding and trigger pulling will insure hitting the mark when his judgment is correct.

When shooting out in the open, at war or sporting targets, the conditions are very different. The target—be it man or game—generally comes into view at a moment when the rifle shot is, perhaps, standing in some long grass or undergrowth, or perhaps on the side of a rough slope, or any sort of situation rather than the level firing-point of the range. If the target is such as to afford the time to get down prone, probably our unfortunate rifle shot then finds that the

grass or inequalities of the ground prevent his seeing his target. He struggles up into the kneeling position (which he has not practiced) only to find no hold for his knee, or that the left foot is too low down; and by the time he has finally got fairly steady, probably the target has vanished.

Let it be realized at once, then, that the man who can only shoot well from a comfortable prone position is of very little use in practical shooting.

The steady prone position on a flat firing point is certainly the correct one in which to *learn* shooting—but it is only the elementary, the kindergarten, stage. The practical shot must learn to shoot well in standing, kneeling, and sitting positions. This last is one of the most valuable positions it is possible to learn, yet few club rifle shots have ever fired a shot from it.

Now, to shoot in such comparatively unsteady positions involves the learning of a totally different method of let-off, or trigger pressing, from that usually practiced at targets from the prone position. In the latter case, nine out of ten shooting men hold steadily on to the bull, and squeeze the trigger slowly. This is useless in any other than the prone position. One *cannot* hold on steadily for more than a moment in the standing position, and for very little longer in the kneeling and sitting, and for the shot to be effective it must be let off just at this moment.

In short, the let-off must be timed to occur at the moment of correct aim. The trigger finger must be trained to perform a steady release exactly when the eye knows that the aim has been obtained.

This is not easy. At first it will be

found that central hits alternate with bad misses, the central hits occurring when the timing happened to be accurate, the bad misses when it did not, or when instead of making a steady release, the finger jerked the trigger. But indeed a man cannot call himself a practical war-shot until this perfect let-off at the exact moment is a matter of automatic certainty. The ideal is to be entirely independent of steadiness at all. To swing the sights on to the mark from any direction, in any position, and for the let-off to occur at that moment, with the sights held still for just the fraction of a second necessary to let the bullet leave the barrel—this is the ultimate perfection of rifle-shooting. Probably the man who has attained the nearest point to it is Walter Winans, and a perusal of his book, "Practical Rifle Shooting," will repay any student of rifle-shooting. The writer once asked Mr. Winans whether he would consider four shots out of six in a one-inch bull at 25 yards, from the standing position, good shooting. He replied: "Yes, if *none* of the six were outside a 1½-inch circle." That is the trouble. It is comparatively easy to make *some* good shots from the unsteady positions. The difficulty is to insure that they are all good, or at any rate, not very bad!

The target shot generally depends for his steadiness very largely on the use of the sling. It goes without saying that much better shooting can be obtained with its assistance, if steadiness is to be relied upon to give accuracy; but in practical shooting in the field, the sling simply cannot be used. On uneven ground, even in the prone position, it is useless, for it is never the correct length, when the elbows are never twice at the same level. Again, practical shooting is almost always at targets which are liable to disappear at any moment—and the disappearing target of war or sport is not

(Concluded on page 312)

## More About the Real "Old Timers"

### MILAN W. BULL

**T**HERE were a number of premier riflemen who three decades ago confined their shooting to military arms. There were two who stood head and shoulders above the rest, and whose records are really more closely associated with the development of the service arm, since they consistently shot the Springfield and what is more, were employed in the Springfield Armory. They were spoken of in the shooting game as "The Bull Brothers." Of the work of Freeman Bull—he who worked out the elevations and did most of the experimental shooting for the Buffington sight—an account has been published. Yet, while Milan W. Bull made no brilliant record in targeting Springfield rifles, his skill with that arm won for him the President's Match at Creedmoor in 1886, together with the title of military champion of the United States, caused his selection as a member of one of the international teams which shot against the English at Bisley, and brought him many minor victories on the firing line.

Milan W. Bull, during most of his shooting career, was a private in Co. B, 2nd Massachusetts Infantry, M. V. M. At the time he became military champion of the United States, he was 45 years old, 6 ft. 6½ in. tall, and weighed about 137 pounds. At that time he had left the employ of the Springfield Armory to become superintendent of the Spencer Arms Co.

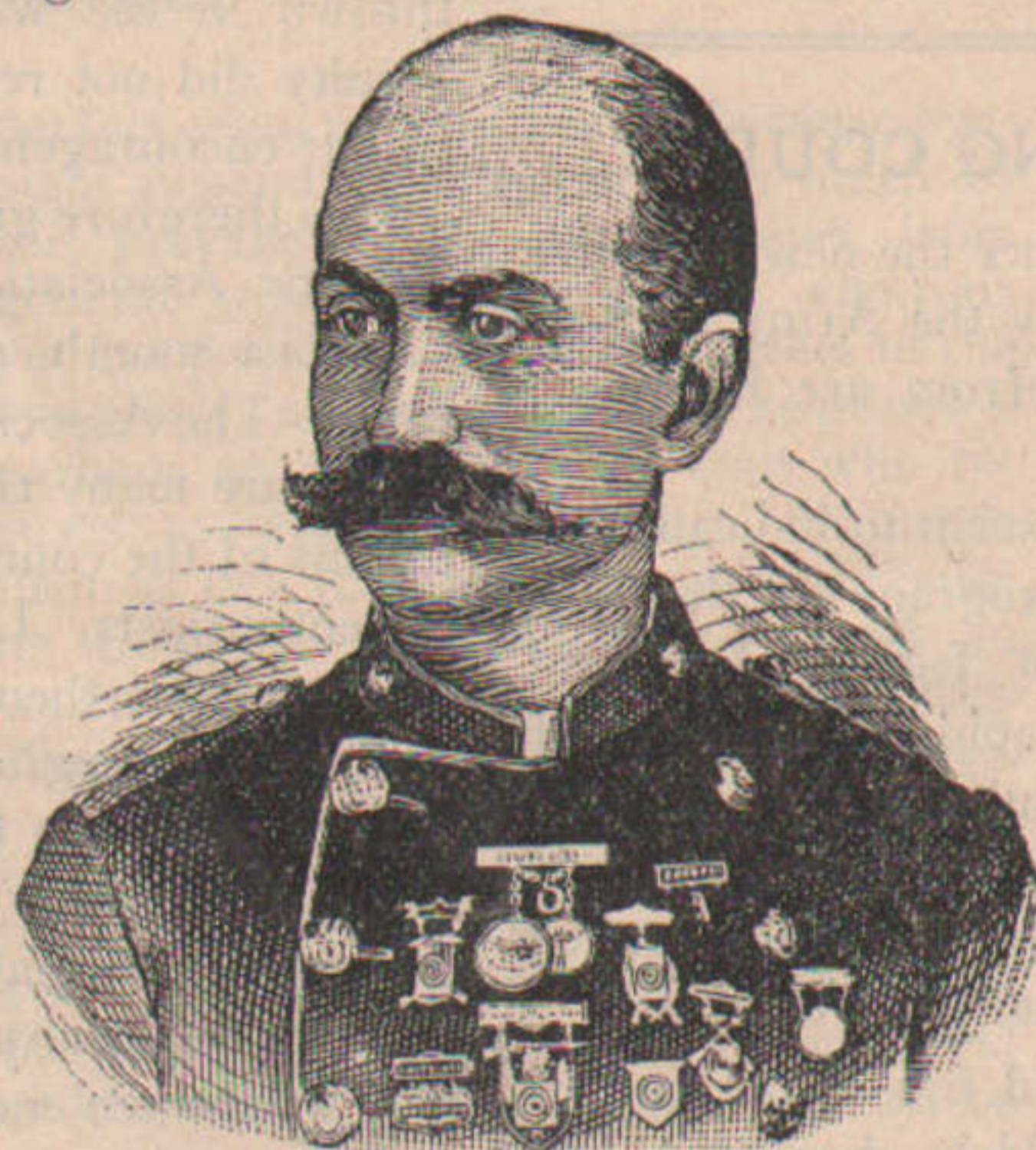
Private Milan Bull did not possess the athletic physique that aided many of the early civilian shots in their victories. He nevertheless was extremely active, and was able to handle his ungainly military musket with a skill and grace unequalled by many champion shots with the match rifle.

The unusually excellent scores which Private Bull made on the Standard American, German Ring, and Massachusetts targets are sufficient proof that his lack of bone and brawn was no great handicap and that his method of holding the heavy "Forty-five Seventy" could hardly be improved upon.

In shooting the Springfield, Bull always stood with his right foot to the rear of his left, settling the weight of his body on his right leg and pressing the butt of his rifle firmly against his right shoulder. He grasped tightly at the grip with the right hand, all the strength exerted in holding being in bracing the right limb. The thumb of the hand was carried as far forward as possible and the rifle then permitted to settle on the fingers of the left hand: the forestock of the rifle just in front of

the trigger guard was rested upon the tips of the first, second and third fingers of the left hand, the thumb of the same being brought just behind the trigger guard and touching the second finger of the right hand. The left arm, from the shoulder to the elbow, received a slight support from the body.

When Milan Bull won the military championship of the United States by carrying off first honors in the President's Match of the National Rifle Association Program at Creedmoor, September 15, 1886, he pitted his skill against some of the best shots in the



Milan W. Bull

(From an old cut)

country, among them Freeman Bull and T. J. Dolan. In those days the President's Match was in some ways different from the one as now staged. The conditions called for seven shots each at 200 and 500 yards, these distances comprising the first stage of the match and was open to all members of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps of the United States and the National Guard of any State. All prize winners in the first stage could compete in the second stage, which called for ten shots at 600 yards. Remington State Model Rifles and the Springfield .45 calibre three-groove musket chambered for the 2 1/10 inch shell only could be used. Bull, shooting the Springfield rifle took second place in the first stage of the match. In the second stage, however, he made high score, 44 out of a possible 50, and was declared military champion of the United States.

