

approximately 0.3 per cent, indicating that returns by the year's end will probably be less than 0.5 per cent.

Sales also reported that the quality of guns has been excellent. In listing suggestions for further improvement, J. D. Mitchell stressed that these are not reports of serious complaints, but suggestions for improvements which would further enhance the excellent reputation which the Sportsman-58 has attained. The suggestions and the comments made on them were as follows:

1. Make a cleaner gun. The necessity for regular cleaning is a sales detriment. Some individual guns appear to require more cleaning than others.

It is believed that the condition referred to is inherent with gas-operated guns. Although some minor improvements may be made, as by the improvement in the method of retention of the fore-end neoprene washer, already adopted, it is not anticipated that major improvements in this characteristic can be expected.

2. Improve coloring on receivers. There have been some indications of "thin" coloring which were through, exposing bare metal.

This had not previously come to the attention of the Ilion Plant, and investigation will be made to determine if the cause for this complaint can be found.

3. Improve functioning with standard-length magnum loads. With heavy loads being loaded to higher velocities and light trap loads being loaded to lower velocities, the range of loads a gun is expected to handle is increasing. It is believed that the best attainable balance of characteristics has been achieved. It is expected that the plastic magazine separator, already adopted, will eliminate the majority of complaints.