

number of rifles involved, new instruction books will not be printed. An insert leaf will be used to describe the differences from the standard model.

The Plant presented a proposed warehouse schedule showing delivery of 100 rifles in November and 147 in December. However, it is doubtful that this schedule will be met since it would require approval to proceed by October 1 and the Sales Department will probably not have a reaction from the first lot of 100 guns at that time. Assuming that no further design changes are required, the Plant expects to be able to release guns to the warehouse within two months after authorization.

MODEL 555

The experimental fixture for boiling and cementing the major nylon components is being fabricated. The last of the molds is expected to be completed September 15. With an allowance for testing and corrections, this should permit final release shortly after October 1. With the experience gained in producing the 200 sets of components, the vendor will submit a revised quotation on quantities of 10,000 or more. It is expected that this quotation will be lower than the \$5.04 figure now being used.

Approximately 80 per cent of the metal parts have been received. The Ilion Plant is obtaining some of the parts from Mall Tool Company and is producing some in special tool room set-ups. It is still expected that the 200 rifles will be completed in December, 1957. Approximately equal numbers will be produced of bronze, walnut, and a grained, olive drab color, as approved by Sales on August 15.

Continuing design tests indicate a malfunction rate of approximately 8.1 per cent for three guns, using all types of long rifle cartridges except Federal standard velocity. The variability of this ammunition gives an inconsistent blow-back force, resulting in a malfunction rate of 5 to 10 per cent. For the same reason, this ammunition gives trouble in the Models 550 and 552. Since any changes made to increase the guns' tolerance to this one brand of ammunition would increase the malfunction rate with the major brands, no steps in this direction are planned.

The Ilion Plant warned that in any consideration of the future program for the Model 555, it must be kept in mind that the cost estimates are based on the five-year rim fire program which anticipates the obsolescence of a number of rim fire rifles, and the availability of the machinery now used to produce them. By the terms of its reinstatement, the Model 521T is also scheduled for obsolescence.