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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 12, 1849.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. RUSK made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of Samuel Colt, on the subject of his improved repeating fire arms, report:

That they have examined the same, together with the report of the Military Committee of the Senate, of last session, on the subject, with other evidence, furnished by distinguished military officers, as to the superiority of this weapon over all others for mounted troops, and find that all who have used them, or seen them used in the late war with Mexico, and elsewhere, are of the opinion that they are the most efficient and economical arms that can be employed in our Indian territory, and on our extended line of frontier. In confirmation of this opinion the committee have deemed it proper to accompany this report with the following extracts from the letters and papers before them; and, also, to recommend that a sufficient number of the pistols be procured to arm all the mounted troops of the United States, engaged in the frontier service.

Extract from the report of the Committee on Military Affairs, made last session of Congress.

“The positive evidence which has been submitted to the committee is of a character which needs no recommendation. It is only necessary to say, that Major General Taylor, General Twiggs, Major General John A. Quitman, Brigadier General Shields, Brigadier General Pierce, Colonel Croghan, inspector general, Colonel Harney, Colonel Jefferson Davis, Major McCulloch, Capt. Sam. H. Walker, Captain B. S. Roberts, Lieutenant B. F. McDonald, G. W. Kendall, Colonel W. T. Haskell, Colonel W. H. Russell, Major J. P. Gaines, Doctor C. B. Zabriskie, J. L. Freaner, all now, or recently, in active service in the Mexican war, have expressed themselves, in decided terms, in favor of these arms; and that the array of facts, furnished by some of these officers, cannot fail to enforce the opinions which they have expressed upon this subject.

On this point the committee refer to abstract marked A, and to letters numbered from 1 to 19, for a more full view of the facts and evidence connected with this question.

"Under all these circumstances, your committee agree in opinion with the officers above named, when they state that one hundred cavalry, armed with the repeating pistol, would be at least as efficient as three hundred armed in the ordinary way. They believe, moreover, that economy, as well as the efficiency which would be given to our force, particularly for all the service that may be expected from our army for years to come, render it advisable that all the mounted men belonging to the military establishment be supplied with these pistols, and that a sufficient number of them be kept on hand to meet any unexpected emergency.

"Your committee, therefore, report that, in their opinion, Colt's repeating pistols are the most efficient arm, for mounted men and frontier troops, now known or used; and that it is highly expedient for the government to introduce them into extensive use for these purposes. That, in regard to the procuring of these arms, the committee concur in the opinion of the chief of the ordnance department, that they can be manufactured to greater advantage by the inventor than by the government at its armories, he having provided the machinery suitable for the purpose."

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Communication from the Texan Senators and Representatives in Congress to the President of the United States.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 3, 1838.

DEAR SIR: Possessing a thorough knowledge of the value of "Colt's patent repeating fire arms," we feel it to be our duty to recommend them in the strongest terms to your favorable consideration.

The advantages that Texas has experienced from their use, in her struggle for independence and against Indian aggression, has been incalculable.

The difficulties represented by some men without experience in the use of those arms, such as that they are too liable to get out of order, has been proved, by ten years' constant use in Texas, to be without foundation. Some of these arms, purchased of Mr. Colt more than ten years ago, have been safely and successfully used in every engagement we have had with the Mexicans and Indians since that time, and are now in good serviceable condition, and are esteemed beyond price by their possessors.

Believing that the power rests with you to order a full supply of these valuable arms for the defence of our extended frontier, without further legislation, we most respectfully ask that you will at once order them to be made.

We do not doubt but that five thousand mounted men, armed with two of these pistols and a rifle, would do more service than twenty thousand armed in the ordinary way, thereby saving to the

government hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, and affording protection as well to the frontiers against Indians as to small parties passing through the Indian country.

With great respect, your obedient servants,
 THOMAS J. RUSK,
 DAVID S. KAUFMAN,
 SAMUEL HOUSTON,
 T. PILSBURY.

Members of Congress from Texas.

To the PRESIDENT of the United States.

The following extract is from the Message of the President of the United States to the Senate:

“Such is the favorable opinion entertained of the value of this arm, particularly for mounted corps, that the Secretary of War has contracted with Mr. Colt for two thousand of his pistols”—without awaiting a special appropriation of Congress.

