

THE ROSS RIFLE

the necessity perhaps—for the establishment in the different dominions of factories, which shall be able to manufacture arms, etc., and which will thus render those communities safer in the event of the sea control being temporarily lost by England.

¶This weighty view was approved by Mr. Deaken, of Australia. Moreover, it was in accordance with the opinion of the Imperial authorities who stated in a paper on the Equipment of Colonial Forces, that it is most desirable that the area of supply of warlike appliances should be as wide as possible, and therefore Colonial Governments should be urged to arrange for local manufacture and provision rather than rely on the resources of the United Kingdom.

¶The arm adopted was no untried experiment. In 1895, Sir Charles Ross commenced to take out a series of patents throughout the world on a straight pull breech mechanism. Later this system was adopted by the Austrian Government under the name of the "System Maunlicher," and all the military forces of the Austrian Empire armed with this weapon.