ARMS FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD

Gen. Howard Urges That They Be Supplied Quickly With New Guns.

Gen. O. O. Howard, U. S. A., commanding the department of the east, in his annual report makes some important recommendations to the Secretary of War regarding the National Guard of the United States.

He says: "The militia under its new name of National Guard has reached a degree of excellence never before attained. This body of citizen soldiers is not only useful in maintaining order in the several states, but it will be of the highest value to the general government in case of hostilities in guarding important points pending the formation of a volunteer army. It is certainly entitled to generous aid from the national treasury.

"At present the government contributes relatively a very much smaller sum than it did eighty or ninety years ago, when the militia was lacking in proper organization and discipline. The annual appropriation of $400,000 might well be increased to $1,000,000. But, whether this be done or not, I respectfully but urgently invite your attention to the propriety and necessity of providing at the next session of Congress for a rearmament of the entire National Guard at the same time the new infantry arm is furnished to the army.

"It will be many years before the militia can be supplied with the new rifles. The result will be that during this period one portion will be armed with guns of fifty caliber, another with forty-five and still another with the new caliber of thirty or thirty-two.

"Should these troops be called out during this period, great confusion must result in attempting to supply them with ammunition.

"It is of the utmost importance that the National Guard should have the same arms and use the same ammunition as the regular army, and I therefore strongly recommend that provision be made in the estimates of the War Department for purchasing or manufacturing the new arms and issuing them to the National Guard simultaneously with their issue to the army."

Hundred and Sixty Shares of the Capital Stoc

The First of the Policy Cases Begun in the Police Court.

The first batch of policy cases set for a hearing occupied the attention of Judge Miller's court this afternoon. Several persons charged with writing policy were brought into court from jail.

"Is Harry Reed there?" asked Mr. Mullowney.

"Yes," answered the bailiff.

"He can go."

"What for?" asked the court.

"I've nolle prossed the case," replied Mr. Mullowney.

Similar action was taken in the case of John Austin.

William Racks was released on his personal bonds to appear for trial when wanted.

The court then proceeded with the hearing of the case of Frederick Ingraham, and the hearing was in progress when this report closed.

A Suit Settled.

The suit filed last week by C. A. Brandenburg in favor of the Baltimore Car Wheel Co. against the American Car Co. of St. Louis to recover $21,000, the value of car wheels furnished for use in the construction of the new cars of the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Co., and in which credits in the hands of the latter company were attached, has been entered settled, the full amount of principal, interest and costs having been paid the plaintiff's attorney.

The Rock Creek Park Case.

In the Supreme Court yesterday what is known as the Rock Creek Park case, the appeal of Louis P. Shoemaker and others from the District court, was advanced on motion of Mr. R. Ross Perry, representing the Rock Creek Park commission, and assigned for argument on the fourth Monday of November.

Brooks Arms & Tool Company.

The First of the Policy Cases Begun in the Police Court.

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Dyer.

The Brooks Arms and Tool Company.

Capital $600,000, in 6000 Shares,

$100. par value.

This Corporation was organized to manufacture the Guns and Tools invented by Mr. C. C. Brooks.

A small plant has been established at South Portland.

Of the Capital Stock, Fifteen Hundred Shares have been paid to Mr. Brooks for his inventions already completed and patented and to be hereafter invented. There have been sold two hundred and forty shares, and the proceeds have been applied to the establishment of the plant at South Portland, and in travelling and other expenses. This leaves of the 6000 shares of Capital Stock, 4260 shares in the treasury of the Company.

The property of the Brooks Arms and Tool Company is as follows :

The Brooks Patent, covering the Single, Double and Three Barrelled Guns.

The Brooks Magazine Gun Patents in all countries to be taken out.

The plant at South Portland.

The contract with Mr. C. C. Brooks by which all his inventions (in the future) become the property of the Company.

Forty-two Hundred and Sixty Shares of the Capital Stock of the Company.

Of the Forty-two Hundred and Sixty Shares of the Stock of the Company remaining in the Treasury, it is proposed to sell One Thousand Shares at Fifty Dollars per share to raise the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars, to be applied to the building and equipment of a factory (to be located in or near Portland) to manufacture the Brooks Guns and Tools, and place them on the market. The purchasers of the said 1000 Shares of stock to be suitably represented in the management of the Company.

The Guns are Single, Double and Three Barrelled Guns, and a novel Magazine Gun; to be more explicit: Single Barrelled Rifles of various calibres; Single Barrelled Shot Guns of all gauges; a Combination Gun having two shot barrels, and on top, occupying the place of the rib by which the barrels were formerly united, a small calibre rifled barrel.

