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## A SCHOOL FOR ARMORERS.

No one will deny that the trade of gunsmith is a good one for an American lad to learn, provided he masters it thoroughly and afterward succeeds in getting a good location, if he goes into the business alone. Something the Army and Navy Register has to say on the subject of a school for armorers will therefore we hope interest more than one of our young readers who may be in search of some good trade to master. "An army officer," says the Register, "has made an interesting suggestion of the establishment of a school for armorers. Capt. John T. Thompson, of the ordnance department, on duty at the national armory at Springfield, visited the school for armorers which is located at Liege, in Belgium, and has been giving a good deal of study to the subject of a similar institution to be located at Springfield, Mass. He is enthusiastic over his plans, and will probably try to interest some of the large small arms manufacturing concerns in forming such a school in this country and locating it in Springfield. The object of the school is to train young men to become expert in gun making, so that they can fill responsible positions before they become old. The work done in the school would be largely of a practical nature, but some theoretical work would be introduced. The expense of the school would be borne by the various small arms companies, and there would be no charge made to the pupils. Springfield is a suitable location for such a school, because of the national armory, Smith & Wesson, and the Stevens Arms Company being there or near by. Then there is the small arms museum at the armory, which is the finest in the country. The work which would be done in the school would be furnished by the various companies, and the man doing the work would have 25 per cent

of the money for which the piece was sold, a part would go toward the running expenses of the school and the rest to the manufacturer. The gunshops would be benefited by such a school and the country would be in possession of the trained workmen necessary in the application of fire arms."

## PASSING OF THE .45 CALIBER REVOLVER.

The old .45 caliber revolver was for many years the ideal weapon for the army and frontiersmen. It was a weapon of undoubted power and effectiveness, but the persons who could handle this weapon skillfully were comparatively few. Several years ago it became apparent that a revolver of this caliber and power was not liked by United States army officers. Its excessive recoil made practice with it dreaded by most officers. The revolver itself was probably the best military revolver in existence, but the cartridge for it was far from satisfactory; its excessive power almost made the arm useless. The Colt .45 caliber United States army revolver was gradually withdrawn from the United States army, the Colt .38 caliber taking its place, and while the former is a more effective weapon in the hands of those who can handle it skillfully, the latter, on account of its greater accuracy and the ability of most men to shoot it accurately, is vastly superior.

The .45 caliber revolver was retained in some of the light batteries until recently, but on June 19 general orders were issued from the headquarters of the army which say: "By direction of the secretary of war, commanding officers of batteries of field artillery will submit timely requisitions to the chief of ordnance of the army for .38 caliber Colt revolvers, pistol holsters, revolver cartridge belts (woven), and ammunition to replace the .45 caliber Colt revolvers, pistol holsters, and ammunition now in use in these organizations, and upon receipt of the new equipment will turn the .45 caliber revolvers in to the Springfield armory, Springfield, Mass.; the pistol holsters to Rock Island arsenal, Rock Island, Ill., and the ammunition to Frankford arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa."

## FRENCH RIFLEMEN SEND TROPHY TO AMERICA.

Lieut. Albert S. Jones, secretary of National Rifle Association of America, has received from D. Morillon, president of the Union des Sociétés de Tir de France the following communication:

"I have the pleasure of informing you, and beg that you will notify your president and the committee, that the Union of French Shooting Societies, while not being able to send a team to your great meeting of 1901, has nevertheless been desirous of testifying its friendship for the National Rifle Association of America, and that it has decided to offer for this meeting a bronze medallion of Gloria Victis framed in oak and two silver plaquettes in cases.

"These articles will be sent through the diplomatic channel to the French ambassador in Washington, with notice of their destination. I will be much obliged if you will put yourself in communication with the embassy, so that the articles may be forwarded to you or that you may secure them for yourselves."

We print in our present impression views of the English sportsmen's papers on the work of the American team of trap shooters which recently visited England and was successful in competitions with English trap shots. The criticism is made that the positions assumed in shooting by the American marksmen, and the guns and ammunition used

by them, could not be used in ordinary shooting. We will grant that such arms and ammunition would not be chosen for some departments of upland field shooting, but in other departments—for instance, upland plover shooting, marsh bird shooting, duck shooting—the guns used by the trap shooters would prove excellent arms, and the ammunition likewise. But passing to the department of shooting, for which these guns were particularly made, they are eminently superior. The present American shotgun and ammunition for trap shooting is the outgrowth of years of study and experiment, which has resulted in the present arm and its ammunition. Our English friends should consider that trap shooting is a distinct and recognized sport in the United States, and the conditions under which American marksmen now shoot at the traps demand the present types of guns and ammunition.

There are many sports at the present time, most of which are the outgrowth from some other form of sport—for instance, yachting, match rifle shooting, rowing, horse trotting and so on—each of which sooner or later necessitates the creation of special implements for that particular sport. The modern yacht is the outgrowth of the ordinary sailing craft; the target rifle is the legitimate heir of the hunting or military arm; the racing shell is a descendant from the ordinary boat for business or pleasure; the rubber tired trotting gig is the offspring of the ordinary carriage; and so the modern trap shooter's gun is the outgrowth of the ordinary fowling piece. But, as before stated, this particular gun is suitable for many kinds of game shooting.

We can look at this matter in but one way, and that is that our English friends, true sportsmen that they are, are behind the times with the best arms for practicing the sport of trap shooting, which already has gained considerable popularity in Great Britain. The modern American gun and ammunition for trap shooting are admitted now at home and abroad to be the best in the world for the particular purpose for which they are intended, and our English friends cannot do better than adopt them.

Some time ago William C. Whitney gave the State of New York four bull and sixteen cow elk for the purpose of helping to stock the Adirondacks with those animals, in accordance with the law passed by the last legislature. These animals were at Mr. Whitney's October mountain preserve near Lenox, Mass., and were taken from there to the Adirondacks by train and liberated near Raquette lake. Advices from Albany are to the effect that a number of moose will soon be given the state for the same purpose by George J. Gould, who has arranged to have them sent on to the Adirondacks from the Canadian woods.

Benjamin F. Meek died at his home in Frankfort, Ky., June 24, at the age of seventy-six years. Mr. Meek, it is claimed, was the inventor of the modern fishing reel, and until a short time ago manufactured the reels that had made his name famous all over America, and which were imitated so generally that comparatively few persons knew where the idea originated. Although Mr. Meek turned out a great many reels, for which he obtained good prices, during the years he was engaged in their manufacture, he did not become wealthy, and his factory at Louisville, where he and his son carried on the business, never assumed very large proportions. He was a conscientious worker, and like many of the old-time workmen, believed in giving a purchaser the full worth of his money.