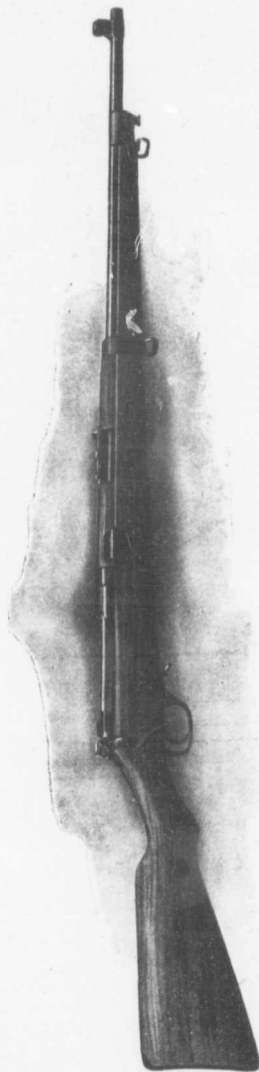


the Dominion. His policy has been signally endorsed by eminent authority in Great Britain, for at the Imperial Conference in 1907 a paper from the Secretary of State for War was laid before the Conference. In part it recommended as follows: "It is most desirable that the area of supply of the warlike store under reference should be as wide as possible, and, therefore, the colonial Governments should be urged to arrange for local manufacture and provision, rather than to rely on the resources of the United Kingdom." It would seem, therefore, as if Sir Frederick Borden had actually anticipated the sentiment of the highest authority on questions affecting the defense of the Empire, and that his recommendation to the Canadian Government in favor of the establishment in Canada of a factory for the manufacture of small arms was a step in advance of the Imperial policy. At any rate, to the Minister of Militia and Defense for Canada belongs the credit for the initiation of a departure that has resulted in the establishment under the very guns of the citadel of Quebec of an industry that has already meant much, not only to the people of Quebec, but to the Dominion as a whole.

But there was another reason, and a very grave reason, too, which prompted the Minister of Militia and Defense to make an effort to have a rifle factory established in Canada. In 1900, after the Canadian contingents had been despatched to South Africa, the Government of Canada wished to buy 10,000 rifles through the Imperial Government. They found that it was impossible to procure even a thousand. It may be argued that, as a matter of circumstance the Imperial Government would be unable to provide rifles during a time of stress like that, and such is the very condition of affairs that impressed on the Minister of Militia and Defense the necessity for some provision whereby Canada could sup-



THE ROSS TARGET RIFLE