One of the best exhibitions of Milan Bull's skill is found in the results of a try-out in which he participated when the International Rifle Team was being

picked at Creedmoor in May, 1886. On that occasion, together with two other well-known shots from Springfield, Massachusetts, he went to Creedmoor and entered the competition. They brought rifles of the Springfield pattern with old style sights. In addition to this handicap, Bull was suffering from a crushed thumb which not only pained him greatly, but forced him to take an inconvenient shooting position. The weather conditions on the first day of the competition were such as were often experienced at Creedmoor, hot and dry and accompanied by an erratic wind. Bull did not show up well at the longer ranges, and becoming distrustful of the qualities of his rifle he borrowed a Brown rifle to use during the second day in the competition, when he finished second. During the remainder of the competition Bull shot unusually well, and in spite of the handicap of the first day, he finished among the three highest scores, having made among other good records 33 out of 35 at 800 yards, 33 out of 35 at 900 yards, 33 out of 35 at 600 yards, and 34 out of 35 at 500 yards. A month later when the team was practicing at the 1000-yard range he opened with a four, and then ran six bull's-eyes, scoring 34 out of a possible 35 at this distance.

On October 18, 1886, at the State shoot at South Framingham, Massachusetts, he won first prize in the Soldier's Match on 43 out of a possible 50, this shooting being done with a Springfield rifle with old style sights.

At the tournament of the Springfield Schuetzen Verein in July, 1886, Bull won the first prize in the Individual Military Match with one score of 23 and two of 24, three scores to count, making a total of 71 out of a possible 75.

Dummy airplanes, suspended from a cross-bar secured to the trunk of a tall tree are used by the French airmen as practice targets. The wind blowing the tiny planes gives them a natural motion, and provides a mark which is not too easy.

The flaming projectiles which were used by the British at Messines Ridge are said to have been high power shells, charged with gasoline which ignited on impact. An American patent for a shell of this character provides for a chamber containing high explosive powder directly back of the solid nose of the shell and directly in front of a firing torch. Around this torch the charge of gasoline is placed.

Among the freak weapons which have been recently patented is a 7-shot watch revolver. The trigger slide along the stem is hollowed out to form the barrel. The cartridges are contained in a magazine small enough to fit inside the "watch case."

# ARMS AND THE MAN

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EVERY SATURDAY

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That the man shall serve his country in time of war is noble, brave and patriotic; but that a man shall properly prepare himself in time of peace to serve in war is all of these things and more. It is noble with a nobility which is real, not ideal. It is brave with a bravery which assumes in time of unemotional peace many burdens, among them that of bearing the lack of appreciation of those who do not consider military preparation or training necessary.

## THE INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSE

NOW that three months have elapsed since the new intensive marksmanship course was adopted by the Army, reports which indicate the results obtained therefrom are beginning to be heard from camps and cantonments.

The reports, unofficial of course, would seem to indicate that the high hopes entertained when this program of fire was ratified have not materialized to any great degree. Designed to provide a system of *rapid* training in rapid fire for men of little or no previous instruction, and to popularize the rifle with the men, the new course has, if anything, proved an obstacle to the very ends for which it was drawn, and has discouraged rather than encouraged most amateurs who have tried it.

Military shots agree that accurate rapid fire is the end to which the training of the new army should be directed. The old army course, while embodying rapid-fire features, it must be admitted has not been potent in developing large numbers of rapid-fire marksmen among the general run of enlisted men. Yet, although the new course was based upon rapid fire from typical trenches with bayonets fixed, it seems to have presented more obstacles to the new recruit than the old course, without any material increase in the percentage of trained men.

For one thing, the recruit, under the new course, is called upon to show a proficiency in rapid fire with little previous firing-line preparation, in addition to what knowledge he has been able to gain from practice with mechanical aiming and firing devices. Even "old stagers" at the shooting game who have tried out the course have not been able to make any exceptional showing.

If the new course is to prevail, army officers should not regard it as a medium for rapid training. Proficiency in rapid fire is largely a matter of constant practice *after the marksman has learned to shoot well slowly*. It would therefore seem that the new course should be prefaced with much more slow-fire practice than it is at present, or that the new course should be made more attractive, in order to encourage the men to put forth their best efforts.

In connection with this there is another feature of the new course which should receive attention. When a man qualifies under the old course, he is rated as a marksman, a sharpshooter

or an expert rifleman, and is granted a decoration as a reward for his proficiency. Incidentally, an increase in pay accompanies the decoration. Under the new course no decorations are granted, and the man who makes the required number of hits receives no more consideration than the totally untrained enlisted man who is assigned to kitchen police because he cannot master the intricacies of rifle shooting.

This is manifestly wrong. Interest in rifle practice should be stimulated, and a proper recognition of a man's ability to place his shots should be provided for, at least in ratings and decorations.

## MARKSMANSHIP AS AN INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT

FOR several years past rifle shooting has been indulged in by the student bodies of many schools and colleges. In some of these institutions it was recognized as a sport, and as such encouraged. In others, while no particular obstacles were thrown in the way of the organization of rifle teams, the faculty did not recognize marksmanship, and gave it no particular encouragement.

It is therefore gratifying to learn that the National Collegiate Athletic Association, at its annual convention in New York City last month, adopted rifle shooting as an inter-collegiate sport. The Association should be congratulated upon its action. There are many rifle clubs scattered through educational institutions of the country. The members of these clubs are shooting enthusiasts. Leagues have been formed among the colleges and many of them participate annually in the National Rifle Association program. But heretofore there has been no precedent to guide the faculty of a school in determining the status of marksmanship as a sport, and the stand taken by the National Collegiate Athletic Association will do much to clarify the atmosphere, as well as to justify every college in giving as much encouragement to its riflemen as to its football, baseball and basket-ball players.

The action of the Athletic Association is due to Prof. W. P. Reeves, of Kenyon College, who proposed the resolution. An interesting fact in connection with the deliberations of the Association on the matter of rifle shooting is that grenade throwing and bayonet fighting may soon be made the basis of athletic contests which will also be recognized in the inter-collegiate program.

## THE "U. S." ON THE COLLAR

THE sort of spirit which prompted a correspondent, concealing his identity under the signature "Young Officer, Old Army," to write to the *Army and Navy Journal* what he did in reply to a suggestion that the army of the future should be officered by men who made good, regardless of whether they came from civil life, the National Guard or the regular establishment, and that all should wear "U. S." on their collars, will never result in any good to the service. In expressing an opinion as to why officers of the National Army and the Reserve Corps should be distinguished from those of the regular establishment, he said:

"The U. S. on our collar has a brilliant past and a promising future, and we who wear it are not a little jealous of it. We elected to devote our lives to its service, and we select with care those whom we wish to be associated with us in our life



work. And I would further suggest that we did not invite ourselves into the U. S. Army, as the Captain attempts to do, but were invited by the army after we had been thoroughly examined—mentally, physically and socially."

It is far from likely that any such sentiment as this exists in the minds of the majority of army officers—especially those who have the good of the service at heart deep enough to realize that while mental, physical and social qualifications are highly desirable, all other things being equal, the real test of a man's qualities lies in whether or not he is fitted for real soldiering, without regard to dress parades and barrack teas.

Most officers of the Regular Army will admit that the man who can intelligently lead troops, or competently take care of

any of the hundred other details which now fall to the lot of the commissioned officer, in field or at staff headquarters, can be of service to the country whether he comes from West Point, from other branches of the service, or from civil life.

Most of them also are willing to admit that if a man is qualified to fight for his country in time of stress, risking his life on the field of battle, or giving up a lucrative profession to take a routine but necessary post, that all honor is due him.

There have been too many ill-considered and almost priggish utterances such as those which appeared over the *camouflage* of "Young Officer, Old Army." It is time for the Regular Army officers themselves, by frowning upon such sentiments, to put a stop to them.

## The Sportsman's Eyes

By L. E. EUBANKS

WORDS are wholly inadequate when we try to state the value of eyesight. None of the other special senses means so much to us; nothing but life itself is more vitally important. And no man is so careless or ignorant as not to appreciate this. Then why is it that so many of us neglect and abuse our eyes? Why is it that there are two and a half million blind persons in this beautiful world? Why is it that 300,000 persons in the United States alone wear glasses? You don't know? Well, neither do I; except that we do not think. Most of us know the rudiments of eye hygiene, but we wait till something has already happened before we put our knowledge into practice.

As sportsmen, readers of this magazine know the value of "eyes that see." Not only the pleasure, but the profit and instruction of an outing, come from what we see and observe. (These words are not always synonymous, since he who sees does not always *observe*.) Shooting, looking long distances for small objects, the glare of the snow or water in the sun, and dust, are all more or less hard on the eyes; and when sight difficulties develop, away go success and pleasure.

It certainly pays a shooter to care particularly for his eyes. Gun men come from every walk of life, and many bring to the sport eyes that have been injured by their work. Daily application to eye-straining work makes regular care imperative if one desires a good score at the traps or a full bag in the field. When human eyes years ago complained at a light of eight candle power, what can we expect from the high-power lights of today, when 3,000 candle power illuminants are not at all uncommon!

The first thing is to lessen the strain as much as possible, by remedying injurious conditions of your work and work-room. Immediately, start in to

perfect your general health, because eyesight depends greatly on this; much of the prevalent poor sight comes from general weakness. If one is vigorous yet has poor eyes, there is a defect in the eye itself, and an oculist is required—perhaps an optician. The man who refuses to wear glasses when he needs them is like the sportsman who, because he thought it effeminate, refused to warm his feet with a hot-water bag. That man died as a result of exposure.

After a day's shooting, or fishing, and especially after facing the wind and dust, there is nothing better for the eyes than a hot bath with an eye-cup. Dissolve a teaspoonful of boric acid in a small glass of hot water. If you lie down it can be squeezed into the eye with a sponge or small cloth, but an eye-cup is far preferable, and costs but a trifle. Have the water as hot as can be comfortably borne, hold the head well back, and roll the eye about in it, opening and closing many times. Cold water with a dash of salt dissolved in it, used similarly, makes a fine morning treatment for the eyes; and you can feel its tonic effect during the whole day's sport.

Another treatment that, like the salt water, is well adapted to the use of woodsmen, campers, etc., is the tea-leaves bandage. Every camper takes tea along, and if his eyes get sore, tired or inflamed he could do nothing better than to tie on a hot poultice of this kind for the night. These remedies are very simple, but none the less effective for that; if one cares to he can see that his first-aid kit contains ingredients for the following excellent eye bath: 10 grains of boric acid, 5 grains of tannic acid and 1 drachm of camphor-water, with enough ordinary water to total one ounce.

