

novelty. Such a system has been constantly under consideration by the English service, and as constantly rejected on account of certain disadvantages which have been supposed to attend its use.

There are several points in the design which lend themselves to criticism. As a broad principle, the wholesale use of tubes in the construction is to be condemned. Tubes are from the very method of their manufacture much more liable to flaws, and such flaws of material are far less easy of detection in tubes than is the case with plates.

Again, it is impossible to believe that the telescopic trail could continue to work long under service conditions. A very slight injury would suffice to throw it out of gear; the impact of a shell splinter, or even of a bullet, would probably render it unserviceable. If such injury occurred when the trail was in the extended position, and the tubes could not be closed, the gun might indeed be limbered up and dragged off the field, but any manœuvring would be impossible. To any one, then, considering the matter, these questions naturally present themselves: was this carriage ever submitted to the German War Office; were any experiments with it carried out by the German Government with a view to its adoption in the Imperial service; and was one of the reasons for its rejection the extreme liability to damage of the telescopic trail? It should not be difficult to ascertain whether such trials took place, and what was the result of them; and these are points on which we all have a right to information. In any case it seems difficult to explain why, if the carriage is a good one, its makers have been so altruistic as to hand it over to England instead of reserving it for home consumption.

The wheels are in every respect a contrast to those hitherto approved for our service. The English wheel is of large (5 ft.) diameter, because a large wheel is considered to be springy, and little sensitive to the shock of small obstacles in travelling; and it is built of wood, because wood is less liable than metal to be damaged by shell fire, and if damaged is