

SHOTGUNS

1. SPORTSMAN-58

a. 12 Gauge

Sales reports that acceptance to date has been excellent. No major difficulties have been encountered. A few minor difficulties have arisen which have included the following:

- (1) Locking block notch upset. Some guns show this after relatively little shooting, and some others do not show it after long service. It is believed not to be serious, but the Plant will investigate further.
- (2) Clearance between fore-end and receiver. Since the receiver is recessed to accept the chamfered rear of the fore-end, this has no functional significance. It is believed that the variations noted are simply the usual variations in wood. This point will be watched, however, as a source of possible difficulty.
- (3) Misplacement of the neoprene washer in fore-end. Since this washer is retained in the fore-end, it is believed that it becomes misplaced only when someone examining the gun removes it and does not replace it properly. A new neoprene washer retaining ring, which it is thought will reduce this possibility, is being studied by Research and Development.
- (4) Hard opening. Some guns are considerably harder to open than others. This problem was recognized before introduction. The gun was accepted with the understanding that ease of opening would be equal or superior to that of the Sportsman-48 or competition (Arms Minute 10, 1955 - page 3). Sales, in their presentation to Staff on January 17, 1956, requested easier opening. The Plant reports that all practical steps are being taken to insure against excessively hard opening.

The Plant reports no major difficulties but the normal start-up problems. The expected minor changes in processing, finishing, etc., are being adopted as experience dictates.