In some countries where the people live outdoors, glasses are unknown. Explorers say that one reason is the custom of diving and swimming with eyes open. With some peoples, it is a part of re-

ligious services to immerse the face in cold water and open and shut the eyes, that these organs may be thoroughly bathed. Remember, then, the value of the eye-bath; if you have nothing in camp but water, you can do much with it alone. Alternate hot and cold applications of water strengthen the circulation and muscles of the eyes.

The coon-hunter who "rubbers" up into a tree is not alone in the misfortune of getting "something in the eye." If a fellow is alone when this happens, he must depend on his own efforts, and if he is not careful he will injure the eye. Rubbing it only makes matters worse; may even imbed the object if it is sharp-edged. Rubbing the other eye a bit sometimes does good; both water, and the offending particle may be washed out. Parting the upper and lower lids with the thumb and finger is sometimes effective, by causing a rush of tears. Rolling the upper lid back on a pencil enables one to search his own eye. He should have a small mirror and a soft, clean handkerchief.

Tinted glasses should be a part of every outer's equipment. The fellow who subjects unprotected eyes to the sun's glare on snow day after day is taking serious risks. Most "any old kind" of smoked glasses is better than none; light coloring is usually sufficient. Rubber automobile goggles are good; but perhaps the best thing of the kind is the metal "lattice-work" spectacles used by the Eskimos.

Binoculars or field glasses save a hunter's eyes, if he is only wise enough to form the habit of using them for distance work. Six- or eight-power binoculars are usually very satisfactory for hunting purposes. As one sportsman said, you can see the whiskers on a bird at 30 yards with this glass, or distinguish a rabbit from a rock at several hundred yards' distance.

A submarine with a detachable superstructure has been patented by a Spaniard. If the hull of the submarine is struck by gunfire and sinks, the crew simply enter the detachable compartment, release it and rise to the surface.

## THE PASSING OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

(Continued from page 304)

The board continued in existence until the passage of the national defense act, June 3, 1916, which abolished it and made provision for the attachment of two National Guard officers for duty in the newly established Militia Bureau, presided over by a general officer under the immediate supervision of the Secretary of War, and which was to take the place of both the former Division of Militia Affairs and the Militia Board as well.

The War Department militia office grew in size and importance until 1908, when it was duly organized as a separate division in the War Department in charge of a commissioned officer of field rank. From that time on the militia business before the War Department increased so steadily that it was not long before the Division of Militia Affairs, with many added desks, was placed outside of the War Department building proper in a specially rented building of its own. Subsequently, the increase in volume of militia business steadily went on until the War Department militia office was necessarily turned into a separate and distinct bureau, whose affairs are directed by a brigadier general, an ex-officio member of the General Staff of the Army, assisted by 15 commissioned officers, in rank varying from colonel to captain, and with a corps of 46 clerks.

Undoubtedly the militia act of 1903 opened up many new ways for initiative Federal action, of which it is believed the War Department took full advantage, keeping in mind at all times the policy of help and guidance of the Organized Militia along lines of improved efficiency. Prior to 1903, it must be remembered, the militia, then unorganized except in the smaller independent units, consisted of over 1,600 independent company organizations, each of which had become accustomed to recognizing no authority except that of its own immediate commander. Gradually, however, these independent units consented to be yoked together for team work in battalions, regiments, and brigades, and ultimately the plan was developed to compose them into separate tactical divisions.

The report of this Bureau (then known as the Division of Militia Affairs) in 1913 vigorously reviewed the importance of the tactical divisional scheme of militia organization, declaring that "until practical men with an understanding of conditions surrounding the service and maintenance of the organized militia in time of peace, with an appreciation of the magnitude of the problem of organizing and equipping citizen soldiers for war, and a realization of the absolute necessity of creating real, actual, higher

organizations, are enabled to devote themselves exclusively to the work, the present divisions can never be anything more than mere paper organizations."

Under the divisional plan, it was designed to divide the country into geographical districts, embracing selected States whose organized militia would naturally form a part of the tactical division contained in that divisional area.

This was the largest and most comprehensive scheme inaugurated by this bureau for the betterment of the organized militia. In order to carry it into effect, it became necessary, from an assumed point of elevation and efficiency, to look downward to imperfections existing in the smallest unit and then, counting on improvement upward, to prepare the entire militia establishment for its new responsibilities.

It was soon discovered, however, that on account of organizational defects resulting from the excessive organization of infantry (which, being the cheapest and easiest organization to maintain, naturally was always the most popular in the States) and the lack of needed auxiliary troops, the divisional plan of organization could not be quickly perfected.

Preparation for it, however, bore excellent fruit. The governors of States, to whom the matter was submitted for examination and approval, gave their hearty cooperation to the proposed scheme. Finally, in August, 1913, Circular No. 8 was issued by the Division of Militia Affairs. This document stands next in importance to the organic Organized Militia act, and unquestionably achieved most gratifying results. In every State, more conscientious, better, and in fact, stricter compliance with the law was to be required under that circular order. And, as was pointed out in the report of 1913, unless the smaller units were properly organized, it was manifestly impossible, when those smaller units were consolidated and organized into larger ones, ever to secure a correct organization of the next higher units.

(To be concluded)

### NOTICE TO READERS

Congestion of second-class mail in Washington is causing delay in the delivery of ARMS AND THE MAN.

Under the war-time conditions which exist in the nation's capital, this delay cannot be remedied at the present time.

The management of ARMS AND THE MAN therefore requests subscribers to wait a reasonable length of time when the paper is overdue before writing to this office for extra copies.

## AMMUNITION FOUND DEFECTIVE IN 1871

Not so very many months ago, the discovery that a part of the ammunition supply of the United States Army was markedly defective caused considerable of a stir in military circles. Fortunately those lots suspected of being faulty were recalled before American soldiers were forced to depend upon them in action.

Such has not always been the case, however, inasmuch as the only way to discover whether a cartridge is good or bad, without tearing it apart, is to attempt to fire it.

In 1871, when a part of the Asiatic fleet was sent to destroy the Korean forts which protected Seoul, the Marines engaged in the expedition discovered after entering a fight that 25 per cent of the ammunition supplied for their Springfield and Remington rifles was defective.

The details of the matter, interesting merely because of the recent discovery that some 1906 model ammunition had "gone bad," were reported to the Navy Department by Captain McLane Tilton, who was in command of the Soldiers of the Sea. In his report, he said:

"I trust that it will not be considered out of place to mention that I picked up from the field great numbers of copper shell cartridges, unexploded although the shells bore evidence of having been well struck by firing pins.

"Upon firing the heads of some of these shells, so as to expose the tinned cup holding the fulminate, I found the appearance of oxidation around the cavity holding the fulminate, and on the inside of several cases, I found the tinned surface of the cup entirely gone, and one-sixteenth of an inch of what looked like rust of iron filling the bottom of the cup. Upon inquiry I found that the men complained of the cartridges packed in paper boxes, while no complaint was heard from those who had been furnished with cartridges packed in wooden boxes.

"From the great number of unexploded cartridges I saw on the field, although having a deep indentation on their heads from firing pins, I am led to think that it will be dangerous to trust any of the cartridges in the fleet packed in paper boxes and marked 'Frankford Arsenal, 1869.' I believe that at least 25 per cent of them are utterly worthless.

"I would respectfully suggest that this fixed ammunition be thoroughly tested and the good separated from the worthless. For curiosity I obtained an unopened box of each kind, and with a Remington carbine, fired them with the following results: Not a single cartridge packed in the wooden box failed to explode and not one re-

# OFFICERS AND MEN

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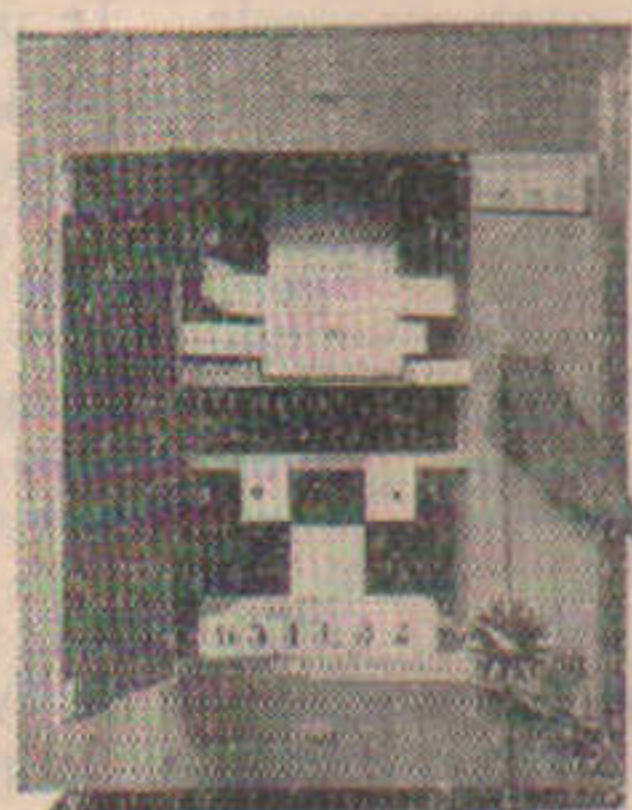
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quired to be struck a second time. Fifty per cent of those packed in the paper box failed altogether. Several of those that did explode required to be struck twice, and in two instances even three blows were struck before explosion, showing that the sensitiveness of the fulminate had deteriorated, probably from some galvanic action."

Much is being heard of the "death traps" which the Hun sets in evacuated trenches to kill or maim the Allied fighters. One of the most diabolical of these devices is that known as the "Booby trap." This consists of a dummy soldier, the body of which contains a large amount of high explosive. If the dummy is shot into, stabbed with a bayonet, or toppled over the explosive is detonated.

As a protection to snipers, the suggestion has been made to place dummy soldiers constructed of paper mache near the sharpshooters on the firing line, and thereby draw the enemy fire to the lay figure. Tests made with these lay figures prove conclusively that it is difficult to detect the subterfuge even at short ranges.

## THE MACHINE GUN OF THE FUTURE

The machine gun or rifle of the future will differ in many ways from the present types. The most important difference will be in the absence of the cartridge case in the ammunition and the consequent reduction to its necessary essentials—bullet, combustible, and ignitor. This is in truth going back to the days of the Sharp Carbine, the Needle-Gun, and the Chassepot.

