

be used on the Sportsman-58. Since it was necessary to place an order for grip caps immediately, additional aluminum caps of the present type were ordered. As suggested by the committee at the last meeting, the Ilion Plant is continuing with its development of tooling for a plastic version of the present design.

#### 16 and 20 Gauges

The Ilion Plant reported that 16 gauge guns for the Field Representatives, and 20 gauge guns for gun writers and Field Representatives, were shipped during January. No reactions have yet been received to any of these shipments.

The Plant reported that production is proceeding as scheduled, and that they expect to be able to meet the sales requirements for these two gauges.

One of the 20 gauge guns tested by Sales at Bridgeport showed a number of failures to feed. The Ilion Plant believes that these failures were due to some transient condition in the gun or to peculiarities in a particular lot of ammunition, since upon receipt of the gun they fired 250 rounds with no malfunctions. They then left the gun outside overnight and fired an additional 75 with no malfunctions. They once again left the gun out overnight and fired 150 rounds in which one Federal light load stemmed on the extractor. They conclude that this gun performed satisfactorily.

The tooling for stamping the top of the stud to identify the 16 and 20 gauge magazine caps will not be received until the latter part of February. This will make it impossible to mark the studs on the present production runs of 16 and 20 gauge guns. However, they will be marked the next time guns in these gauges are produced. The present supply of plain studs for 12 gauge will be used, and marking on the 12 gauge will be initiated the next time studs are produced.

#### MODEL 11-48

##### Butt Plate

At the time of introduction of the Model 11-48 and Sportsman-48, the black butt plate was specified for the Sportsman-48, and for distinction a brown butt plate for the 11-48. The Ilion Plant stated that problems of supply and inventory would be reduced considerably if black butt plates could be used on all shotguns. The committee saw no objection, and advised the Ilion Plant to discontinue the use of the brown butt plates, without obsolescence.