

ond in April, 1892, the changes made in the rifle, as tabulated, item by item, at pages 314 and 315 of the red book of the British army, are no fewer than one hundred and twenty-five in number. In other words, in that one change alone from the Lee-Enfield Mark I. star to the Lee-Enfield Mark II., there were more important changes twice over than have taken place in the Ross rifle from start to finish.

The latest model of the Ross rifle is called Mark III. It is really Mark II., with the same sight as is used on the Lee-Enfield. As a matter of fact, it is adapted for any of the various sights, so that a marksman may change the sight if he sees fit. It is almost impossible to get a sight to please all marksmen, because some prefer one kind and others another kind. In the Ross rifle, Mark III., the difficulty has been overcome as far as possible by supplying the Lee-Enfield sight, with provision to change to any of the other standard sights when preferred.

According to a statement made in the House of Commons, the highest score ever made by any rifle in the world was made by Lieut. Mortimer with a Mark II. Ross rifle. Mortimer hit the target thirty-five times in one minute, and he made thirty-four hits in the same time with Mark III. These were all aimed shots. Wallingford is said to have made twenty-seven hits in one minute with the Lee-Enfield, and that is credited as being the highest record next to that made by Mortimer. The record for the Springfield rifle is said to be twenty-five.

Another record is that a Ross rifle fired 300 shots at Quebec and made 294 hits, aim fire, at target, 101 being bull's-eyes and that was done in 14 minutes and 11 seconds, a record which no two rifles together have ever approached before in the world, and half of them were single fire.

What is the record of the Canadian rifle? Mark I. was issued, and later

some improvements were made in it. Mark II. came next, and certain changes were made from Mark I. to Mark II., but they did not turn out to be very advantageous. These were changed back again from Mark II. to Mark III. The old lever back sight has been abandoned, and a return has been made to the form presented in old Mark I. The thread attaching the barrel to the receiver in Mark II. has been abandoned and a return made to the thread in the old Mark I. This is the Whitworth thread. When Sir Charles Ross presented his rifle to the committee it had a double trigger action, a gathering pull and a final pull. That was in the rifle which he presented for adoption. The single pull has been abandoned and a return made to the double trigger pull as presented in the original rifle. Like the Lee-Enfield, the Ross rifle is made with either the long or short barrel, according to requirements. There is what is regarded as an absolutely perfect safety catch, which acts the moment the sear is released from the cocking piece bent, and insures its safe re-engagement. There have been some small changes, such as screws, bands and swivel straps, which are of no account. The difference between the Ross rifle and the Lee-Enfield rifle involves some important features, but most important is the one great principle of the straight pull; that is, only two motions, in loading and firing; simply pulling the bolt back and pressing it forward again, as against four motions in what is called the lever or rotary motion rifles. The two nations that use straight pull rifles are Austria and Switzerland. The other nations largely use the rotary motion. The Ross magazine differs materially from all other magazine rifles, being much more rapid. There are what may be called two types of magazine rifles, the clip and charger loader and the single cartridge loader. The cartridges are all placed in an iron fixture called a clip, and are put into the rifle and are