

Mahogany Stocks (Cont'd.)

Production stated their current 20 gauge production is mainly Skeet and Trap grades. Consequently, it will be about two months before the 200 test lot can be shipped. Their experience with mahogany indicates wood manufacturing cost is slightly higher. Should substantial demand for mahogany develop, the Plant has an adequate source of mahogany, and the only problems will be the dual inventory and cost.

Aluminum Receiver

Research displayed a 20 gauge Model 1100 with an aluminum receiver, magazine follower, magazine cap, stock bearing plate and action tube nut, and a mahogany stock and fore end. The gun's weight is approximately 6 pounds 5 ounces compared to 7 pounds 4 ounces for current 20 gauge production and 6 pounds 4 ounces published weight for the Browning 20 gauge light weight. The model has not been tested. Considerable Research work is required to get from this model to a commercial shotgun. Major problems to be faced are adequate strength and aluminum to steel fastening techniques.

Sales affirmed their interest in an aluminum receiver for 20 gauge. However, the information to determine the extent of their interest is not yet available. Research does not have an estimate of the development, start up, and manufacturing costs and Sales does not have an estimate of the additional income from a light weight 20 gauge shotgun.

The Chairman agreed with this appraisal, stating that the aluminum receiver is a Sales and Research problem on which we must go farther, short of completing the development, before making a decision. He asked Research to continue work leading to an estimate of the development, start up, and manufacturing costs and that they work closely with Sales to relate these and the features of the light weight 20 gauge to its selling price and volume.

The Treasurer suggested the new Winchester Models 1200 and 1400, which have aluminum receivers, be endurance tested. Production will do this at Bridgeport where it can be done simultaneously with ammunition testing.