

Cartridge	Diameter of bullet	0" 308
	Length of bullet	1" 142
	Total weight of cartridge.....	grains 380
	Weight of bullet.....	" 205
	" capped case	" 142
	" powder (smokeless) charge.....	" 33

The muzzle velocity of the rifle with 33 grains charge of French smokeless powder is 2,071 feet per second, and the pressure in the chamber 14 tons per square inch.

The following are the particulars of the results of some "rough usage" trials:—

A cartridge was charged with a small charge of sporting powder, fired, and the bullet jammed about half way up the barrel. It was then attempted to eject the jammed bullet, by firing a cartridge charged with 33 grains of ballistite smokeless powder, but without avail. The pressure must have been very great, but the breech mechanism was in no way affected, and the erosion was very trifling. A very slight enlargement of the chamber was observed, but there was not the smallest fissure, and the rifle continued to fire with no interruption after the bullet was forced out.

A rifle was left in mud for some days, the magazine stuffed with dirt and grit, but it was found sufficient to work the elevator for a couple of seconds to throw out the dirt, etc., which fell through the lower opening of the magazine, when the firing was carried on, and not the least difficulty experienced.

The packets of cartridges were placed in a belt bandolier, when a man firing with the waistbelt on him, succeeded in making a fair target at the rate of twenty-eight shots per minute.

The cartridge bullets are made of hardened lead, surrounded with an envelope of white metal (melchior) 0.02" in thickness. In France, we believe, it is intended that the soldier should carry 100 rounds of ammunition, which, including the packet magazines, will weigh about 6 lb.

At a recent trial of the rifle the following were its performances:—

Mean muzzle velocity, 2,071 f.s.
Pressure in powder chamber, 14 tons per square inch.
Penetration of elm at 60 yards, 25 inches.
Penetration of mild steel plate (portion of machine gun shield), 7.32 inches at 150 yards from the muzzle.

Correct targets were made at the following ranges:

200 yards	to elevation.
500 "	40 " "
1,000 "	30 " "

A skilled soldier or marksman can easily, making a target, expend seven magazines, or twenty eight rounds within the minute.

For serviceability, simplicity, and capability to withstand rough usage, the Berthier rifle will compare most favourably with the English magazine rifle; and, so far as we can see there is every reason why the former should have an exhaustive trial in our own Services. It could well be introduced in the first instance into the Navy or the Indian Army. If our authorities are still wedded to the idea of having a magazine carrying a large number of cartridges, and intended to be only used at the last moment, we understand that the Berthier rifle could be constructed so as to admit of a magazine containing any number of cartridges up to twelve. With a rifle, however, capable of discharging twenty-eight aimed shots a minute, this hardly seems necessary.

We believe that an early pattern of the rifle was tested at Enfield some months ago with good results and that improvements have been made in the rifle since which meet all objections.

THE SIOUX WAR.

The annual report of Major Gen. Nelson A. Miles, commanding the Department of the Missouri, gives an historical review of the Sioux war of last winter—its causes, episodes and results. In concluding his remarks on the campaign, Gen. Miles says: Notwithstanding the fact that the volcano has cooled down, the fires of discord still remain. Even while the hostages were at Fort Sheridan, they received communications from their friends in the Sioux camps, saying that they had not given up the conspiracy of a grand uprising of the Indians, and that the Utes were ready to join the Sioux whenever they were ready to resume hostilities. Communications have been discovered going on between the different camps, inciting the Indians to hostilities, and even now (the report is dated Sept. 14) there is a delegation from the Indian territory absent, ostensibly to visit relatives at the Arapahoe and Shoshone Reservations in Wyoming. They have, in fact, gone across the moun-

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RIFLEMAN.

4, Militia Gazette Office.

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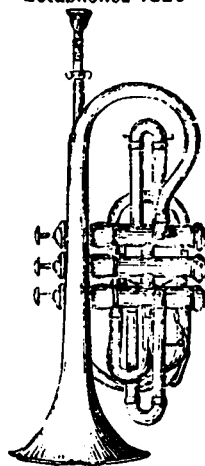
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