The novel feature of these guns is their mechanical simplicity. Some idea of this simplicity may be had by a comparison of one of the double fowling guns with the Standard American Gun of to-day—a Parker Breech-loading Hammerless Gun, which is the favorite of Sportsmen. In the locks of the Parker gun are fifteen pieces, in the Brooks gun are but five pieces, yet these five pieces are more efficient in their action than

the fifteen pieces of the Parker. It is a simple matter of mathematics to estimate the chances of disablement while in use of these guns, for as the breaking or failure of *any* part disables the gun the chances of disablement are readily seen to be the square of the number of parts. Thus the square of 5, the number of parts in the lock of the Brooks double gun, would be 25; the square of 15, the number of parts in the lock of the Parker is 225; so it may be seen at a glance that there is but *one* chance that the locks of the Brooks gun will be disabled, where there are *nine* chances against the Parker. This, of course, supposes the same standard of excellence in the workmanship and material of both guns. The same simplicity of construction characterizes all parts of the Brooks. A large demand exists for the single-barrelled rifles and shot guns which we shall make, a demand which previous to the passage of the McKinley Bill was supplied from Belgium, and which it is attempted now to supply by importing the guns in parts into different ports of entry and bringing them together, and assembling them in New York and Boston. Our Combination Gun, (a double shot gun with a rifle superimposed), is unique, and supplies a want long appreciated by the Trade, but never heretofore supplied. Many guns have been made combining two shot barrels and a rifle, but the rifle has always been placed *below* the shot barrels, and has from its position complicated the mechanism of the gun, and has proved unsatisfactory in use. A large demand is waiting upon the Brooks Arms Co. to be supplied. The *finest* Sporting Guns used in this country are still imported, "Greener," "Westley Richards," "Manton" and other English makers supplying the sporting guns that are sold at $200.00 and upwards. We do not doubt the ability of the American mechanic to equal, if not excel, the best work done by any foreign craftsmen, and we believe that with the advantages resulting from our method of construction we may share in the large profits that are now being paid to London gun makers. A Westley Richard's Hammerless Double Gun, costing $300.00 in gold, is not *in any particular* the equal of the same description of Gun which we should be pleased to supply for one half of that sum.

The extensive establishment built up by the Winchester Arms Co., of New Haven, and the Colt Co., of Hartford, testify very truthfully to the profit of gun making. Both these Companies have for years been making a Magazine Gun, and such numbers have been sold that there are but few men who ever use a gun who are not familiar with these guns and their advantages and defects, and the efforts of the Companies to produce a more perfect weapon. There are some inherent defects in both these arms which can never be remedied without an entire change of construction. Two of these defects may be mentioned here to show by contrast the great superiority of the Brooks Magazine Gun:

The first is that any gun having its magazine underneath the barrel must of necessity vary in poise or balance with every discharge, because of the reduction of weight toward the muzzle.

The second, the inability to use the gun as a single shot gun when there are any cartridges in its magazine.

Other minor disadvantages exist but the above two are chosen as illustrations, because of the emphasis given to them by the Board of Army Officers, which by order of the Ordnance Department have been for two years or more trying all the magazine guns of the world with the purpose of selecting the best to be adopted as the service gun of the army of the United States.

Their recommendation of the Krag Jorgensen Gun is said to have been dictated by the fact that the balance or poise of the gun was the same whether the magazine was full or empty, and the more important fact that by means of a cut-off the magazine might be carried filled, and yet the gun used as a single shot gun, until an emergency arose calling for rapid firing when the magazine might be drawn upon to supply the need.

The Brooks Magazine Gun is a symmetrical, handy arm, with nothing in its appearance to suggest that it is the most destructive gun ever devised for warfare. It carries in its magazine twenty cartridges, and these twenty cartridges are in a removable case which can be removed from the breech or stock of the gun where it is located, or replaced therein, in one second of time. With the magazine in its place, loaded with its twenty shots, the gun may be used as if it was a single shot rifle at your pleasure, or the twenty shots may be used, and the withdrawal of the empty case and its replacement with a full one be effected in less than two seconds. Compare this convenience and celerity of action with what you know of the "Winchester" or the "Colt," or if you have seen the Krag Jorgensen Gun, which has been described and figured in so many of the daily papers, make that gun your standard of comparison.

The Krag Jorgensen Gun carries in its magazine five cartridges, which is of course the sum of its reserve against emergency. It may be used as a single shot gun while its magazine is full, but if the five shots held in reserve are exhausted, a port must be opened in the side and the cartridges to replenish it introduced, one at a time. It is not, as is the Brooks, a clean, smooth, handy gun, without projecting parts, but must be characterized as a clumsy, unhandy weapon.