Abstract of the opinions of officers of the United States army and others from Mexico, conversant with the use of Colt's recently improved repeating pistols, accompanying first Senate report:

No. 1.—Major General Zachary Taylor, commanding army of occupation, in a letter to the inventor, writes: I have been much pleased with an examination which I have made of your new modelled repeating pistols, and feel satisfied that, under all circumstances, they may be safely relied on.

No. 2.—Major General John A. Quitman, commanding volunteer division in Mexico: I am well acquainted with Colt's patent repeating fire-arms, having seen them frequently used, and having personally tested them. I regard his six-shooter as the most formidable and effective weapon which can be placed in the hands of cavalry of every description, and mounted gunmen or riflemen. I therefore cordially recommend their use to the government.

No. 3.—Brigadier General Shields, commanding 1st brigade volunteers in Mexico: Your last improved revolving pistol, in my opinion, is a most excellent and effective weapon in the present cavalry service in Mexico. It possesses an advantage of at least three to one over the common pistol. I find it also free from that complexity which it was feared would render it less serviceable in actual service, and in a campaign. I do not hesitate to give it a decided preference in cavalry service in Mexico over all other species of fire-arms, and recommend its general use in that service.

No. 4.—Brigadier General Pierce: With a pretty thorough know-

ledge of the weapon named within, I cheerfully concur in the opinion of General Shields.

No. 5.—Colonel G. Croghan, inspector general United States army: Believes them, from the declaration of hundreds who have used them in conflicts with the enemy in Mexico, to be superior, in every particular, to all other pistols. Hopes they may be brought into more general use; to effect which, his official efforts shall be directed.

No. 6.—General W. S. Harney, 2d dragoons: Has had more than ten years' experience in the use of Colt's repeating fire-arms, and no arm, in his judgment, ever yet constructed can equal them; they are, with fair usage, as little liable to get out of order as any other arm, and they are *at least* three times as effective. It is my intention to apply to the Hon. Secretary of War to have all the cavalry armed with them.

No. 7.—Colonel Jefferson Davis, Mississippi rifles, says: For the attack of Mexican guerillas they have been, and no doubt will be, found most efficient. The only doubt on his mind, whether, under the exposures incident to active service, they can be kept in order; on this point refers to Colonel Harney and Major McCullough.

No. 8.—Major Ben. McCullough, Texas rangers: Recommends that they be adopted to a certain extent among the regular ordnance materiel of our service; considers them as preferable to all other for mounted light troops in Mexico. Says they have been in use among the Texan rangers for ten years, and that their efficacy has been fairly tested. Has at this time in his possession *one* that has been used for ten years without being repaired.

No. 9.—Captain S. H. Walker, Texas rangers: Considers the revolver as the only good improvement he has seen; instances the defeat of eighty Camanches by Colonel Hays and fifteen men, as a particular striking incident to show their value, in which fight forty-two Indians were killed.

No. 10.—Captain B. S. Roberts, U. S. mounted rifles: Colt's pistol is the most effective weapon that can be placed in the hands of mounted men, and states that since introduced into the service it has been universally approved. Considers the defeat of Generals Torrejon and Rhea, with 600 well appointed lancers and guerillas, by his command of 100 men (only 40 of whom, his company, were armed with them) to Colt's pistols.

No. 11.—Lieutenant B. F. McDonald, 3d artillery, speaks in high terms of these arms. I have seen Colonel Hays hold in check more than five hundred Mexicans, with thirty men armed with these pistols, and being reinforced by about thirty men, ac-

tually drove that large force before them, killing more than eighty of them.

No. 12.—Major G. W. Kendall, aid to General Scott: Considers Colt's heavy pistol as the very best ever invented, for use on horseback. No Texan ranger considers himself equipped without one of them.

No. 14.—Colonel W. T. Haskell, 2d regiment Tennessee volunteers: It is certainly superior to any arm of that character which has yet been introduced into our army, and should be much pleased to see the government adopt it as a part of equipment of every cavalry soldier.

No. 14½.—The Colonel of Ordnance expresses the following opinion in a report: That the breech loading is advantageous, inasmuch as it gives "a greater velocity and precision of direction to the ball," and that that advantage "is acknowledged by all."

No. 15.—Colonel W. H. Russell, California expedition: In Indian warfare and in operations against the Mexicans, I know of no weapon so *formidable*, and I sincerely hope that they may be extensively introduced into our army.

No. 16.—Major J. P. Gaines, Kentucky rifles: Considers it the best fire-arm for use under any and all circumstances. It eminently deserves, and I trust will receive, the patronage of the government.