There are reasons for such a change. One of the most important is that with the present rapidity of fire the elimination of the cartridge case will affect a very great reduction in weight, if not bulk, and in cost, of the ammunition. It will simplify the repeating and complicate the firing mechanism. The saving in the weight of the ammunition will be more than half, the saving in the cost more or less the same, but at the expense of a more complicated mechanism, which after all, is the first cost.

The reason why such a change can eventually be worked out is because of the tremendous strides which have been made in metallurgy in the last twenty-five years. Metals little heard of not many years ago have leaped into prominence because of their alloying properties. Others having qualities anticipated by Mendelejeff have been discovered and, today, the inventor or manufacturer has at his disposal a fund of information, a wealth of experience, and a selection of elements with which almost any metallurgical or mechanical problem in the design of such a gun may be solved.

Inventors have busied themselves in perfecting the present type of gun using the small-arm cartridge. With the enormous quantities of ammunition required, the problems of its manufacture and delivery in the field have increased in proportion and as a general solution, the development of an automatic gun requiring only bullet, powder, and ignitor, would seem to be the desired result.

A. T. WARD.

### DESCRIBES NEW BRITISH CRAFT

The first description of the new British war vessel known as the "hush boat" was recently printed in the *Paris Temps*. M. A. Rousseau, who after a visit to the grand fleet was permitted to write his experiences, said:

"We were passing," writes M. Rousseau, "in front of ships of unusual aspect, specially constructed craft for war purposes: monitors, trawlers, and the like. Certain of these vessels caught our attention, especially by their outline and dimensions. They were very long, with immense decks fore and aft. They appeared to lie low on the water. Perhaps this was an optical effect produced by their length. They have two tripod masts, the first of which carries tops apparently armored, and in the middle of the vessel rises a very squat central castle, at the extremities of which are the heavy artillery turrets—turrets for two guns of the biggest caliber. The secondary artillery, the caliber of which is the same on all vessels of the same type, is at the limit of the average and small artillery. The stem of these craft is tapered, more like the bow of a yacht than that of a battleship. The shape of the stem has certainly been determined in order to realize very high speed and, as a matter of fact, these vessels are very swift, much fleetier than the fleetest of pre-war cruisers.

"These craft—we may call them battle cruisers—are of two types, or, rather, of two dimensions, for their elements of power are, we believe, the same, except as regards protection. As for speed, it is as high on the small as on the big craft, the radius of action having to be the same; and the armament, if it differs in number, is the same as regards caliber of the principal and secondary artillery. These vessels have been created since the war. I say created, because it was stated to me that they were inspired by the lessons of the war. They were begun in 1915, and have been twelve months in service—an admirable result of the organization of labor in the British dockyards.

"We were received on board two of these vessels. We visited the fighting quarters—blockhouse, lookout station for submarines, a turret with its enormous guns which fire two shots a minute and which, according to the Germans, weigh ninety tons and throw a 885-kilo (1,947-pound) shell. Everything is organized to have the fire control in one and the same hand, and the laying by one and the same eye. The system invented by Admiral Sir Percy Scott a few years ago has made great progress. The heavy artillery and the secondary artillery are no longer autonomous; everything acts under one and the same directions, and if the guns have a fuse fired in the turret

itself, they have another electric one operated from a central station. It is a truly remarkable system and one which, beyond all doubt, has produced highly satisfactory results. Its installation on the new ships shows that it has stood the test."

### TO DUPLICATE FRENCH FIELD GUNS

All new American field guns are to be similar in calibre to the French "75's," which have been so much discussed since the war began, according to the report of the Chief of Ordnance. The French semi-automatic breech mechanism also has been adopted in modified form, so that American and French batteries in France can be served from the same ammunition factories.

Anti-aircraft guns of the "75" type also have been adopted. Both these and the machine guns are under manufacture in quantity, the report says. A considerable number of the anti-aircraft guns for mounting on motor trucks also had been ordered.

The report shows that 3.8-inch and 6-inch howitzers, the guns principally used for barrage work in trench fighting, were designed and ready for manufacture on June 30. General Crozier expresses appreciation of the co-operation of French and British ordnance experts in turning out these guns.

The production of large-calibre mobile artillery—that is, weapons of the type of the German 42-centimeter guns—appears to be the chief source of delay in the Army's equipment. General Crozier says a process of supplying our troops with these guns "necessarily will be slow and disappointing, although every advantage has been taken of the assistance secured from abroad."

### PROPOSES LEGION OF HONOR

The creation of an American "Legion of Honor," to carry with it a cross of valor and a meritorious service decoration, is contemplated in the terms of a joint resolution which has been offered in Congress by Senator Owen. The resolution also seeks to permit officers, employees, and citizens of the United States to receive and wear war decorations tendered to them by any of the nations now engaged in war with the present government of Germany.

In this connection Senator Owen said: "Mr. President, the old rule of the United States forbidding officers of the United States to receive decorations was because they were almost universally given by autocracies, but there is no reason why the democracies of the world should not give decorations to their soldiers who render important services to the democracies; there is every sound reason why we should do special honor

to those who merit it and to permit them to enjoy the right to wear the evidence of valor, patriotism, and high service."

### KEEPING OF DIARIES DISCOURAGED

The danger which lies in the keeping of diaries by officers and enlisted men of our overseas forces has led the military authorities to discourage this practice as far as possible.

Diaries and notes of camp life, if permitted, will obviously be carried into the front-line trenches.

A good deal of valuable information has been obtained by the Allies since the war began from the diaries seized on the persons of German prisoners. Perhaps it was unwise to print the contents of some of these diaries, as has been done by both the English and the French, because that speedily gave the cue to the Germans that it was undesirable to permit the keeping of such records. It was one of the things evidently overlooked by the Germans, but the practice seems to have been quite common among the men, leading to the impression in some respects that the habit was encouraged by the authorities. At all events, the compilation of diaries, which must of necessity be kept on the person of the author, is not desirable, and the War Department has served official notice that everything should be done to discourage the practice.

### CLUB SHOOTING

(Concluded from page 306)

"exposed for three seconds and concealed for six." It may disappear in one second or five or not at all—one never knows! The only safe thing is to get the shot off in the shortest possible time, and pray that the target may still be up when the bullet gets there!

Here, then, are a few points for the club rifle shot to ponder over.

In its appeal to the farmers of the United States to raise more sheep to provide a greater supply of wool for soldiers the Department of Agriculture "drops into poetry" in this fashion:

"Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?"

"Yes, yes, master, three bags full;  
One for our soldiers and one for the French,

And one for the Tommies in the front-line trench."

Her son had enlisted, and she was a proud old woman as she harangued a knot of friends on the village street. "Jarge always done 'is duty by me, 'e did, an' now 'e's doin' 'is duty by king an' country," she said. "I feel right down sorry for them Germans, to think of 'im goin' into battle with 'is rifle in 'is 'and and 'It's a long way to Tipperary' on 'is lips."

"Poor Germans, indeed!" exclaimed one of the audience. "Pity's wasted on 'em! Pr'aps you 'aven't 'eard of their cruelties?" "Pr'aps I 'aven't," agreed the old lady. "An' pr'aps you 'aven't 'eard Jarge sing."—*Tid-Bits.*

# Off Hand From the Clubs

## First Hit Counts

By DR. GEORGE E. COOK

(National Pistol Champion)

THE interesting discussion on the relative merits of the .45 automatic that has been appearing in ARMS AND THE MAN from time to time induces me to burden my shooting brothers with a few supplementary conclusions.

The .45 automatic has appealed to me where one would wish to rain bullets on a number of charging enemies, especially where there is a warning preceding the mix-up at close quarters; also in the holding of any small fortified position, the facility with which loaded magazines can be inserted in succession, makes of this meritorious arm a miniature machine gun.

As to the functioning of the arm under good conditions, and when well oiled and clean, I can only say from my own experience and observation it appears to me perfectly wonderful. How it acts under abuse and misuse is something that only the most rigid tests in actual service under various military conditions can actually show.

A great deal is written about rapid-fire, and in military service it surely does count; but I wonder if in everyday life the average law-abiding citizen will be attacked by more than one or two antagonists at a time during his natural life, and under such circumstances, it would probably be the first shot he is able to deliver that would decide the issue in his favor.

Here in the East to carry a belt gun exposed even on ones own property would subject him to derision. Nevertheless when one lives in a lonely locality, on a farm perhaps, and wishes to inspect his buildings or stock at late hours, he feels a sense of comfort in toting a gun.

Such a weapon should combine safety, stopping power, and a facility to get going quick after drawing. With this end primarily in view, I experimented and tested pretty thoroughly several pocket revolvers and pocket automatics; but laid aside the former because I mistrust small calibers in tight places, and decided against the latter because I never felt easy carrying a loaded and cocked gun among my friends, children and relatives, and which at times of necessity pointed at my own person banged against furniture or occasionally was dropped.

Having seen chickens, guinea fowls, turkeys, and other fowl walk, fly, and run in a most embarrassing manner when shot clear through body with .38 caliber automatic bullets, I have been convinced that small metal jacketed bullets would not prove very effective under any conditions met in a hold up; also safetys might get rubbed or jostled to the "go point," and I have found it easy to fumble in manipulating safety and markedly delay getting into action when in a hurry.

I next experimented with the .45 automatic carrying it in various holsters under garments, and by no means that I tried could I get her going—One, two; it was rather one, two, three; sometimes four. In rushing things I found it difficult not to fire it off accidentally long before getting lined up. To carry it hammer down (the only absolutely safe way to carry it) to get going quick on a draw was very difficult for me, as the thumb had to be gotten over the hump above grip safety and then compress that satisfactorily; some feat when hustling, believe me. That popular Washingtonian, Mr. Claude Newman,

universally liked by those of us fortunate enough to make his acquaintance, and by the way one of the quickest men at getting a gun and getting her off I ever saw, told me he had experienced the same difficulties I had, and when trying to draw quick nearly put a bullet through his left foot on three different occasions. I also quite agree with Uncle Sam, "That the pistol should not be carried loaded and cocked" to be perfectly safe, and to do which renders the gun too slow to strike my fancy.

