throwing them into the rifle, and by working the fingers on this lifter piece a couple times the cartridges are all placed in position so that it is not possible to have it jam. When the Ross rifle jams it is owing to the fact that the soldier is not sufficiently trained in the use of this lifter piece. I will explain how the jam occurs in the rifle. In the British and Canadian cartridges there is what is called the head of the cartridge, where the end of the cartridge projects out beyond the side. In the Mauser rifle the cartridges have not this projection. When the top cartridge head comes behind the head of the second cartridge and is shifted forward by the bolt, it pulls the lower cartridge with it. That often occurs. It occurred in the Lee-Enfield at Quebec. We had the Lee-Enfield firing there, but I have not given the figures for it because the men who fired the Lee-Enfield at Quebec were experts only in the sense of ordinary listed men and not in the same class with Wallingford and Ormandsen, who made the records in the British army. Therefore, in fairness to these men I am taking the standard rifle record made with the British rifle by these experts. When a jam occurs with a Ross rifle the only way it can occur is because the soldier did not arrange the lifter piece properly. Mortimer fired 300 rounds with the Ross rifle and there was no jam at all. Now, I want to call the attention of the Minister of Militia to this: There was Sergeant O'Brien, one of his own men with his musketry instructor certificate, and he had never been instructed in the proper use of the working of that finger piece until he fired in Quebec at the experimental tests. He did not understand the working of it and he got confused, and yet that man is a splendid fellow and I am told one of the best musketry instructors in Canada. The minister should see that his instructors all over the country are trained in the use of the finger piece, so that soldiers under them will have some chance to know the strong point of the rifle. I need not deal with the magazine further than to say it is well known that the Ross rifle has the most rapid magazine of any rifle. It is easy of manipulation and it is very useful in night attacks. I have on other occasions made a comparison of the Ross rifle and the Lee-Enfield.

Our good friend the member for Sherbrooke assumed an entirely different tone this year from that of his last year's speech. I do not know the reason of that. Possibly he has had uphill work all over the country: for I know that the best men in the militia service to-day stand by the Ross rifle and are going to stand by it without any doubt whatever. Last year he had an air of confidence and assurance, and I may take the liberty of looking for a motive for his action. We knew that there were certain minor defects in the Ross rifle, and that these defects were being remedied, just as our friends in the United States have been remedying the defects in their rifle. Let me point out the defects in the United States magazine rifle, which is famous as the most perfect rifle in the world. The official book No. 1923 'description and rules for the management of the United States magazine rifle,' issued on the 4th of February 1908, at page 41 mentions the parts which are most liable to require repairs.' These are the bolt stop, the cocking-piece, the lower band swivel and screw, the safety-lock, the stacking swivel and screw, the stock and the striker. It speaks of the stock being broken at the small of the butt. In the whole history of the Ross rifle there have been only two rifles broken at the small of the butt, and these were broken maliciously. There have been only two rifle stocks broken along the barrels; and when the men who broke them were brought before the committee and stated that they were broken by a fall, they were laughed at. Then this United States report goes on to tell how to replace broken parts, mentioning the butt-plate, cap-pin, the front sight, the lower band swivel screw, the stacking swivel screw, the trigger pin. These are not fatal injuries. It then goes on to point out the injuries that do not render the parts unserviceable. These are: the bolt, the butt, the plate, the butt swivel, the cocking piece, the extractor, the floor plate, the guard. With regard to the bolt it says:

The entire flange at front end may be broken off, except a small portion on the opposite side from the extractor hook which is required to hold in connection with the extractor hook the empty case while it is being drawn to the rear for ejection. If automatic ejection be not considered, the entire flange may be dispensed with.

Then it says:

The parts not essential, or only so to a degree, are the ejector, safety lock, cut-off, bolt stop, sleeve lock, floor plate, magazine spring and follower.

It goes on further to say:

Complaints have not infrequently been received that a main-spring was too weak to perform its office, when the fault rested with the soldier, who in sighting inadvertently raised the bolt handle with his hand before pulling the trigger, and thus caused the force of the spring to be expended in closing the bolt, instead of in exploding the cartridge.

All cams and bearings should be kept slightly oiled to prevent wear.

When firing many successive rounds care must be taken that unburned grains of powder do not collect and pack in the locking lug recesses of the receiver, as this will interfere with the perfect closing of the bolt Such accumulations can be blown out from time to time, or, when packed, removed by a knife or the screw-driver.

If we had to do this with the Ross rifle, there would have been a rebellion in the