No. 17.—C. B. Zabriskie, surgeon 1st Illinois infantry: Has no hesitation in saying, that they are pre-eminently superior to any arms he has ever seen, and he is acquainted with all the improved arms.

No. 18.—Major J. L. Freaner, General Scott's staff: Considers them the best arms in use; says, that he was informed by Colonel Hays, if his men had not been armed with them, when Padre Jaurata attacked him at Teotoleucan, that he would have lost his command of 70 men; and that it was by the aid of this weapon that he was enabled to repulse the guerrilla chief without the loss of a man.

No. 19.—General Twiggs, 2d division army in Mexico, says:

WASHINGTON, April 24, 1848.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your inquiry relative to the value of Colt's repeating arms, for the use of regular troops, I take pleasure in stating, that I have seen nothing to change my opinion of them, favorably expressed, after a series of experiments made during the war in Florida.

The new model is a very great improvement upon the arms used in those experiments, and I have no doubt can be relied on under

all circumstances, in the hands of the soldiers of the regular army, as well as in the hands of the Texan rangers and volunteers.

These arms have been universally approved by all who have used them, and been conversant with their use in the present war with Mexico, and I cannot too highly recommend their general use in the army.

The present carbine furnished by the ordnance department to our mounted troops is of but little use; if its place could be supplied by two of Colt's improved pistols, each man could fire twelve times at the commencement of a fight, and incalculable advantages would be gained.

I am glad to learn that this subject is exciting the attention of government, and I hope immediate measures may be adopted to obtain a full supply of this most valuable fire-arm, for our Indian and Mexican frontier.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,
Brigadier General, U. S. A.

General T. J. RUSK,
Military Committee, U. S. Senate.

No. 20.—Report of board of dragoon officers: The board, which was composed of Captains W. W. Tompkins, Wm. W. Fulton, and J. Graham, after a series of experiments, reported: that it is firmly the opinion of the board, that when this fire-arm is once introduced, and its superiorities over every other become known, it will be universally used.

Generals Twiggs and Harney endorse the above report as follows:

“Having been present when most of the experiments above reported were made, and fired the pistol ourselves, we fully concur with the board in opinion.”

No. 21.—A board of navy officers, appointed by the Hon. Secretary of the Navy, and consisting of Captain John Thomas Newton, Commanders John D. Williamson, Jas. M. McIntosh, Lieutenants Andrew A. Harwood, Stephen Johnston, Frederick Chatard, Cicero Price, Richard W. Meade, and Wm. T. Muse, report that: “It would be almost superfluous to say anything more than is expressed in the reports; for there can be but one opinion on the subject of these fire-arms, and that is, their superiority, in every respect, over those in common use in our navy. As a weapon for boarding, Colt's pistol possesses incalculable advantages over those in common use. With the former you have five discharges, which, if necessary, can be fired in as many seconds; with the latter, you have but one at your command; for, after firing once, it will be almost impossible, in the heat of battle, and the confusion attendant on boarding the enemy, or of repelling him, to reload it. The celerity with which Colt's arms may be fired, is, beyond a doubt, in their favor, compared with the ordinary ship musket and pistol. Their accuracy has been fully and satisfactorily proved. The force,

or relative degrees of penetration of the balls, appear to have been slightly in favor of the musket. This difference, however, in itself of no great importance, was owing to the musket cartridge and ball being much larger than that of the charge of Colt's carbine. With an equal quantity of powder forming the charge of each, the result would be in favor of the carbine.

"The proof of their capability to stand exposure to water, which is a consideration of great importance, has been established by the fact that I directed several of the cylinders to be immersed in a bucket of water, and kept in that situation for two hours; when taken out, most of the charges were fired; some, to be sure, failed to go off, but this was owing to the inferiority of the percussion caps used on that occasion, and not the effect of the water; for, on examination, the charges were found perfectly free from dampness. It is well known that common muskets, or pistols, become useless very soon after being exposed to the wet.

"The safety of Colt's fire-arms is manifest, and can be depended upon. Loose powder was scattered in the opening around the percussion caps, the gun discharged, and the loose powder remained unignited, as well as the remaining charges in the cylinder."

Report on the second series of experiments by the above board.

UNITED STATES STEAM FRIGATE FULTON,
Navy Yard, New York.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, herewith, the results of a second experiment made between Colt's repeating arms and the musket in common use; on which occasion (at Governor's island on the 19th instant) they were also tested in comparison with Hall's patent carbines.

