

fired shot after shot. The charger type slides them all into the magazine at once. The second class, or slow loader, places cartridge after cartridge in the magazine. One class is a quick loader and the other a slow loader, as in the British rifle, where you load shot by shot. The Ross rifle differs from both in that by a lifter piece worked by the left hand you can depress the bed of the magazine and catch the cartridges all loose, throwing them into the rifle, and, by working the fingers on this lifter piece a couple of times, the cartridges are all placed in position so that it is not possible to have a jam unless the soldier is not sufficiently trained in the use of this lifter piece.

The intricate mechanism of a military rifle may be imagined when it is known that the Ross rifle contains almost 100 parts; but from the rigid tests to which it has already been subjected, it may be accepted as certain that the people of Canada have a highly creditable military weapon, if not the best light arm in the world.

It has taken Sir Charles Ross a good many years to perfect this weapon, but the faith that the Ross Rifle Company have in it may be judged from the fact that they will soon place on the market a sporting rifle that is calculated to meet all the requirements of a rifle for purposes of sport in Canada. It is made on the same general principles as the military weapon, but is much lighter and hand-somer. It will be noted for its great penetrating power, accuracy, absence of recoil, with the special advantage of its rapid-firing mechanism.

Sir Charles Ross is much better known in Great Britain than in Canada, but he is naturally cosmopolitan, and therefore by this time he has become a thorough-going Canadian. He is a young man, little more than thirty, and, unlike the popular opin-

ion respecting those of the Old Country aristocracy, he "does things." His education was obtained at Eton and Cambridge, at both of which places he was distinguished in various branches of athletics—sculling, throwing the hammer, putting the weight, etc. At Eton he was second captain of the boats, member of the shooting eight for four years (captain, three years), member of the college rifle volunteers (five years), and on leaving joined the 3rd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders. He rowed for 3rd Trinity in the Visitors' Fours and for the Ladies' Plate at Henley, winning in the former, and he also rowed for Cambridge against Oxford.

Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for Ross and Cromarty, he raised a battery in the South African War, served on Hutton's staff, and later took part in the organization of the Pretoria or South African Constabulary (four clasps).

Sir Charles Ross' list of patents on the rifle is quite formidable, beginning as far back as 1893. Among other honors in this connection, he received a special award of merit at the Paris Exposition and a gold medal at Earl's Court, the only two exhibitions to which he contributed. The *London Times* commented on the rifle, saying that it would become the rifle of the future. Sir Charles Ross is one of the largest landowners in Great Britain, and the Ross family antedates the Bruces. Just six hundred years ago one of Robert Bruce's family married a Ross at Balnagown. Away back in the eleventh century the Ross of that day married the Robber Chief's only daughter. The dowry consisted of Strathoykel and Strathcarron, both of which are still owned by Sir Charles. The family history is full of romance and stirring episodes, but they must be left for another occasion.