

proved with double the quantity of powder and one and one-half the weight of lead of such service charges. Barrels for rifled arms of .303 diameter, taking a nitro cartridge of the form and dimensions now employed in the British Service Magazine Rifle, shall be proved definitively with 45 grains of the powder known as "Rifleite" (or a similar powder in all respects), and with a lead plug 287 grains in weight, covered with greased paper. Barrels for rifles of larger or smaller diameter than .303, and in which nitro powder, and a bullet four or more calibres in length, are intended to be used, shall be so declared in writing by the sender, and shall be proved with such a proportionate amount of Rifleite and lead as that the excess of proof stress shall be in the same ratio as that for the .303 rifle aforesaid. Nothing in this rule shall prevent the sender of a rifle barrel, on request in writing, from having it definitively proved with a greater charge than is provided in this rule, at a proportionate increase of price—nevertheless it shall be marked in the ordinary way.

18. For all military arms manufactured for the British Government, the scales of proof shall be the same as used by Her Majesty's War Department from time to time.

19. Barrels for breech-loading arms of the Fourth Class, and for arms of the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Classes, shall be Proved Provisionally and Definitively. Barrels for arms of the Second Class, and single breech-loading arms and muzzle-loading arms of the Fourth Class, shall be Proved Provisionally and Definitively, or on the request in writing of the person or persons sending the barrels for proof shall be proved once only, in which case such barrels shall be sent in the state for definitive proof, but shall be proved according to the scale for provisional proof, and shall be marked with a special mark denoting that such barrels have been proved in the definitive state according to the scale for provisional proof. Barrels for arms of the First and Third Classes shall be proved once definitively; but the scale used for proving such barrels for arms of the Third Class as have the diameter of the bore in every part one inch and a quarter or upwards shall be the provisional scale.

20. Nevertheless, it shall be sufficient from time to time to prove all breech-loading military barrels in the same manner as breech-loading military barrels made for the use of Her Majesty's Forces, and with the same weight of gunpowder as is now used, or from time to time shall hereafter be used, in the proof of similar barrels at the Government Factories.

21. As to any military barrel made for the use of Her Majesty's Forces, or for the late Honourable East India Company, which has ceased to belong to Her Majesty, but which bears in addition to a Proof Mark authorized by Her Majesty's War Department, the letter "O" struck (prior to such cesser) over or upon the broad arrow or some part thereof by the said War Department, it shall, if it be a rifled barrel, be proved with Definitive Proof, or if it be a smooth-bore barrel with half the charge of powder, but with the same weight of bullet which would be applicable to the proof thereof if such barrel were an unproved barrel under the said Act and these Rules, and after either such proof, such barrel shall be marked as Proved Definitively; and as to any military barrel made for the use of Her Majesty's Forces, or for the late Honourable East India Company, which has ceased to belong to Her Majesty, and which does not bear in addition to a Proof Mark authorized by Her Majesty's War Department the letter "O," or the letter "S" struck (prior to

such cesser) over or upon the broad arrow or some part thereof by that Department, it shall (whether it shall or shall not bear a Proof Mark authorized by that Department) be liable to proof as an unproved barrel according to its classification under the said Act and these Rules.

22. All breech-loading shot barrels of 10-bore or less, having chambers of three inches or longer, shall be so declared in writing by the sender, and be proved with one-sixth more powder than the ordinary Definitive Proof Charge.

23. Barrels for arms of the Fourth Class, of larger gauge than four, and for which no service charge is laid down in the Scale, shall have the service charge declared in writing by the person or persons sending the same for proof, and be proved with a charge bearing the same proportion to such service charge as defined by Rule 17. Shot guns, having barrels not less than five and a half feet long, in which a coarse powder is to be used, shall have the intended service charge declared in writing by the sender, and they shall be proved with the powder known as Curtis and Harvey's "Col. Hawker's Duck Gun Powder" (or a powder similar in all respects), and shall be proved with double the amount of powder, and one and one-third the weight of shot of the declared service charge, and the said service charge shall be marked on the barrel. In case a nitro powder is to be used, the provisions in Rules 10 and 11 shall apply thereto.

24. A barrel of any description to which the classification or scales of proof are, in the judgment of either of the two Companies, inapplicable or unsuitable, shall be proved with such a bullet or charge of shot as shall be applicable to the dimensions of the bore of such barrel, and with such a charge of powder as shall give a stress not less than is provided in Rule 11, or in case the barrel shall not be capable of holding such Proof Charge, with as much powder as the barrel is capable of holding.

25. The several powders used in proof, shall at all times be open to the inspection of any officer authorized for the purpose by the Secretary of State for War, who may take samples for examination, or trial of the same, without notice.

#### CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO PROOF.

26. Barrels for arms of the First Class shall not be qualified for proof until they shall be in a fit and proper state for setting up, and the thread of the screws sound and full.

27. Barrels for arms of the Third Class shall not be qualified for proof until they shall be bored and ground, and in a fit and proper state for setting up, with the squares set off, looped, and the proper breeches in, and all the threads of the screws sound and full; and all barrels for percussioned arms shall be percussioned, and shall be proved with the proper nipples in.

28. Barrels for arms of the Second, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Classes:—

*For Provisional Proof.*—If of plain metal, shall be bored and ground, having plugs attached, with touch-holes drilled in the plugs of a diameter not exceeding one-sixteenth of an inch. Notches in the plugs instead of drilled touch-holes shall disqualify for proof. If of twisted metal they shall be fine-bored and struck up with proving plugs attached and touch-holes drilled as in the case of plain metal barrels.

*For Definitive Proof.*—The barrels, whether of plain or twisted metal, shall be smoothed in the finished state, with the breeches and barrels in the percussioned state, huts filed up, inside of barrels shall be cleaned, the top and bottom ribs