This was the earliest opportunity afforded, apart from other duties, to carry into effect your order of the 18th ultimo, and the wishes of the Navy Board on that subject.

1.—*Accuracy of firing.*

A target, five feet by two, was placed at a distance of seventy-five yards, at which eight marines, with *Colt's arms*, fired each three rounds, making, in all, twenty-four. Five shots hit the target outside the bull's-eye

The same number of marines, with *Hall's arms*, fired each three rounds, making twenty-four. Six shots hit the target; one on the ring, and one half an inch of the bull's-eye.

The same number of marines, with the *common musket*, fired each three rounds, making twenty-four. Ten shots hit the target; two inside of the ring.

2.—*Celerity of firing.*

Eight marines, with *Colt's arms*, fired for five minutes, (the time accurately observed by a stop-watch,) and discharged, in that time, *one hundred and eighty-four balls.*

The same number of marines, with *Hall's arms*, discharged, in the same space of time, *ninety balls.*

The same number of marines, with the *common musket*, in the same space of time, discharged *ninety-five balls.*

During these experiments, the cold was intense; owing to which, the men were not so expert. This may account for the indifferent shooting. Nevertheless, the celerity of firing appears to have resulted much in favor of *Colt's arms.* In point of accuracy, however, (which will be considered of minor importance,) there seems to be a slight difference in favor of the other arms.

Not being perfectly satisfied with the first trial, as to accuracy, another was made, and the result was as follows:

The target being placed at the same distance, the eight marines, with *Colt's arms*, fired each three rounds; six shots striking the target, two inside the ring.

The same number of marines, with *Hall's arms*, fired each three rounds; four shots striking the target, two inside the ring.

The same number of marines, with the *common musket*, fired each three rounds; six shots striking the target, one on the ring.

I cannot but repeat, as in a former report, my unqualified opinion as to the advantages which *Colt's arms* possess over every other now in use. I consider Hall's carbine a very unsafe and dangerous weapon, particularly in the hands of inexperienced men. If care be not taken, that part of the breach which opens for the reception of the charge is apt to be pressed up by the left hand as you present the piece to fire; the catch being placed immediately where the left hand is applied. In shouldering the piece, the same thing might occur; in consequence of which, the charge not only would be lost, but serious results might be experienced by the explosion to the person firing the piece, and those near him.

Another objection to Hall's carbines is, that they will not stand exposure to wet weather; but, owing to their peculiar construction, are as liable to become useless as the common musket, if allowed to be exposed to the wet for ten minutes. *Colt's arms* can remain immersed in water for two or three hours, and when taken out are as effective as before.

The ramrod, or, more properly, the lever, has been very ingeniously fitted permanently to *Colt's carbine*, and facilitates, in a great degree, the loading. This is an important improvement, and the liability to drop the lever is now obviated.

The reports of the officers of the *Fulton*, who were present and witnessed the above mentioned experiments, are herewith enclosed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN THOMAS NEWTON,

Captain.

Com. JAMES RENSHAW,

Commanding Naval Station, New York.

U. S. STEAMER FULTON,
December 22, 1840.

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 18th instant, we proceeded to Governor's island on the 19th, and in company with yourself and other officers of the navy, with some few of the army, witnessed, a second time, the experiments between Mr. Colt's repeating arms, the common ship's muskets, and, in this instance, with Hall's rifles.

We deemed our former experiments with the repeating arms and common muskets and pistols as very satisfactory; and consequently without hesitation gave our opinion in favor of the former being adopted, in the place of the common small arms in our navy; and our opinion as to their superiority has only been strengthened by these last experiments.

Indeed we look upon Hall's rifles, as they are now made, as exceedingly dangerous; and, in the hands of unpractised seamen, accidents must be constantly occurring, for this very simple reason: there is nothing to prevent the breech from flying up, or opening, at the very spot usually taken hold of by the left hand in the act of firing, and which occurrence must be attended with serious results to the men firing them. We believe we are sustained, in the opinion expressed in regard to the danger, by the officers of the army who have seen them used.

The celerity of the fire in this instance, as previously, will be seen to be in favor of Colt's repeating arms, although used by marines unaccustomed to them. Eight marines fired Colt's repeating arms for five minutes, and discharged, in that time, 184 balls. They were given thirty balls each, and one of them discharged his thirty and called for a fresh supply before the time expired. The same eight marines with Hall's rifles, in the same space of time fired ninety balls; and with the common musket, ninety-five balls.

