

COPY

Emlenton, Pennsylvania  
February 5, 1946

C. K. Davis, President & General Manager  
Remington Arms Company  
Ilion, New York

Dear Sir:

This letter possibly will never get to you; still in obligation to myself and the thousands of other men that feel the same as I, but haven't the courage to write such a letter, prompts me to put my thoughts into words.

This letter will be of constructive criticism and I sincerely hope it will be accepted as such.

I am not a person of any importance, am not a rifle or ballistic expert, or a military observer. I'm just the common man. The little man that buys your rifles in peace time and uses them; then when war comes and we are handed a rifle and a few shells know how to use them.

My only claim to fame is that I'm a Life Member in the National Rifle Association, sort of a gun dealer, a hunter and, I hope, sportsman.

Now as to the criticism.

For God's sake, grey or blue the bolt on the fine Remington 720. A buck can see the flash that bright bolt makes a mile away.

In due respect to this gun, it is a hunter's dream. Previously you were trying to make a target rifle and hunting rifle all in one, the Remington 30S. In the 720 you have made a purely hunting rifle that has now no peers on the market. It's the gun a man dreams of but rarely finds. It has a real hunter's safety and in the bolt action class there is only one rifle of similar comparison, the fine out moded model 20 Savage.

Now as to calibers. I realize it would be impossible to tool up and make everything, still you're not giving your guns a chance.

You are cramming three calibers down our throats and if we don't like the 30-06, 257 Roberts or 270 Winchester we can go elsewhere, even though we are in love with your gun and safety.

As you know, every gun man has a pet caliber and some men you never can satisfy as they are always changing, but you will find they still try to stick to one style of gun. Also as you know, the average gun man can't afford to buy a new gun, have

R2500666

that barrel taken out, buy a new barrel of his choice and have it fitted to his particular action. This is quite expensive.

On the other hand, now that the war is over, the old military actions are flooding the market and thousands are picking up these actions, buying the barrel or caliber of his choice, getting a new stock, sights and the first thing he knows he has an old military rifle that cost him a heck of a lot of money.

The Remington 720 is adaptable to practically any caliber particularly the long cartridges and are amply strong for any of the heavy calibers.

In order to give the sportsman a chance for his particular caliber, give yourself a chance to compete against these remodeling companies and your fine rifle, the 720 a chance to sell. Why don't you incorporate an optional department in your plant. Make your three standard calibers, but upon request of the buyer (individual) at a slight additional cost, chamber and bore your rifle for that particular caliber of his choice. I feel quite sure if the average man could get a finished rifle of his caliber in such a fine action there would be very little fooling around with the old military actions.

Now I really will stick my neck out.

There are still three popular caliber classes, the 22 - 25- 30 calibers.

The general public or rather hunting class is ready for some new blood and in my experience the new blood could come from some old blood that proved itself years ago when it came out thirty years ago, ahead of its time and really was never appreciated even though these calibers proved themselves to be the most accurate and best killers of their time and even today when properly gunned and loaded more than an equal to their popular equivalent.

I am speaking of the Newton series, the 22 Newton high power, the 256 Newton and the 30 Newton.

I know nothing of the 22 Newton high power, but the last five years have had ample proof of their ability--the 256 and 30.

I have been a 25 caliber fan, my brother a 30-06.

When the Remington Co. came out with 30 bolt in the 25 Rem. I bought one and had it converted to the 250-3000 caliber and used it for years. A good caliber but it lacked something. It would not shoot through any brush.

Then you came out with the 257 Roberts in the 30S. I bought one with high hopes of the 117 bullet doing the trick.

It was a failure just being a stepped up 250. Never the less I used the gun for years.

About five years ago, I invited two men for a hunt with me. When they arrived at my camp they both had Newton Rifles. One a 256, the other a 30.

Now I had always heard these guns and calibers were no good and naturally added my share of the kidding, but it wasn't long until I began to wonder.

The first day the 256 killed a buck at about 400 yards across a hollow, shooting through the red brush on the opposite side and dropping the buck in its tracks.

Something I had been trying to do with the 250 and 257 for years.

In five years I have seen eight buck killed with this 256; five by my friend and three for myself under all shooting conditions, and now that the war is over I intend to have a 256 Newton caliber on another type rifle as I do not care for the Newton rifle.

As to the 30 Newton, have seen four buck killed and can say that I have never seen any cleaner kills. There is no comparison between the 30 Newton and the 30-06.

This hunting took place in Clearfield and Elk counties of the Medix Run section of Pennsylvania.

Had the Remington people adapted the 256 Newton instead of the 257 Roberts, made proper loads, say 120, 140, 160 grain bullets, the Newton would have outsold the 250 Savage and 257 Roberts.

Any 25 caliber man once shooting the 256 would soon see the difference.

I don't look for the Remington Arms Company to ever adopt the 256, still in case they ever establish an optional department I would like to go on record as wanting the first 256 Newton caliber turned out. One with the twist of rifling 8 in.

Should this never be possible, as previously stated I am a gun dealer, my Federal Firearms permit is 2380 District Pa. No. 4399. Would it be possible for me to buy wholesale a Remington Model 720 stock and 30-06 Cal. action complete, no barrel, so that I can have a 256 Newton caliber barrel made to fit said stock and action? Also cost to me?

C.K.Davis

-4-

I have definitely made up ~~my~~ mind to have a 720 of 256 caliber with a Hensoldt scope and reload.

I realize a company of this size before making a move gets the best authority for its information. However, occasionally a little man's ideas are of some worth.

Anyway, I have this out of my system and that's a lot.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ P. J. DAUBENSPECK