

Functional Design and Testing Status

The Research and Development Department reported that three guns have been fired 15,000, 17,000, and 18,000 rounds, respectively. The receiver has not cracked on the one gun of the three incorporating all the contemplated improvements to overcome this problem. The receiver on the other two guns not so finished cracked at approximately 8-10,000 rounds. The malfunction rate has been approximately .2%. This compares with the Sportsman 58 malfunction rate of slightly less than 1% and the Model 11-48 rate of slightly more than 1%. Breakage of parts has been minimal, only one extractor having been replaced. Cleaning requirements look very good with an indicated cleaning cycle of about once each 5,000 rounds. The fire control has not been affected by unburned powder and other foreign material. Additional testing will confirm this. The Sales Department requested to see any dirt cover design for the fire control before it is incorporated, should continued testing indicate any need for it.

The gun has not yet been tested with the light target loads recently introduced by C.I.L. in Canada. The Sales Department reported that the National Skeet Shoot will be held in Canada this year and the event may generate considerable demand for the light load. Research and Development will test this load when ammunition on order is received. Research and Development is also planning with Bridgeport to test the low base and target SP loads from the pilot lots as they become available.

The Research and Development Department will supply guns from the twenty-five shooting models being assembled to the Sales Department to begin evaluating in May. The Sales Department will take steps to insure product security when the guns are in the hands of the regional and district managers and field representatives.

Appearance Design

Prototype models of the ADL and EDL grades were displayed to Committee members and General Management during April and were approved for release to production, subject to the following exceptions:

Wood and Metal Finish - The Production Department was requested to improve both the wood and metal finish.

Vent Rib - Design of the vent rib should be modified so it will be flush or below the sighting plain of the receiver.

Stock Drop - The drop of the stock was questioned if it provides the same pointing characteristics as the Sportsman 58. Research and Development is assembling information to confirm that it will.