

**NEW BREECH-LOADING RIFLES.**

Greater changes have taken place since Napoleon declared the firelock (old Brown Bess of England) to be the most perfect weapon ever devised by man than in any century of the life of firearms.

The attention of the best mechanics has been very generally directed to the subject of firearms, and many valuable improvements have resulted from their efforts, some of which have already been largely introduced, while others of real and substantial merit, owing to the difficulties of starting a new manufacture requiring a large capital, have never got beyond the production of a model.

Some of these inventions derive their value from the discovery and application of new principles devolving powers previously unknown, but by far the greater part are merely mechanical arrangements for facilitating the manipulations and operations, on whose simplicity and ease of performance the efficiency of the weapon must in a great measure depend.

The last German war, and the Abyssinian campaign, confirmed the impression which had existed for some years as to the desirability—the necessity—of superseding muzzle by breech loaders and they supplemented by two weighty experiments those which had already been made, and furnished practical and conclusive proofs of the serviceability of a breech loading system in actual warfare.

Dr. W. H. Russell, of the *Times*, said in 1858: "From the facts which have come within my own experience, I am led to believe that in 20 years there will not be a ramrod made for any description of shoulder firearm." How completely his prognostication has been anticipated is known to all.

We might as well enumerate the advantages which result from the adoption of an efficient breech-loading system:

- 1st. Superior rapidity of fire.
- 2nd. Increased confidence.
- 3rd. Facility in loading.
- 4th. Improved shooting.
- 5th. Overloading is avoided.
- 6th. Compactness of ammunition.
- 7th. Facilities of cleaning and inspecting the arms.

We were led to make these remarks by the inspecting of an ingenious weapon made by our Townsman Mr. Joseph Manton, of Craig street. It is a simple, and, to our minds, a very excellent breech loading rifle; very simple, very safe and very strong. We find here the breech shoe, the breech block, or stopper, and the striker of the Snider Enfield but no further similarity. The breech stopper is hinged to the fore part of the shoe, and moved out to right by means of a small thumb piece, disclosing the breech for the insertion of the cartridge. The empty cartridge case is withdrawn by a little claw or extractor attached to the stopper. Two little projections upon the breech stopper, one on each side of the block or striker prevent any play in the block when the breech is closed and hammered down; by this means the breech block is held immovably in its place after the hammer falls. The action is simplicity itself, there being only six parts, whereas the Snider indulges in sixteen. Mr. Manton's invention has now the hearty approval of Capt. Grant, the Inspector of Musketry for

North America, who has ordered an Enfield to be converted on this principle for the purpose of forwarding it to the War Department in England.

There would be no practical use in attempting to analyse the merits of the rifles which have been submitted to public notice by Canadian inventors. The man who has spent his life, his money, and his best energies in improving and inventing, must often rest content with the barren honours which *posterity* may feel inclined to give him. Sir Wm. Armstrong and Colonel Cole may be exceptions to the truth of this remark,—but, as a general rule, there has been hitherto but scant encouragement to those who have "invented,"—that is discovered the application of a principle to the art of war, or the manufacture of its implement.

Now a days there is this immense advantage open to the practical mechanic, that he can obtain public support for his inventions, if they be of real merit, for he can give publicity to their pretensions.

And we hope, in conclusion, that ere long it may be the good fortune of the Canadian Militia to be armed with a rifle produced by one of themselves.—*Montreal Daily News*.

**A WATERLOO HERO AND EXILE.**—At Grenfell, near Daylesford, resides an old Waterloo man, who contributes to the *Daylesford Mercury* his reminiscences of the fight. Born in 1798, he enlisted at the age of sixteen, and a year afterwards, in 1815, was sent across to Ostend, from whence the troops were taken in canal boats through Ghent to Brussels, where they arrived on 15th June, three days before Waterloo, just in time to take a share in the battle. "I came off without a scratch," writes the old hero, "but my right shoulder was sore with the kicking of my musket, which, when it got hot I was almost afraid to fire it off it rebounded so." In 1831 he came near receiving sentence of death for striking an officer when under the influence of drink "Tried by a court martial, the articles of war were death for the offence; but owing to my long term of service and good conduct in general, Lord Hill, who presided over the court, told me, in passing sentence, that 'he felt grieved to have to preside over the disgrace of an old companion in arms, but that the lightest sentence he could give was that I should be transported for fourteen years,' recommending me to the Duke of Wellington's mercy. I was sent on board the *Hive*, bound for Sidney, and after a voyage of nearly six months, arrived in Port Jackson. I was drafted into the road party, which cleared and formed the town of Wollongong, at which place I, after getting my freedom, lived comfortably enough until the discovery of gold at Summerhill Creek, in 1851, and I have been over the gold fields in New South Wales and Victoria up till now."—*Australian Paper*.

**NOTICE**

TO NEWSPAPER PROPRIETORS.

A GENTLEMAN, of some experience in writting for the PRESS, is desirous of an engagement on the Staff of a

PROMINENT NEWSPAPER.

Reference is kindly permitted to the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW at Ottawa, who will also receive any communications.  
December 1868

**RIFLE SHOOTING.**

THE undersigned having compiled a MANUAL OF RIFLE SHOOTING for Volunteers and others will feel obliged if the Militia Staff Officers and Secretaries of Rifle Associations or Clubs throughout Canada will kindly furnish him at their earliest convenience with a short description of their Ranges, Targets, Rules, &c.; also name of Patron, President and Secretary, with address of the latter.

Any information from any gentleman, that might be of benefit to Riflemen in the Dominion will be thankfully received. Communications from the Maritime Province are specially requested.

A. LORD RUSSELL,  
Secy. Toronto Rifle Club,  
Dept. of Crown Lands,  
Toronto, Ont.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA.

Monday, 18th day of January, 1869.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT IN COUNCIL.

ON the recommendation of the Honorable the Minister of Customs, and under and in virtue of the authority conferred by the Act passed during the last Session of the Parliament of Canada, intituled: "An Act respecting the Customs;" His Excellency in Council has been pleased to make the following Regulation:

In addition to the Warehousing Ports mentioned in the Act passed during the late Session of the Parliament of Canada, and intituled: "An Act respecting the Customs;" and also in addition to the Ports named in Lists sanctioned by subsequent Orders in Council, passed under the authority of the said Act, the following Port shall be, and it is hereby declared to be included in the List of Warehousing Ports, in the Dominion of Canada viz:

Province of New Brunswick.

The Port of Dorchester.

Wm. H. LEE,  
Clerk Privy Council.

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