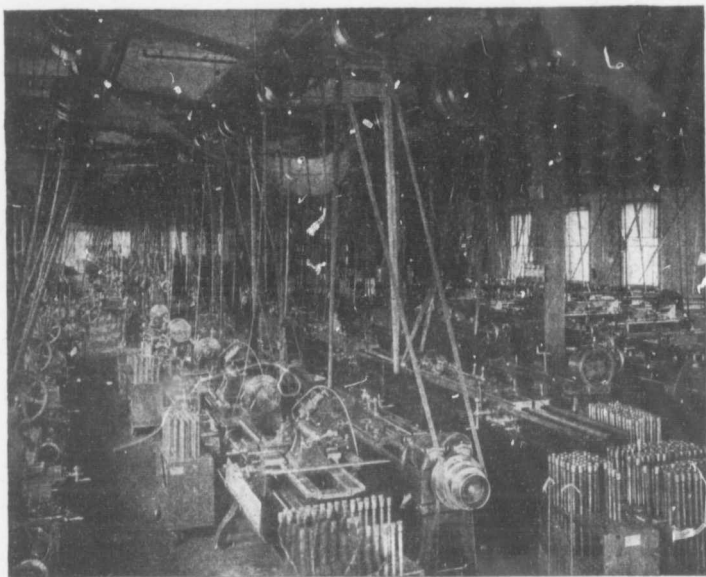




BARREL DEPARTMENT, THE ROSS RIFLE COMPANY'S WORKS

the Lee-Enfield action. The simple mechanism is evidenced by the fact that the breech can be taken entirely apart and put together again without tool other than an ordinary knife, and the operation of taking apart and assembling the parts takes considerable less time than the Lee-Enfield. Another important advantage is the strength of the breech mechanism, while the limit of the Lee-Enfield is restricted. It may be said that any increase of velocity which is ever likely to be required can with absolute safety be obtained in the case of the Ross rifle.

"The Ross rifle is approximately a pound lighter than the Lee-Enfield.

"The chief objection or difficulty which was found in connection with the test to which the Ross rifle was subjected was brought out in the endurance test. While in the firing

1,300 rounds out of each of the rifles, the Lee-Enfield did the test quite satisfactorily. It was found that after heating, the breech of the Ross rifle closed with more or less difficulty, the action being very stiff, with occasional jamming, besides which a possibility of 'double loading' exists.

"Were this an inherent objection to this rifle, independent of details of mechanism, the Board would regard it as a very serious matter, but Sir Charles Ross states that any difficulty in this respect can be effectually obviated, and the Board submit herewith a memorandum, 'Exhibit D,' from him, in reference to this point, which, in his opinion, affords an explanation of the unsatisfactory result of this test, and the manner in which the same may be overcome.

"Speaking generally, the Board believe that the Ross rifle has features