

Ejector

Ejection with some competitive ammunition has been marginal on the Sportsman-58 in spite of the increased ejector step height adopted shortly before introduction. A new, double-ramp ejector has been designed which gives more uniform ejection and improved performance with competitive magnum shells. The cost is nominal, and, since no change in function or appearance is involved, no Operations Committee approval is required. This item was reported for the information of the committee.

MODEL 870

28 and 410 Gauges

The economic study was circulated by N. F. Larsen prior to the meeting. (attached) The most attractive proposal involves deletion of these gauges in the Model 11-48 and introduction in the Sportsman-58. The indicated net earnings are \$68,000, or 10.4 per cent of total expenditure and 30.5 per cent of total investment after completion. The proposal looks particularly attractive since it is expected that the Sportsman-58 will give less trouble in these smaller gauges than does the 11-48. 83

Since it is not known at this time whether it will be decided later to add the small gauges in the Model 870, Larsen was asked if Plan 4 could be adopted sequentially after Plan 3 for the same total investment and capital expenditure. He felt that it could, except possibly for some development expense as noted below. H. A. Brown noted that in spite of the attractive return the investment and capital requirements are large, and suggested that the Management might feel there were more important places to use these funds. However, Sales feels that it is important to have a full line and that, assuming adequate return, we should go ahead.

The committee suggested to Research and Development that they spend not more than \$25,000 to complete design work, and build a model gun in each gauge. Research and Development pointed out that to design the small gauge guns in the Sportsman-58 without consideration of the Model 870 might require redesign and modification at a later time. Therefore, it was agreed that the design work should consider both the Model 870 and the Sportsman-58, but that, for the present, model making should be limited to the Sportsman-58. This program would provide demonstration of the design adequacy and a recheck on the costs before commitment of the major part of the required funds.

Fore-End

The Plant submitted two proposed designs for the Model 870 fore-end. One is a plain, beaver-tail design similar to the Model 870IB fore-end without checkering, and the second is similar with a series of narrow grooves on the sides to improve grip. The Plant presented cost figures showing that the plain design would increase the cost by about 57¢ per gun, and the groove design by approximately 66¢ per gun. N. F. Larsen will calculate the effect these increases would have on operative earnings.