So troubled have I been at times over some of the so-called safety devices on automatic guns, that I have set for hours examining their various safety devices, even looking into them with a flash light to see how dependable the various engagements were under stress, and the amount of bight they had to resist jar or unintentional movements, and last but not least to offset possible wear or lateral looseness.

Therefore concluding, that the possibility of an accident was ever present and the possibility of needing to rip out 6 or 8 shots in one second would only occur about once in a thousand normal lifetimes, caused me to lay the automatics aside, admitting however their military advantages. I now concluded to try a Model 1908 S. & W. with a four inch barrel, taking the .44 S. & W. Special Cartridge. Ordinarily, I don't alter my guns, using them as issued; but as this was to be my companion and especial pet, I ground some of the various humps and sharp corners off the saw handle so it would be less prominent when carried under my clothing. The handle was now wrapped with a thin layer of tire tape, the trigger eased to 3 pounds, and the rear notch widened. After many experiments with various loads, I decided on 41/10 grain of bull's-eye and the 206 grain Anderton bullet. This gave a penetration of 4 1/4 to 7/8 inch soft pine boards, or the same as my .38 S. & W. perfected with full factory loads. I now sighted the gun in at 12 1/2 yards on U. S. R. A. target, and after considerable filing of the sights, in a perfect light, with no wind to contend with, I got a five shot group that cut one hole on the ten ring and all inside of the nine ring or on a five cent piece, if measured that way. Of course I shot several groups not nearly that good. I now tried it at 50 yards and succeeded in getting 90 on first 10 shots, 46 next five shots, all 15 shots on 8 inch black, and sighting apparently exactly as I did at 12 1/2 yards, using possibly a trifle coarser sight. Shooting the gun double action it would group high right just out of black. Next, at 100 yards, I fired a number of shots and averaged about 66 per cent. At 200 yards I fired at an eleven inch bull, and about three out of six shots would have hit a man's body. All shooting was done standing, arm extended, and sights without adjustment. I now tried the gun at rapid fire and found it functioned almost, if not quite, as my .38 S. & W. Special Military.

I am sure most of you have tried to get a gun quick from beneath your coat, vest, or sweater, and experienced a few difficulties before you could "come clean." Well, I had my kid say halt, thereupon I went for that gun, tore off a button or two getting it, and fumbled repeatedly midst peels of laughter from the youngster. However, I got her about as quick as I could have found my little .38 Perfected, and she felt as soft in double action and hung right where I first put her, as the recoil was nothing like so severe as the full factory .44 special load. With the same penetration as the S. & W. .38 this load should

show fifty per cent more stopping effect. In fact, I believe that one of them in right, you need not bother about the other fellow's rapid fire.

Repeatedly trying the gun single action and double action on first shot leads me to agree with our western friends that you can land first shot with a S. A. gun about as quick as any other way; but starting first shot double action, I could repeat quicker.

Possessing this arm gives one a sense of power not felt with a .38. I think, however, I shall run my load up to 4 1/4 grains of bull's-eye; but the mistake of an excessive load is you can't recover quickly enough to repeat with great speed. However, if you make the first one count you should not need to. I wish to add that the 44-40 Winchester bullet works splendidly in the .44 special shell, and I have loaded as much as eight grains of Dupont No. 3 by weight and she goes some too, and is fairly accurate enough for a hunting charge. This was with a hand moulded bullet about 1 to 16. I also used my Anderton 206 grain bullet in front of this load, getting slightly better accuracy and great ballistic effect, sufficient probably with which to stack up against quite large game; but I think this load unnecessarily powerful for human game.

### Sterling "Comes Back"

It may be paradoxical, but I took great pleasure in reading the remarks of Captain Roy F. Tinney, in his article entitled "Further Comments on the Automatic," wherein he proceeds to tear me limb from limb and throw me in the waste basket. I am glad to note, however, that his article is written in the language, though possibly not in the spirit, of the peaceful Quaker. It is always a pleasure to delve into an article of a "brother bug," especially when the bug in question is in a position to speak with authority.

My fellow bug has given four possible reasons for the action of the particular .45 Automatic of which I complained, one of which was "plain prejudice" and in regard to this I would like to state that as I only took up shooting when we entered the war, I hardly think that I have had time to form any prejudices in this very fascinating game.

As to awkwardness, another one of the four possible reasons, I might state that a possible score with the revolver and several of 99 would seem to attest that "An active and omnipresent jinx" has not followed me with the .38 revolver and .22 pistol.

The third reason, "poor ammunition," of course, might have caused the jamming of my weapon on the occasion in question and as, unfortunately for the sake of this argument, I did not load the ammunition, this point is debatable.

There is now only one of the four proffered explanations left and that is the chance of my case having been an isolated instance of a defective individual pistol. It is very possible that this may have been the case and it was, really, my first judgment of the incident, but, upon recounting my little tale of woe to the range attendant at our Club who has shot everything from the muzzle-loader down, both in the service and out, I was informed that many of the officers who frequent our range had complained of a similar experience and that in fact I was decidedly not among a despised minority.

I sincerely hope that my fellow bug is

right in his contentions as there are thousands of our good lads who will have to depend upon this automatic pistol, although I understand that Uncle Sam has decided to switch from these automatics to the .45 Colt and S. & W. revolver after having altered the latter to take the automatic ammunition in half-moon clips. It seems to be current gossip that the reason for the return of fellow bug's star witness to the revolver was the fact that it does jam so.

As to the automatic being so very "fool-proof" I would like to state, that although I am a newcomer in this game, I was not terribly surprised that it was with one of these very pistols that a gentleman, thoroughly familiar with firearms, retired from the service, shot himself while explaining to his friends what a wonderful weapon this new service automatic was.

There can be no question that the speed of the automatic is greater than that of the revolver, when it works properly, nor do I believe that there is any question that if any experienced shot were given the choice between a .45 automatic and a .45 revolver, for a friendly round for the cigars, there would be much hesitancy shown in making the choice in favor of the latter.

Another point I noticed about the particular automatics which came under my notice was that a number of the magazine clips would not feed properly and as a matter of fact out of sixty clips I returned about twelve to a leading ammunition house of this City and was told that it was not an unusual thing at all for these clips not to function properly.

Referring back to the question of awkwardness it would seem that it could have no bearing in the present instance as the evidence which fellow bug presented had to do with the ejection of a shell by the operator himself whereas the ejection of the shell in this instance is automatic, or at least should be. When the cartridge is once in its proper place and the trigger is pulled, no question of dexterity comes into the proposition.

I should be exceedingly glad if my esteemed fellow sportsman would still further thresh this matter out as it seems that he is in an exceptional position to give out authentic information. There are certainly hundreds of "lay-shooters" and officers who state that the new weapon does jam, notwithstanding the Government report issued some years ago, to the contrary, and there should be some way of determining if this is true, whether it is merely gossip, and if true, what the remedy for it should be.

I feel sure that all shooting enthusiasts would be only too glad to have these various points cleaned up and to know the reason why Uncle Sam has chosen to go back to the revolver after the contracts for the automatics which are now in force have been completed.

Very truly yours,  
MONTAIGU M. STERLING,  
New York City.

#### More About Uniforms

From all indications Capt. Roy S. Tinney, et al, have started the ball rolling on the Rifle Club Uniform proposition, and the writer for one is very glad to see it. I have read the article by Captain Tinney about three times and it sounds better each time. Then again the timely remarks by the Secretary of the Oakland California Club are again an indication that the seed has taken root.

By all means let us have that approved uniform. Somehow, somewhere I have a hazy recollection that shortly after the 1916 Annual Matches at Jacksonville, there was a committee appointed to design and report on a uniform for Civilian Rifle Clubs, but

(Continued on page 316)

## U. S. R. A. Column

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The President of the U. S. R. A. has requested ARMS AND THE MAN to co-operate with him in an endeavor to broaden the scope of that organization and to insure for it a progressive future.*

*In his efforts to do this, ARMS AND THE MAN is thoroughly in sympathy, and will be glad to accord space in its columns for full and free discussions of suggestions which come from members of the U. S. R. A.*

*This publication, however, cannot permit itself to become a vehicle for unpleasant personalities, and the editors reserve the right to exclude any communication which might come under this head.*

## The Possibilities of the U. S. R. A. To Render a National Service

By A. L. A. HIMMELWRIGHT

MUCH has been written during the past few weeks in the columns of ARMS AND THE MAN in criticism of the methods and conduct of the United States Revolver Association. Undoubtedly some of this is deserved, but I am sure the shortcomings are born of necessity more than incapacity or neglect.

The difficulty that the Association is struggling under is lack of sufficient funds to promulgate the good work and influence that the Association is capable of. With sufficient encouragement financially and otherwise from the Federal Government, the Association could be made an important factor in developing interest and skill in shooting. There are at the present time about 2,000 members scattered throughout the United States and its various territories and possessions, practically all of whom are first-rate shots and whose skill and knowledge of shooting could be utilized in interesting and instructing young men in the art of shooting.

It is much easier to interest the average young man in pistol and revolver shooting than in rifle shooting for the reason that a shorter range will answer the purpose, and these are always more readily available and less expensive to secure and maintain than rifle ranges. The arms can be carried in small grips and with more convenience to and from the galleries or ranges. The same fundamentals as to sighting, holding, pulling the trigger, etc., apply to both the pistol and the rifle, so that when a good shot is developed with the pistol, he becomes automatically a good rifle shot, requiring only to be familiarized with the mechanism and handling of the rifle.

In the winter months especially, when the outdoor rifle ranges are impracticable and too uncomfortable to make target practice an amusement, the indoor galleries and pistol ranges throughout the country could supply a full equivalent for this training under comfortable and pleasant conditions. Nothing popularizes a sport as much as when it is made attractive and entertaining.

The writer has been identified with the "shooting game" for over thirty years and has taken particular interest in the development of pistol and revolver shooting during this period. Long experience in teaching "the young idea how to shoot" has demonstrated that it is possible to develop a fair revolver shot in an average of three months' time by devoting two hours twice a week to practice under a competent instructor. By "a fair shot" in this case is meant sufficient skill to hit an object the size of a man with a regulation pistol or revolver at a distance of 100 feet four times out of five shots in fifteen seconds.