The present status of the Magazine Gun question with the Government of the United States is this:

The Board of Officers detailed for the examination has terminated its labors and recommended the Krag Jorgensen Gun. The Brooks Arms Co. have through their agents commenced a correspondence with the Chief of Ordnance, General Flagler, and in answer to an inquiry as to whether the merits of the Brooks Magazine Gun might be inquired into before the recommendation of the Board was acted upon, has replied that he would provide for a full inquiry into the claims of the Brooks Gun to superiority, so that we have reason to believe that if the points upon which the recommendation of the Board was given to the Krag Jorgensen Gun are to decide the selection of a service arm for the army, that the Brooks Gun has many chances in its favor of being the final selection for the post of honour, which it would seem should belong to an American inventor rather than to an alien.

It is proposed to build a factory for the manufacture of the Brooks Arms near Portland. An offer has already been made to give to the Company (in a very desirable place) all the land required for its factory and for a shooting range which would be a necessity. Assurances have been received from one of the largest jobbers of guns in New York that they would place orders with us as soon as we could assure them that they would be filled. Many requests have been made for the Combined Rifle and Shot Gun, one gun being asked for to be sent to England for an English sportsman, and in another case an order for twelve being received by mail.

The Sporting Guns have been pronounced by many of the expert trap shooters of the country the best gun out, and a large profit awaits us as soon as we are ready to take it.

One of the most significant facts regarding the profits made by the gun manufacturers of the United States is that they were unanimous in denying to the Census Officials of the last census any statement of their business; they had no wish to draw the attention of the public to "what there was in it."

An examination of the Arms described above, their method of construction, &c., will show conclusively that we have better weapons than any now made, and if other manufacturers were selling their arms at *cost* we could meet them in price and still have a handsome margin of profit. The Brooks Arms have less parts than those of a similar kind, are less liable therefore to get out of order, and can be manufactured at less cost, due to their simplicity of construction.

We believe our Magazine Gun will satisfy the demands of the War Department, in which case we look forward to the receipt of large sums from the Government of the United States as royalties, and its acceptability to our own Government would give us a standing with the nations of the Old World who maintain great armies, from which we should have reason to hope for profitable negotiations with them in the future.

Respectfully yours,

EDWIN S. DRAKE,)
HERBERT S. DYER,) Agents.

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Nov 1880

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM PRATT, OF FORT LARAMIE, WYOMING TERRITORY.

BROKEN-SHELL EXTRACTOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 280,239, dated June 26, 1883.

Application filed April 26, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM PRATT, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Fort Laramie, in the county of Laramie and Territory of Wyoming, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Broken-Shell Extractors; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to an implement for extracting broken cartridge-shells from the chambers of breech-loading small-arms.

As is well known, the head of the ordinary metallic cartridge-shell frequently bursts or is blown off, and the headless shell is very difficult to extract from the chamber of the gun, and in the attempt to extract it with ordinary tools the gun-barrel and connected parts are frequently injured.

The object of my invention is to provide a tool by which such broken shells may be readily extracted without injury to the gun; and it consists in certain novel constructions and combinations of parts, which will be hereinafter particularly described, and pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view in elevation of a broken-shell extractor constructed according to my invention. Fig. 2 is a rear view thereof. Fig. 3 is view of the extracting-screw, its ratchet-wheel and pivot-screw detached. Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the tool as applied to use in extracting a shell from the chamber of a rifle.

The letter A indicates a jaw-piece attached to a handle, B, and having the jaws *a a*, arranged to receive between them a ratchet-wheel, C, which is fixed upon the shank of an extracting-screw, D, which shank passes through one of the jaws, while the screw projects at right angles therefrom. The inner end of the screw-shank is provided with a socket, *d*, to receive the tip of a pivot-screw, *e*, which passes through one of the jaws.

The letter F indicates a pawl-spring, which is secured by a screw, *f*, to the shank A′ of the jaw-piece, and has its free end arranged to engage with the teeth of the ratchet-wheel C. It will now be seen that by vibrating the handle B in one direction the pawl F will be caused to drive the ratchet-wheel and turn the screw, and when the handle is moved in the opposite direction the pawl will slip over the ratchet-teeth, so that by vibrating the handle alternately back and forth the screw will be driven step by step into any article with which it may be engaged.

When, now, it is desired to extract a broken shell from the chamber of a gun, the breech-piece G, as shown in Fig. 4, is raised, the tip of the screw D is inserted as far as it will go freely into the end of the shell in the gun-chamber, and then by vibrating the handle B the threads of the screw will be caused to cut a corresponding thread in the interior surface of the shell, and thus become so firmly engaged therewith that by drawing the handle B backward the shell may be readily extracted. The extracting-screw is given a somewhat tapering shape, and its threads are sharp on their edges. The inner end of the screw-shank is squared to receive the ratchet-wheel, and all the parts may be readily taken apart and put together with an ordinary screw-driver.

