

Arms Minute No. 1, 1958

As of January 7, Ilion had produced 4,645 guns and had shipped 2,432. These were approximately half black and half tan. They submitted the following revised warehouse schedule:

	December 6, 1957 Schedule			January 7, 1958 Schedule		
	Crow Wing Black	Buck Skin Tan	Total	Crow Wing Black	Buck Skin Tan	Total
November	*(1765)	*(1002)	*(2767)	*(1765)	*(1002)	*(2767)
December	1200	500	1700	*(540)	*(980)	*(1520)
January 1958	500	1040	1540	Production to be		1600
February 1958				scheduled by color		1360
March 1958				to meet sales re-		1440
				quirements.		

* Actual

The guns were announced on December 18 and reception by the trade has been enthusiastic. With orders received from approximately 100 out of 500 jobbers, orders have been placed for 4,600 rifles. It was noted that this is 30% of the No. 1, 1958 forecast of 15,000. This suggests that the Ilion Plant may be called upon to produce in excess of their forecast.

The one unfavorable reaction obtained so far is related to the chrome plated rear sight leaf, which is felt to have a cheap appearance both on the buckskin tan and the crow wing black guns. There was general agreement on this and Research and Development promised to submit to Sales on January 8 samples with a black leaf on the black gun and a gold leaf on the buckskin tan gun. Economics will be submitted as soon as possible but it is expected that either alternate color would be less expensive than the chrome now used.

MODEL 552 LIGHTWEIGHT

Samples were submitted to Sales by Research and Development in December. Sales reaction is awaited. The Ilion Plant pointed out that all available facilities are being used to produce Model 572 Lightweight and any production of the Model 552 must await the installation of new facilities. For this reason, it is believed that a project must be approved by March, 1958, if the gun is to be introduced in January 1959.