With this preliminary training and practice with the pistol, the average man with

an experienced coach should have no difficulty in qualifying as a marksman or sharpshooter in the prescribed course of rifle firing for infantry troops.

The practical advantage and moral effect of such average skill in shooting when the American troops go to the front, cannot be overestimated. The rifle and machine gun fire would be irresistible.

Unfortunately since the declaration of war against the German Empire, the revenues of the Association have dwindled to almost nothing. Many of the most enthusiastic members who have been its principal mainstay in the past, have accepted Federal service in some form or other, and many others have discontinued financial support of the U. S. R. A. and other organizations and used these funds for liberty bonds and other war needs.

The Association has secured less than half the usual number of paid up entries for the U. S. R. A. Indoor League Contest that has been an annual event during the winter months in the past, and the contest had to be started a month later than usual. This is a correct index of the waning financial support caused by war conditions; and yet this is the time of all times when the Association could and should wield its most potent influence and service to the Government. The only hope of realizing such activity in time to be effective, seems to be in a modest Federal appropriation.

I do not believe that there is open to the Federal Government a better opportunity to encourage interest and develop skill in shooting throughout the country, than by enlisting the service and influence of the U. S. R. A. for this purpose. With a comparatively small appropriation of, say, fifteen thousand dollars, an aggressive campaign could be inaugurated under an approved working plan by which the entire membership could be enlisted in the cause of the good work, and the wide distribution of the members would give it the importance of a national movement. I have personal knowledge that practically all the members are sufficiently patriotic to volunteer their services one or two nights a week or when off duty from their regular vocations, in furthering such a movement without expecting any financial compensation whatever. Every member is the nucleus of a new club so that with the small financial support stated, a work of vast importance could be inaugurated. U. S. R. A. members could also be utilized in this way to cooperate with the military authorities in instructing recruits, the new State Guard and Home Guard organizations, etc.

I hope the day is not far distant when magazine pistols of an improved type, will be part of the regular equipment of in-

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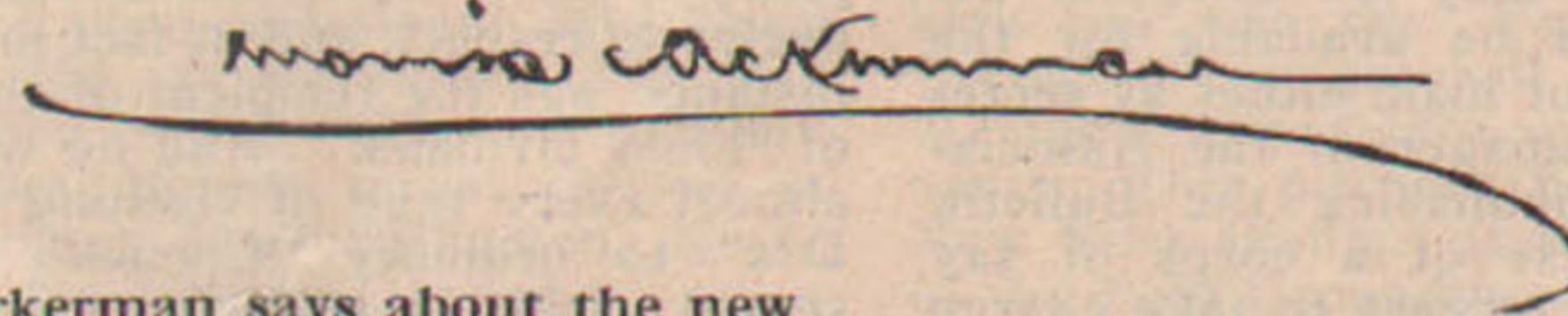
Gentlemen:-

I beg to state that I have returned home from a hunting trip in Quebec where I had an opportunity to use your new 22 long rifle cartridges.

These pills sure woke our guides and our hunting companion, Dr. E.F. Romig, of East Cleveland. The new 22s are the most shootiness little splints of lightning any of us had ever seen.

Please accept our endorsement of this new cartridge for field work. Dr. Romig is taking one hundred of them to try out at the range of the Cleveland Rifle Club, of which he is a member.

Sincerely Yours,



This is what Mr. Morris Ackerman says about the new

**(US)** .22 N. R. A. Outdoor Cartridge.

fantry troops including the engineer units. Average skill with these arms as herein described would render the bayonet obsolete and soon cure much of the enthusiasm for taking American prisoners.

Now as to conditions existing in the Association, the communication of Mr. C. C. Crossman, president of the U. S. R. A., has resulted in a frank and open discussion of the affairs of the Association, its needs and its possibilities. All this will have a beneficial result. There has been considerable criticism of the manner in which the business affairs of the Association are conducted. These complaints have been based on unexplained delays in answering correspondence, in publishing reports of matches and contests, and in the awarding of medals. One of the first principles of good and efficient management, is the prompt and courteous answer of inquiries and other correspondence. When this is neglected, complaint and dissatisfaction is sure to result.

As secretary-treasurer of the Association for five years shortly after its organization and as president of the Association for five years more, I feel that I have perhaps as intimate a knowledge of the details of the affairs of the Association and the problems and conditions it must contend with as any one connected with the Association except the present secretary-treasurer.

It is impossible, within the limits of a communication such as this must necessarily be, to go into any of the details of the conduct of the Association; but know-

ing the trials and difficulties of the secretary-treasurer's office, I do not hesitate to say that for the small allowance of \$1,000 for his services and clerical assistance which the Association is now appropriating annually, too much must not be expected. This appropriation covers very little more than clerical assistance and the time and attention the secretary-treasurer gives the Association's business—and it is very considerable now—is wholly a labor of love for the sport. When the writer served the Association in that capacity, there was no appropriation whatever, even for clerical help. After struggling for months to organize new clubs and patiently spending weeks in instructing them as well as possible by correspondence how to conduct the matches, after more weeks of delay in getting in the returns, there would be irregularities that had to be investigated in spite of all that had been written and explained. Scores shot irregularly had to be eliminated, entrance fees returned and the resulting local troubles straightened out—all by long-range correspondence. With several such new clubs scattered from Maine to California in each contest, and the necessity of getting *all* the returns straightened out before the medals could be awarded, involved delays that the average member could not account for. So, like Brother Crabtree, I kept "getting it in the neck" from the kickers who in due course got their medals just the same, and so with abiding faith and patience the good work went along.

If the Association had an executive organization and could send an official representative to each club to take charge of the matches, eliminate on the ground any irregularities (instead of having them reported to the secretary-treasurer in the form of a protest and requiring investigation as is the present practice, and involving much delay) and send the complete returns including financial settlements to the secretary-treasurer promptly at the close of the contests, the full reports could be published and the medals and prizes awarded in about the same time after the matches as in the case of the N. R. A. matches.

The possibilities of the Association in rendering most useful and needed service under the present war conditions, is now the matter of uppermost importance to be considered. The work of the Association in the past in stimulating and bringing together the pistol shots of the different parts of the country and its influence in improving and perfecting arms and ammunition as well as developing increased skill in the use of these weapons, is now past history, and is in my opinion, a remarkable achievement, considering that all has been accomplished without any special encouragement or financial aid from the military authorities or the federal government.

The objection to affiliation with the National Rifle Association in the past, has been due to the natural and proper tendency of the latter Association to give

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precedence and preponderant support to military shooting, and to permit shooting with special target arms and ammunition only as a side issue and as a sort of necessary evil. It is well known that most of the improvements in arms and ammunition have been brought about by experimental work of scientific riflemen and pistol shots, who have indulged their whims and given a free rein to their inventive genius through the instrumentality of target arms. It was just this feature of the shooting game that the U. S. R. A. has encouraged in the past with such gratifying results.

Now that we are under war conditions, I fully realize that the whole power and influence of the Association should be concentrated on what it can do to help the Federal Government, and I am heartily in accord with any practical plans that can be devised to that end and which can be presented and acted upon at the next annual meeting of the Association. I am in favor not of affiliating with the N. R. A., but of arranging a meeting between committees of the two associations with the object of working out a practical plan of cooperation. The objects of the two associations are fundamentally alike and there should be no difficulty whatever in working together in perfect harmony.

The main thing of course, is to have sufficient funds available to carry out any good working plan that may be adapted. At least \$15,000 should be available for the salary of a competent man, either as secretary-treasurer or manager of the Association, the cost of publishing the Bulletin monthly, the expense of a corps of say thirty-five executive officers to take charge of contests in different parts of the country, together with clerical help and other expenses. Such an appropriation with the proper cooperation of the military authorities or the Federal Government in encouraging the formation of new clubs and in issuing to them gratis under proper conditions, arms and ammunition that are no longer regulation for the service, would go a long way towards attracting a large membership and increasing the general interest in the shooting game that is now so vitally important.

Unfortunately a large percentage of the members of the Association have no conception of the character or amount of the work of the secretary-treasurer and flood his office with unnecessary and often senseless inquiries. Incredible as it may seem, right after every national contest—when the secretary is overwhelmed with the details of getting in and tabulating the returns from the various shooting centers, scoring the targets, and preparing his prize and medal lists—there are usually twenty to thirty letters daily asking when the medals and prizes will be distributed, when and where the full reports will be published, and often for advance information as to the standing of individuals or clubs. It should be perfectly obvious that no definite reply can be made to such inquiries until the full returns and lists have been compiled, and then of course they are immediately published. To interrupt the proper work of the secretary by useless correspondence at such times is an outrageous imposition, delays the publication of the results and the awards, besides entailing considerable unnecessary expense which the Association can so ill afford; and yet if all these inquiries are not promptly answered, "follow up" letters are received

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which become sarcastic and even abusive. And so the thorns in the side of the secretary multiply, but he must not "talk back" lest he antagonize half the membership.

### FROM THE CLUBS

(Concluded from page 314)

if that report was ever made it must have been censored severely, for it never has been published, and my opinion is that it never was "borned." The appearance of a large percentage of the civilian riflemen at Jacksonville in 1916 was certainly not conducive to respect, and in fact in at least one instance was the recipient of the appellation of "lousy civilians." And no wonder, when almost every type of clothing from "B. V. D.'s" to ordinary "Civvies" were represented, with absolutely no regular insignia to distinguish them from roustabouts from the docks. For heaven's sake let's not have another showing like that.

