

shooting. In warfare to-day the effort is made to fire at individual men when one sees them. You rarely ever get a chance to fire at large masses of men. The great advantage of a rifle of this kind is that a sharpshooter can get his position and pick the gunners off the guns as far as they can be seen, and they can do it at 3,000 yards without much trouble.

We have, therefore, decided to return to the use of the long barrel. One was sent to British Columbia and it has given great satisfaction. I have letters and telegrams from various parts of the Northwest urging that the long barrel, Mark III, be rushed through immediately so that it can be used at Bisley and in the rifle matches this year. One of the highest scores ever made in Canada was made last Saturday at the Ottawa ranges, Mortimer scoring 102. Major Sutherland in the first shot made 97, and Major Hutcheson firing over the ranges first time of firing made 96 out of 105. It may be asked what use is this fast shooting? I will tell you. The rule in warfare as regards the rifle is that you want to get the maximum of energy with the minimum of time and the maximum of effectiveness. The Ross rifle in the hands of Mortimer at Quebec a few weeks ago—when this white-washing expedition was sent down there according to the member for Sherbrooke—was subjected to a public trial and the public trial was made because the 'Star' and its satellites in Montreal would have described it as a hole and corner affair if the test had been private. The famous man of the Montreal 'Star' stood there with his mouth wide open as if it were stretched when he saw four shells in the air at a time when the Ross rifle was being fired. Mortimer has made his record several times with a Ross rifle and he made it with this despised Mark II taken out of the rack there, and that record is 35 per minute aimed fire. The record of the Lee-Enfield with Wallingford, the most famous shot in the British empire, is 27, and the record of the United States rifle was 24, and this year it is 25. Here is the contrast: Ross rifle, 35 per minute aim fire; Lee-Enfield, 27 per minute aim fire; United States rifle, 25 per minute aim fire. Then, firing at random, at the enemy in the dark for instance; from the hip or the side unaimed fire. The United States rifle has gone as high as 35 to the minute; the English rifle, I believe, has never exceeded 27, while the Ross rifle has gone as high as 50 to the minute unaimed fire, showing that in every respect the Ross rifle is infinitely superior in its rapidity of fire. At Quebec the Ross rifle fired 150 rounds, made 147 hits, 34 of which were bullseyes and all the rest close around the bull, in five minutes and one second, and they started with the magazine empty. That has never been approached in rifle shooting before.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. What is the meaning of the magazine being empty?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. If a man starts with the magazine full he has five shots advantage, and with the magazine empty he has to put in five shots or ten, as the case may be, to get ready to fire. I understand that the English and American records were made with the magazine loaded. I thought the British and United States tests were conducted with the magazine starting empty and accordingly we tested the Ross rifle with the magazine empty, but I have since found that the British and American tests were with the magazines full, which would have made a few points more in favour of the Ross rifle in the comparison. However, we need not bother about that, as the record of the Ross rifle is pretty good as it is. Another record is that a Ross rifle fired 300 shots recently at Quebec and made 294 hits, aim fire, at target, 101 being bullseyes, and that was done in 14 minutes and 11 seconds, a record which no two rifles together have ever approached before in the world, and half of them were single-fire.

Mr R. L. BORDEN. What range?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Close range. The supposition is that the enemy is rushing at close range and that was the object of the test. If an enemy should rush at close range then the effectiveness of a rifle is as to how many shots you can pump into the enemy when he is approaching you in the rush which commences from 50 to 100 yards. That is where the effectiveness of the magazine rifle comes in, or otherwise a single rifle would be just as good as any.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What was the time?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. 150 rounds, 147 hits, 34 bulls, in five minutes and one second, starting with the magazine empty. Then there were 300 rounds fired, 294 hits, 101 bulls in fourteen minutes and eleven seconds. The records of any two rifles in the world put together have never come up to that. The advantage of the Ross magazine is its great rapidity. The Ross magazine differs materially from any other magazine rifle. There are what may be called two types of magazine rifles, the clip and charger loader and the single cartridge loader. The cartridges are all placed in an iron fixture called a clip, and are put into the rifle and are fired shot after shot. The charger type slides them all into the magazine at once. The second class, or slow loader, places cartridge after cartridge in the magazine. One class is a quick loader and the other a slow loader, as in the British rifle where you load shot by shot. The Ross rifle differs from both in that by a lifter piece worked by the left hand you can depress the bed of the magazine and catch the cartridges all loose,