

## WINCHESTER'S HISTORY

priming mixture was placed in the head and would ignite when any part of the rim was struck. He also introduced the powder charge into the case. The case was operated so that when the cartridge was exploded the metal sides flattened against the rifle chamber in such a way as to seal in the gas charge, preventing it from escaping rearward and so giving its full power to the propulsion of the bullet. This revolutionized the manufacture of rifle ammunition and immediately the Henry rifle in .44 rim fire caliber became a practical success. In recognition of Mr. Henry's contribution every Winchester rim fire cartridge ever since, including all present day production, bears on its head the initial H—a tribute to the inventor of this successful modern type cartridge.

Further developments and improvements quickly followed so that in 1866 a new model, the first Winchester rifle, was placed on the market. The name of the company had been changed to Winchester Repeating Arms Company and the company was incorporated under this name in 1866.

From this time on Winchester development was comparatively rapid. The new Henry rifle

was used in the Civil War with success, on the western frontier and in South America. The improvements incorporated in the new model 1866, the first Winchester, advanced its popularity rapidly and the introduction in 1873 of the famous MOEL 73, known in song and story as the gun of Buffalo Bill and other great heroes of the plains, established the fame and name of the Winchester lever action repeating rifle. In 1876, Winchester placed on the market its Centennial Model, so called because it came in the centennial year of the birth of the United States. Of the same design as the Model 73, this Model 76 was larger in size and designed for use of heavier cartridges for larger game. It was the official arms of the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police up to 1914. Meanwhile new models were constantly being developed and meeting with the high favor of hunters and sportsmen throughout the world. In the eighties the first of the Winchester single shot rifles was developed with the famous Single Shot Model 87 that proved so successful that it did not become obsolete until several years after World War I.

In the nineties came a number of famous developments of the Winchester-pioneered lever action, notably the Models 92 and 94. The popularity of these is best shown by the fact that over 1,000,000 of the 92's had been placed on the market at the time it was discontinued in 1936. The millionth Model 94 was presented to Calvin Coolidge when he was in the White House.

During the nineties came the development of the Winchester repeating shotguns which reached a climax shortly before World War I with the production of the Model 12, the so-called "Perfect Repeater," which was achieved and is still achieving fame for its mechanical perfection, its shooting qualities and its unique safety devices.

World War I, of course, saw the notable physical development of the Winchester plant of today—that vast group of buildings so familiar to New Haven residents and visitors. Winchester devoted its entire facilities to the establishment and maintenance of an uninterrupted flow of war supplies for the government during the period of this country's participation in World War I, and at the peak of its war work had a total of over 22,000 employees engaged in this patriotic service.

At the conclusion of World War I, the development of various new products was undertaken in an endeavor to put the plant into fullest service. Originally these new products consisted of washing machines, gas refrigerators, tools, cutlery, fishing tackle, ice and roller skates, flashlights and batteries. Subsequently, as indicated by our present lines, these were reduced as sound manufacturing and merchandising principles dictated.

However, Winchester development engineers

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