

The Plant and Research and Development reported that a design modification has been made on the firing pin to reduce the breakage occasionally experienced. This change will also improve the Model 11-48 and the Model 870. It is also planned to make the addition to the receiver rail for support of the action bar which was previously discussed. Since this latter change requires an expenditure of \$5,600 for tooling and fixtures, a project is being circulated.

Research and Development reported that they have investigated the complaints received that under certain conditions combustion products and lead accumulated in the receivers of Sportsman-58s. This has been found to occur in guns fitted with Cutts compensators in which a shoulder in the compensator shaves and collects material from the wad and shot columns. When the gun is opened, this material may fall back through the barrel into the receiver. It is believed that this does not occur in the Model 11-48 because the recoiling barrel may force the foreign material out of the muzzle rather than back into the receiver. It is hoped that the manufacturer may be persuaded to modify the shoulder in the Cutts compensator.

26-inch compensated barrel. The Ilion Plant reported that Sportsman-58 guns fitted with 26-inch compensated barrels are marginal with respect to operation with light loads (2-3/4 - 3 - 1). They believe that 90 per cent of the guns will function satisfactorily with this load. Most of the remainder will perform satisfactorily after friction has been reduced by firing several hundred rounds. Sales pointed out that most people who buy the gun with this particular barrel will not be shooting this load in it. They feel that this level of performance is satisfactory.

16 and 20 Gauges

Pilot-line testing on the 16 gauge guns has been completed, with 350 rounds being fired in each of 10 guns. A total of 52 malfunctions gave a rate of 1.48 per cent. Ten 20 gauge guns were fired 325 rounds each, with 28 malfunctions giving a rate of 0.86 per cent. Two guns were carried to 1700 rounds with a rate of 1.41 per cent. The "average" gun was then carried to 12,000 rounds, with 1.0 per cent malfunctions. There were 18 component failures in 12,000 rounds.

16 and 20 gauge guns have been shipped to the District Managers for field testing. It is expected that the results will be available in ten days.