I of course do not confine myself to the precise construction and arrangement of the parts as shown in my drawings, but may vary the same in any desired manner, for the better carrying out of my invention, without departing from the essential principles thereof.

What I claim is—

1. In an implement for extracting broken shells from gun-barrels, the combination, with an extracting-screw, of a ratchet-wheel fixed upon its shank, a handle arranged to turn upon said shank, and a pawl secured to said handle, and arranged to engage with the ratchet-teeth and turn the wheel when the handle is moved in one direction, and to slip over the teeth when the handle is moved in the opposite direction, substantially as described.

2. In an implement for extracting broken

shells from gun-barrels, the combination, with the jaw-piece A, of the extracting-screw D, having its shank passed through one of the jaws of said jaw-piece, the ratchet-wheel fixed upon said shank between the jaws, the pivot-screw passing through one of the jaws and entering the end of said shank, and the spring-pawl secured to the jaw-piece shank and engaging with the teeth of the ratchet-wheel, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM PRATT.

Witnesses:

CONSTANT WILLIAMS,

A. N. JACKSON.

(No Model.)

W. PRATT.

BROKEN SHELL EXTRACTOR.

No. 280,239. Patented June 26, 1883.

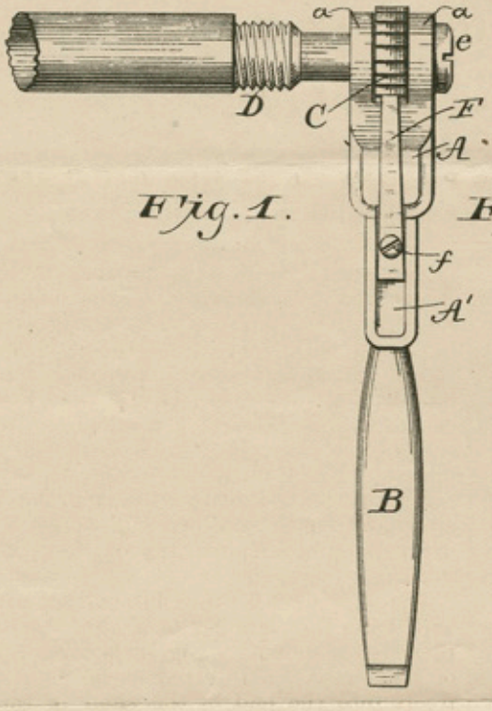

Fig. 1.

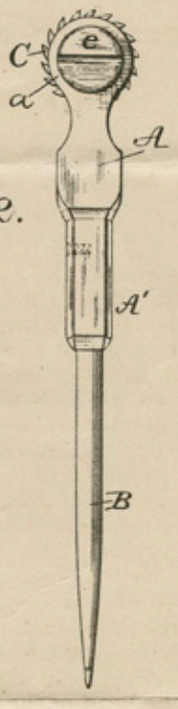

Fig. 2.

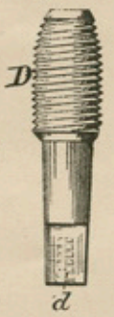

Fig. 3.

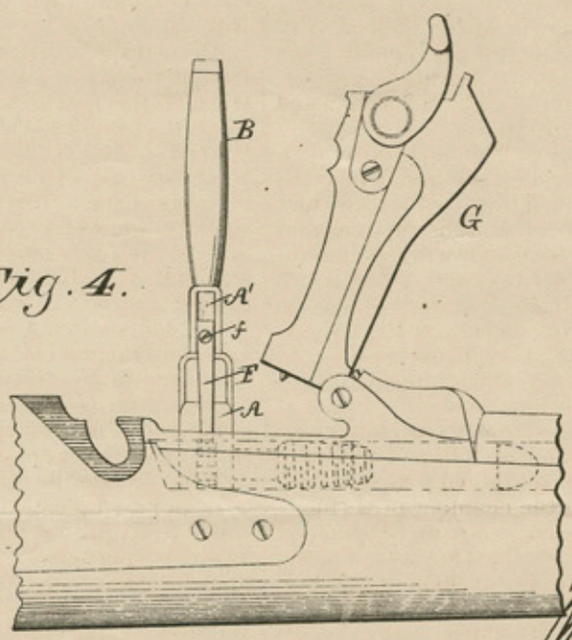

Fig. 4.

Witnesses:
F. M. Burnham
E. W. Johnson

William Pratt
Inventor:
Atty.

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