

are shown. The barrel is the same as used in the Lee-Enfield and adopted by the English Government.

"The carbine was put out of action by the complete fracture of the shoe, at the point of the greatest pressure, showing weakness in this particular case. On examination by the armourer, he reported the factor was due to the shoe being made of cast instead of wrought steel.

"Two trials at rapid fire were made at 200 yards with a short rifle; time limit, two minutes. Mr. Paddon fired 32 shots within 32 minutes, scoring two centres, 10 magpies, and 18 outers, or a total of 30 hits out of 32 shots. This, he stated, was the best he had ever made.

"On the morning of the 10th instant a further test was made of the accuracy of shooting with a long rifle. The light was good, but the wind was strong and gusty. The shooting was good and the scores are appended. You, the Commissioner, tried the rapid firing game at 200 yards, and fired 30 shots in two minutes, scoring one bull, eight centres, six magpies, and 11 outers, a total of 26 hits out of 30 shots.

"From this we conclude that the method of loading is expeditious, and that the straight pull, working smoothly and rapidly, allowed the rifle to be fired continuously from the shoulder, without removing it and without disturbing the position of the rifle at the shoulder to any great extent.

"The Board is unanimous in its opinion that the rifle is very accurate.

"The Ross rifle is very much lighter than either a Mauser or Lee-Enfield, the weight being approximately:

Lee-Enfield 9 lbs. 4 oz.

Mauser 9 lbs. 12 oz.

Ross 7 lbs. 15 oz.

which is 11 oz. heavier than our Winchester Carbine, 7 lbs. 4 oz., so that, if adopted, no increase in weight would be made to the equipment.

"We are given to understand that

the short rifle weighs only 7 lbs. 4 oz.

"To sum up, the Board is of the opinion that the strong points of the rifle submitted are:

1. Lightness.
2. Straight pull of bolt.
3. Ease of loading magazines.
4. Practical nature of cut-off.
5. Bolt being secured in shoe, and not as in Lee-Metford.
6. New parts and construction of bolt, and apparent strength of all.
7. The novel and efficient principal of the extractor.
8. Ease of stripping and re-assembling.
9. That the above can be done without tools, an empty cartridge case sufficing.
10. The duplicate arrangement of sear, whereby, if sear spring is broken the action can still be used.
11. The most complete absence of recoil when firing.
12. The woodwork of stock and forearm being in one continuous piece."

The changes and improvements in the Ross rifle so far are few compared with those that have been made in the Lee-Enfield, for instance. The Lee-Enfield Mark I. was issued in November, 1895; Lee-Enfield Mark I.* in 1898, about the end of the year. These are long rifles. There have been one or two marks of the long Lee-Enfield since. Then there was the Mark I. short Lee-Enfield, issued in 1903, and there have been two different marks since then to my knowledge, and I am told three or four more. That is, in the long and short Lee-Enfield, the official arm of the British service, we have ten or twelve distinctive issues and distinctive marks. The changes that have been made in some of these are shown in the official red book. In one change alone, that is, from Lee-Metford Mark I. to Lee-Metford Mark II., the first issued in January, 1892, and the sec-