I, like Captain Tinney, would like to see the olive green material known as "Forestry Cloth" adopted. This may be secured from most any uniform manufacturer. I believe some type of blouse should be optional, but prefer the foot type of breeches. Leggings, leather or cloth, optional. O. D. shirt and regulation hat with the N. R. A. insignia worn in front the same as the Marine Corps emblem.

R. E. HERRICK,  
State Secretary for Idaho.

### INQUIRIES OF GENERAL INTEREST

In this column will appear excerpts from requests for information and for official interpretations, made to the National Rifle Association, the replies to which may be of a generally informative nature.

Q. When a club has only a 200-yard range, and is prevented from using the Militia Range for shooting at longer distances, is there any way in which its members can qualify in order to obtain ownership of its rifles?

A. If another 50 yards can be added to the club range, the members can do qualification shooting under the new small-bore outdoor qualification course. When a member qualifies under this course, the N. R. A. has ruled that he is entitled to his rifle.

Q. If a rifle club is requested by the local Home Guard Unit to affiliate, in-as-much-as it is understood that the government will fur-

nish arms and ammunition to such an organization while the rifle club privileges are suspended, what course should the club pursue?

A. Any assistance that a rifle club can give a Home Guard Unit should be rendered. The two organizations, however, should be kept distinct, since the government has never contemplated the consolidation of rifle clubs with Home Guards. Also the government has never offered to supply arms and ammunition to these units except when such a unit is actually performing guard duty, or the duties of a police force or constabulary. With the organization of the United States Guard under way in almost every State, it is more doubtful than ever that the government will supply rifles and cartridges to Home Guards. In addition to this, there is every likelihood that the free issue, or something to take its place, will be restored early in the present year.

Q. If the sheriff of a county deputizes rifle club members to act as a county guard, and gives official authority for these guards to bear arms, when called by him, should the rifle club members so selected be permitted to use the club rifles in the performance of such duty?

A. They should not. The rifles issued to a club are strictly club property, and as such should be used only for rifle practice. If any of the men mentioned have qualified and obtained individual title to a government rifle, this rule would not apply in that particular case.

Q. What is the accurate range of the .25-caliber autoloading rifle with pointed bullet, also with soft nose bullet? What is the effective range of the .22 autoloading rifle?

A. The accurate range of the .25-caliber autoloading rifle using pointed bullet is about 400 yards; with soft nose bullet around 300 yards. The effective range of the .22 autoloading rifle is approximately 150 yards.

Q. What is the most suitable weapon for a woman to practice with on a home-made range in a basement for shooting at 50 feet?

A. The favorite and probably the most sensible arm for a woman who wishes to become proficient with the pistol is the .22 single shot with target sights and a six-inch barrel. A .22-caliber revolver will also be found satisfactory. For the short distance at which you will shoot, the .22 short cartridge is best. With either of the arms mentioned and the .22 short cartridge, the shooting will be very pleasant and practicable.

### These Clubs Have Been Admitted to Membership in the National Rifle Association: CIVILIAN RIFLE CLUBS

#### Oklahoma

Ada Rifle Club—M. F. Manville, secretary; W. C. Williams, president; Oral C. Busby, vice-president; E. J. McKinney, treasurer; W. K. Chaney, executive officer. Membership, 45.

### SCHOOL CLUBS

#### Wyoming

Shoshoni School Rifle Club—John W. Shawver, secretary; Merton Miller, president; Lloyd Kimball, treasurer; Gerald Kimball, captain. Membership, 10.

#### Connecticut

Winsted Rifle Club—D. F. Alvord, secretary; Thurlow H. Bronson, president; Luther L. Chase, vice-president; Hallett F. Clark, treasurer; A. W. Hutton, executive officer. Membership, 45.



# Qualifying Scores Win Watch Fobs



**B**RONZE and silver-plated watch fob medals are offered by the N. R. A. for proficiency in indoor, small-bore shooting.

A score of 85 standing and 90 prone entitles the rifleman to the marksman's bronze decoration.

A score of 90 standing and 95 prone wins the sharpshooter's silver-plated decoration.

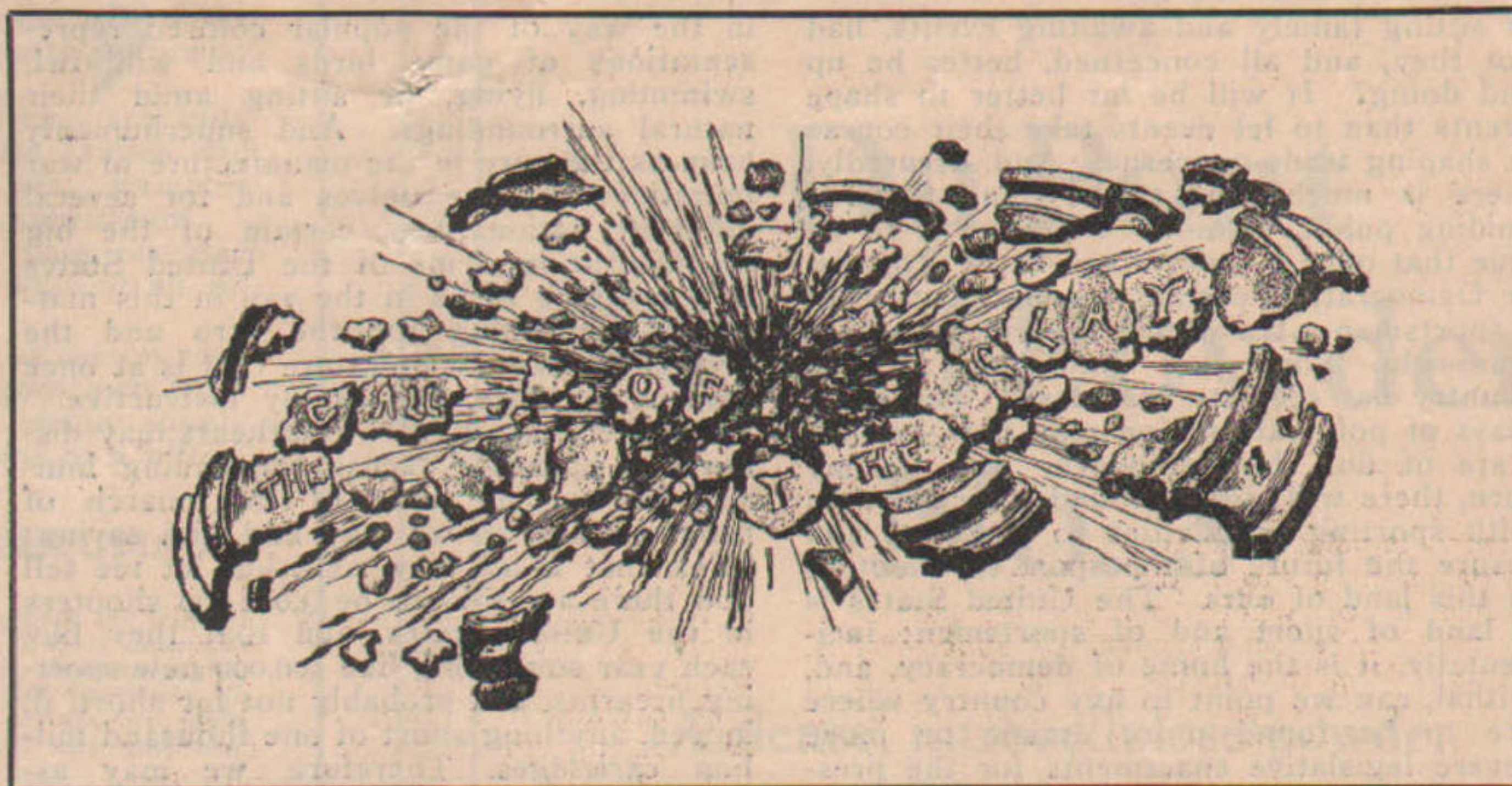
Ten shots are fired from each position, with a rifle weighing not more than 10 pounds and equipped with any sight which does not contain glass. The distances are 50 feet or 75 feet as desired.

The shooting must be done on registered targets which can be obtained at a cost of 20 cents for each target.

Address

**The Secretary of the  
National Rifle Association  
of America**

1108 Woodward Bldg., Washington, D. C.



## Great Trapshots Come From Small Communities

**T**HE best trapshooters hail from the smallest towns.

It is these trapshooters—as they say in sporting parlance—that put these towns on the map. This brings us face to face with the fact that the trapshooters who compiled the best averages in 1917 are from three very small towns.

William H. Heer, who is the high average amateur, hails from Guthrie, Okla. Guthrie lays credit to 11,000 souls. Lester S. German, high average professional, lays claim to Aberdeen, Md., as his home. Aberdeen has a population of 616. Clarence B. Platt, who is the best double target shooter in the world, comes from Bridgeton, N. J., which has a population of 13,000.

Trapshooting averages are compiled by the Interstate Association. To figure in the official yearly averages it is necessary for a trapshot to fire at 2,000 or more targets. The averages show that four amateurs and three professionals averaged better than 97 per cent, but neither Heer nor German touched the high-water figures made by Fred Harlow and Homer Clark in 1916.

Heer's winning of the amateur high average is the best proof that trapshooters do not "go back." Heer is a former professional. While a professional he was rated as one of the best. In 1910 he was the high average professional with the excellent percentage of .9775 and in 1913 he repeated with .9730. Heer at this juncture retired as a professional shooter. Having an average of better than 90, trapshooting rules forced him to remain out of competition three years before he could compete as an amateur. Three years away from the traps and then he comes back and demonstrates that he is still one of the best trapshots in the world.

Woolfolk Henderson, of Lexington, Ky., was second to Heer, and for the third year in succession he averaged better than 97 per cent. For the past five years he has bettered 96. Fred Harlow, of Newark, O., the 1916 winner, was third, with .9729. Mark Arie, who did such remarkable shooting at the Grand American Handicap, did not qualify, as he failed to shoot at 2,000 targets. The same fate befell Mrs. Adolph Topperwein, the woman professional. She was only 100 targets shy of the required mark.

For many years Lester German has been endeavoring to prove that he is the best average shot in America, but not until the past season did he climb to the top of the

ladder. German averaged .9764 and shot at more than 6,000 targets. Heer in 1910 and Clark in 1916 are the only two shooters who excelled German's figures. Clark's record of 98 per cent will stand a lot of wear and tear. Lester Reid, of Seattle, Wash., and Bart Lewis, of Auburn, Ill., both shot better than 97 average.

