

on the Sportsman-58 receiver assembly with an improved tappet type double piston gas-operated system. Essentially, the XS-1 is the same approach to gun design as the Sportsman-58 and the new Model 878 (XS-3).

Research & Development has designated the XS-2 as a pump action replacement for the Model 870. No design work has been accomplished other than designation.

Research & Development also has in early stages of design an XS-6/XC-6 concept. This design concept was described in Minute No. 7, 1958 but briefly for review, the XS-6/XC-6 approach involves six models of shotguns and center fire rifles with similar, if not exact, fire controls, latch systems, bolt mechanisms, receivers, barrels, stocks and fore-ends. The fire controls and latch systems will be completely new and will, it is thought, eliminate the faults and hazards of old systems. The locking mechanism should be adequate for the 3" Magnum load in the shotgun and a 35 Magnum in the center fire rifle. It is believed that the receiver assembly will be as strong as the Model 721 but also with added protection from gas escape found in enclosed type receivers of the shotgun variety.

In the opinion of Research & Development, progress on the XS-6/XC-6 has reached a point where a decision can and should be made for future work XS-6/XC-6 versus XS-1. Concentrated effort is indicated on one or the other design.

In the last few months the Company's position in shotgun models has been altered considerably by the Model 878 to be introduced January 1, 1959. The XS-1 predated the XS-3 (Model 878). The Model 878 is just getting started and it is indicated that it should be a highly successful gun removing a measure of importance from the XS-1, which gun's advantage over the Model 878 is essentially limited to five-shot capability and a new gas-operated system.

It is possible at this time to shelve the XS-1 with drawings and economics such that the gun could be reinstated on short notice.

It is also possible that the new Model 878 could be upgraded, if necessary, by checkering and marking, etc., to ADL as a potential replacement for the Sportsman-58.

In recent years design has been concentrated on shotguns. Attention is needed for new center fire rifle development in the near future and the XS-6/XC-6 encompasses this.

On the other hand, introduction of the XS-1 would permit releasing of the investment in the amount of \$259,800 for the Model 11-48 as well as replacement of the Sportsman-58.