

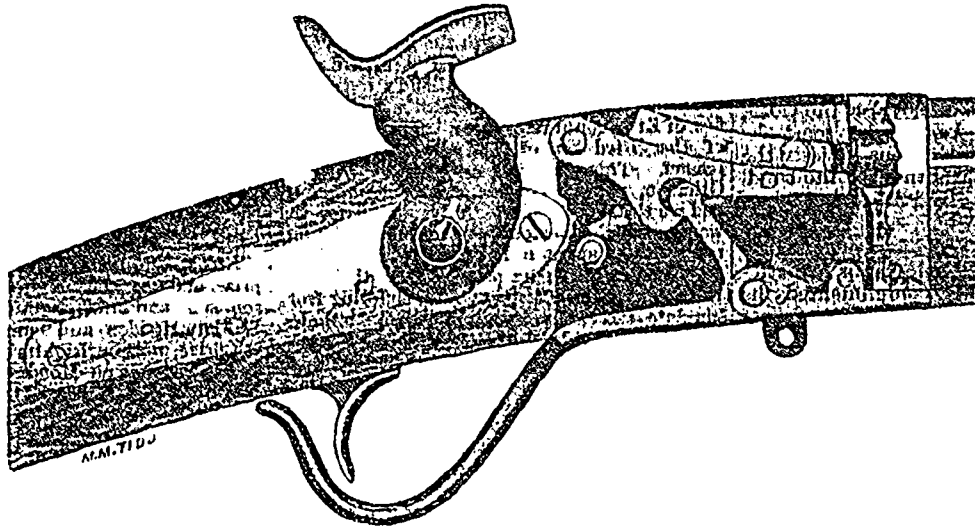
Cut II.

THE PEABODY BREECH-LOADER,

Cut III.

ADOPTED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

Cut I.



DESCRIPTION OF CUT I.

This is a section of the Breech with the side of the metal frame removed, showing the mechanism in a position for firing.

I is the firing pin, which is seen resting against the cartridge.

J is the portion of metal upon which pivots the trigger-guard, and between which and the opposite side of the metal frame work of the breech frame is pivoted the lever which extracts the empty cartridge shell. This lever is seen resting with the apex of the upper extremity immediately behind the rim of the cartridge shell, and upon the depression of the breech by pulling down the trigger-guard, it throws the shell out with a sudden jerk.

DIRECTIONS FOR FIRING.

Throw down the guard-lever with considerable force, with the thumb of the right hand, and the cartridge will be immediately thrown out. Insert the cartridge, close to the breech, by returning the lever to its place, and the gun is ready to fire.

Cut II.—The Peabody Rifle and bayonet.

Cut III.—The Peabody Carbine.

THE PEABODY RIFLE.

During the delay which occurred in the alteration and forwarding to Canada of the converted Enfields from the arsenals and gun-shops of the mother country, and while Fenian affairs for a time after the June invasion assumed such a threatening aspect, our Government determined to look around them and select a breech-loading arm for themselves. The battle of Ridgeway had proved that troops armed with the awkward muzzle-loader would fight under fearful disadvantages when opposed to those supplied with even the most inferior of breech-loaders. The late continental battles clearly established the same fact. Numerical superiority was nothing when pitted against an inferior force, of which every man, by the mere difference of putting his charge in at the breech of his musket, is made equal to ten men who put it in at the muzzle. It

was, therefore, seen that the Canadian Volunteers, to be successfully matched against an enemy even only partially armed with breech loaders, must either be many times as numerous as that enemy, or provided with an arm which would place them upon a footing of equality. Of course, had the danger been less threatening, we would have undoubtedly devoted our attention more particularly to the alteration and conversion of those muzzle-loaders already stored in our armories; but at the time delays were dangerous, and it was decided, and wisely, we think, to purchase a certain quantity of breech loaders, which would supply the present need, and in the interim the conversion of the Enfields already in our hands could go on as fast as circumstances would allow. In accordance with this decision, several members of the Government were appointed a committee to examine and look into the merits of the va-

rious breech-loading arms then in use or invented, with power to select from among them the one which in their opinion (to be confirmed by rigid tests before themselves and competent military judges) combined all the requisites of simplicity of structure, accuracy and rapidity of fire, strength and general efficiency. After examining, we believe, nearly twenty different sorts of breech loaders, and submitting all of those that possessed any merit to thorough and impartial trial, the "Peabody Rifle" was the one selected as uniting in itself all the excellences and requirements of a modern breech loading arm. [For the information of the readers of the Review, and the Volunteer force generally throughout the Province, we give a full description of this rifle, illustrated by several beautiful cuts, furnished through the kindness of Mr. Anthony, the treasurer of the Providence Tool Company Armory, at which establishment, in Rhode