German in making his record had 41 runs of 50 straight, or better, of which 29 were better than 75 and 19 better than 100. His high run was 180. Years and years ago German was a baseball pitcher and twirled Memphis into two Southern League pennants. This pitching brought him to the New York Giants. It was while a member of the Polo Grounds outfit that he took up trapshooting. In his baseball days German weighed 150—now he tips the beam at 250.

Clarence B. Platt, of Bridgeton, N. J., averaged .9307 at 130 doubles. Two others—C. M. Powers and Frank Troeh—averaged better than 90. Platt is the New Jersey champion at single targets and the world's champion at doubles.

### Future of Sporting Gunnery

Among our ammunition and gun manufacturers there would appear to be considerable doubt as to the outlook in respect of the future conditions of the sport of shooting. I feel sure that any opinion I might be inclined to advance on the subject of trade matters would have infinitesimal value in the eyes of these manufacturers if I approached it from the trade standpoint. I am not a man of commerce, and I feel that my commercial instincts, albeit in process of evolution, have not yet approached that stage known as full development. Therefore, it would be mere presumption on my part to write down any thoughts of my own concerning these matters save those arising from the sportsman's viewpoint. At first blush there would appear to be very few remarks to offer from that side, but a few moments' consideration reveals the assured fact that at the present time there may actually be more to advance regarding this matter from the sportsman's standpoint than from the tradesman's. After all, it is the sportsman who creates the demand for the sporting outfit, and it is the sporting public who will have the final word in the control of sport and all legislation affecting it. Some pessimistic manufacturers seem to fear the inroads of democratic sentiment in this country, and to regard that state of mind as fatal to the interest of sport. But instead

of sitting tamely and awaiting events, had not they, and all concerned, better be up and doing? It will be far better to shape events than to let events take their course in shaping trade concerns. And, assuredly, there is much now to be done towards guiding public opinion. I believe it to be true that once a sportsman—be he Royalist or Democrat, Imperialist or Socialist—ever a sportsman. He would, indeed, be a bold man who would say that sport in this country has seen its best days. The great mass of political opinion may now be in a state of flux, but whichever way it may turn, there will still be found sufficient men with sporting proclivities to carry on and insure the future of the sport of shooting in this land of ours. The United States is a land of sport and of sportsmen; incidentally, it is the home of democracy, and, withal, can we point to any country where are to be found more drastic or more severe legislative enactments for the preservation of game animals, game birds, and wildfowl, or where more enlightened interest is taken in the general upholding of sport? We, in England, it is true, are in like case as regards protective and other laws, but there is the difference that while in England such legislation, through the centralization of wealth and of population, has hitherto proved to be much to the benefit of the few, that legislation in America, through the centralization of money and of people, has bestowed more tangible benefits upon the masses. One effect of the war will probably be a greater segregation of the population of this country, with the result that increased advantage will be taken of the sporting facilities afforded within this vast Empire.

In my estimation we may reasonably anticipate two things as the result of the strenuous physical training to which the young male, and female, population of this country has been subjected owing to this long-drawn-out war. Tens of thousands of young men have been taken from the mind-and-body-cramping environment of drapery counters, office desks, and the like, to be given expanded lungs and hardened muscles wherewith to better enjoy the delights of a more natural life in the open air. Many of these will never return to the old indoor conditions, but will elect to live the healthy open-air life to be had in such perfect form in so many sections of the British Empire. So much for the first argument. The second is that the training received by millions of the youthful citizens of this country and Empire in the use of firearms will certainly lead to a greater habit in shooting. Men who have once become more or less expert in the handling of arms of precision will contrive, somehow or other, to continue the practice. Such practice will necessarily lead to an extended use of the shot gun as a more ready outlet for the qualification, wherever shooting with the rifle may not be expedient. Some Mr. Faintheart may say that there will not be shooting sufficient for all if the taste for shooting increases so greatly as I believe it may be made to do by the intelligent fostering of tastes in that direction. With regard to this last-named matter, much may be done in various directions; and I am hoping that it may be my agreeable task to afford tangible evidence in one direction of how this may in some measure be helped along by the publication of a further book on shooting some time in the coming year. Already we are in danger of dropping behind wide-awake Uncle Sam in the matter of sporting publications, for quite recently there have been issued some remarkably pleasing and highly useful additions to the educative sporting literature of the United States. Some of these have revealed the most astonishing possibilities

in the way of the popular colored representations of game birds and wildfowl, swimming, flying, or sitting amid their natural surroundings. And superhumanly busy as they are in the manufacture of war munitions for themselves and for several different nationalities, certain of the big manufacturing firms of the United States still continue to be in the van in this matter of publishing for the tyro and the veteran sportsman literature that is at once artistic, accurate, and highly instructive.

And here, again, Mr. Faintheart may discover a plausible excuse for finding himself left in the rear of this march of progress, and so we may find him saying: "Yes, that is all very well, but let me tell you there are said to be 3,000,000 shooters in the United States, and that they buy each year something like 500,000 new sporting firearms, and probably not far short, if, indeed, anything short of one thousand million cartridges. Therefore, we may assume that to cater for those millions of shooters is worth while; the great risk underlying any such present effort in this country being the possibility of the extensive socialization and general debasement of shooting which may take place here after the war." And so on, he will argue, instead of "getting down to it" and taking a strong hand in shaping public opinion, and through it, the future of the sport of shooting so long enjoyed by many so inclined; and which, I believe, may still be enjoyed by vastly superior numbers in the good days ahead of us.

And what would Mr. Faintheart say if I were to suggest to him the possibility of inducing the Government of this country to introduce measures and themselves to take in hand the rearing of game for the public weal? I might be regarded as a mild sort of a lunatic for my pains—and yet the State rearing of game in America is already being undertaken, I believe. And what would the Socialist say of this measure? If I may venture to express an opinion, it would be that this appears as a most truly socialistic procedure, if we regard Socialism from its purest, most unselfish, and only supportable viewpoint. It is too late now to touch upon another point coming within the purview of an article under the sub-heading above selected. But I might just add that with regard to the most popular of all our game birds, the outlook for permanent sport with the partridge in the future is distinctly promising. With so large an increase of land restored to cultivation partridges must increase in this country.—Henry Sharp, in *The Shooting Times and British Sportsman*.

## Scattering Shot

"Pull! Bang! Puff! Dead!"

"This," writes a magazine editor, "is the death song of the clay target, sung by the trapshooter whose alert, tense figure firmly grips his shotgun as he bites off the word that sends an involuntary thrill of expectancy through the crowd in front of a trapshooting clubhouse.

"The trap is tripped, a small saucer-shaped clay target streaks through the air at a pace that makes a Teal duck's flight resemble the lazy flapping of a crow.

"Like part of an automatic machine the gun jumps into action. It stiffens against the shooter's shoulder for a second like the index finger of an accusing hand, a flash and a report follow one another faster than the human mind can transmit the message, but in that brief interval the pride of some

clay target factory has been shattered to atoms.

"The judge's call and the scorer's entry are made before the smoking shell hits the ground and the next gunner of this human battery of the times of peace calls for the second bird and the shoot is on. Sounds kind of natural, doesn't it? We have all seen them start that way."—*Trapshooter*.

Here are some more "don'ts" for the trapshooter to paste in his hat:

**DON'T** shoot too quick; get a steady line on the target and then pull the trigger.

**AFTER** you've had your shot let your gun remain unloaded until your turn to shoot comes 'round again.

**DON'T** talk to your neighbor. It's disconcerting. Keep your mind concentrated on the work in hand. It's essential to good scores.

**WHEN** the time comes to change places at the score don't move until the squad moves. Give the other fellow a show.

**DON'T** let the loss of a target fluster you. You can't get them all at all times. Keep cool and get ready for the next one.

**DON'T** get peeved when the target breaks as it leaves the trap. Take your time. Keep your eye on the trap and pulverize the target following.

**DON'T** blame the gun or the shells if your score is not satisfactory. Remember that the question of personality—temperament and ability—enter into the sport. And it may just be your off day. Such things will occur regardless of alibis.

## WANTS AND FOR SALE

Each subscriber of **ARMS AND THE MAN** is entitled when his subscription is paid up for one year, to one free insertion of a half-inch want ad in this column.

All he needs to do is to send in the advertisement for insertion at the same time calling attention to the date when his subscription was paid.

**FIREARMS AND ANTIQUES**—Buy, sell, exchange old time and modern firearms. Antiques wanted. Stephen Van Rensselaer, 805 Madison avenue, New York City.

**WANTED**—'08 Krag Rifle, star gauged, must be very accurate, and in perfect condition inside and out. State price. H. F. Vermeule, Templeton, Iowa.

**EXCHANGE**—One pair of 7¼ Power French Binoculars for One Springfield 1903, in good condition or a .38 S. & W. or Colts Police or Army Revolver. J. M. Harbaugh, 2128 Dayton St., Chicago, Ill.

**FOR SALE**—125 empty Krag Shells; will sell for 1½ cent each, or exchange for 25 cartridges for 1903 Model Springfield rifle. Clayton H. Waite, Bellows Falls, Vermont, Box 782.

**FOR SALE**—1 Forged Steel Ballard frame and action double set-trigger, center fire, take-down pin. Price, \$15.00. 1 Pope rear-sight, elevation and windage, graduated to one inch at 200 yards. Price, \$5.00. 1 Pope Machine Rest. Price, \$15.00. 1 Three-ply Double Set-trigger for Ballard. Price, \$10.00. 1 Meyers Bullet Stop; weight about 100 pounds. Price, \$10.00. 1 .22 Short Pope-Ballard off-hand rifle, take-down with Pope rear-sight Schuetzen Stock, double set trigger, very accurate. \$50.00. 1 Winchester 5 A Telescope, micrometer mountings. Price, \$25.00. 1 Pope re- and decapper, 32/40. Price, \$1.00. 1 Schuetzen Bullet Seater; 32/40. Price, \$1.00. 1 Wad Cutter and 1 Wad Seater, 32/40. Price, \$1.50. Col. W. A. Tewes, 39 Gautier Ave., Jersey City, N. J.

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