During these experiments the weather was intensely cold, and, although every precaution was taken to shelter the men, they suffered seriously, and were, of course, not as expert as they would have been in milder weather; and which, in our opinion, prevented any fair test as to accuracy at this time. The men were shivering with cold, and could not hold the arms steadily. We are of opinion, however, that these last experiments are all in favor of Colt's repeating arms. We would also remark, that Mr. Colt having now attached permanently the ramrod to the carbine, we consider the facility of loading very much increased, and removes an objection hitherto entertained in regard them, in consequence of the ramrod being detached and therefore liable to be lost.

We are, most respectfully, your obedient servants,

J. D. WILLIAMSON, *Commander.*

JAS. M. McINTOSH, *Commander.*

ANDREW A. HARWOOD,

Lieutenant United States Navy.

CICERO PRICE,
Lieutenant United States Navy.
 STEPHEN JOHNSON, *Lieutenant.*
 FRED. CHATARD, *Lieutenant.*
 R. W. MEADE, *Lieutenant.*

To Captain JOHN T. NEWTON,
Commanding Steamer.

I certify that the above reports are true copies taken from the files of the Navy Commissioners' office.

JOS. P. McCORKLE.

Subsequently to the above, another board of navy and marine officers, consisting of Captains C. S. McAuley and J. H. Aulick, of the navy, and Major L. Twiggs, United States marine corps, was ordered by the honorable Secretary of the Navy, to make further examinations of these arms, who report:

“They are *decidedly* of opinion that every vessel of war should be supplied with a sufficient number of these pistols for arming boat expeditions, where the perfect security of the charge from injury by sprays of the sea or surf of the beach, and the facility with which they may be loaded on these occasions, or their receivers shifted, when their possessor is even lying down in the bottom of his boat, would always, in the opinion of the board, give them an *incalculable advantage* over other arms now used in the service.”

Extracts of letters from distinguished military officers, submitted to this committee, received since the report of the Senate Military Committee of last session was made.

No. 1.—Major General W. J. Worth, in a letter to Mr. Colt, writes: “The recent Mexican war has fully demonstrated the formidable character of this weapon in all mounted corps or partisan service. You can have no better or higher testimony than that of General Lane and Colonel Jack Hays, both gallant officers and of large experience. In a higher degree will its value be shown in our Indian contests, where the onset is sudden, and fierce, and momentary—where it is of first importance to deliver the largest amount of fire in the briefest time.

“Wishing you success in your praiseworthy efforts to improve the armament of the country, I remain, &c.”

No. 2.—General Joseph Lane writes: “I think I can say as much for and about this formidable weapon as any one now living, except Col. Jack Hays, of Texas, (poor Walker is no more.) I have seen them tested in several severe and bloody conflicts, when

a few men, armed with Colt's revolver, were equal to five, and in several instances to ten times their numbers. No weapon is equal to it. In close quarters one man is always equal to three or more. I know the use of it well, and would recommend that all mounted forces be armed with them."

No. 3.—Colonel Jack Hays, of the Texas rangers, writes: "I have had a good opportunity of testing the utility of Colt's pistols during the late Mexican war, and feel no hesitation in saying they are superior (in my opinion) to any other now known for cavalry. The danger of accidental explosion has been obviated by the late improvement. They go off clear. The cylinders revolve with great rapidity, and the distance they carry a ball (I mean the conical ball) is indeed surprising. Soldiers should be practised in the use of them. They soon become easy to the hand; the aim you wish to draw can be easily caught; and when placed in the hands of those who understand the proper use of them, they are unquestionably the most formidable weapon ever used in battle. I therefore concur fully in the opinion that they can be used with the same advantage by the regular as volunteer forces."

No. 4.—Captain G. H. Tobin, Texas rangers, writes: "As to the objection raised by persons who have had no experience in the use of these arms, that they may not stand exposure, I would relate the following fact: Major Ben McCullough with 16 men, in returning to Texas, after the capture of Monterey, in an encounter with the Comanche Indians, lost one of these pistols, after having discharged three chambers. Three months afterwards, he and I, and some others travelling over the same ground, found the pistol, where it had lain exposed to the storms of the whole season, and putting new caps on the nipples of the two loaded chambers, they were discharged as though they had been loaded but the day before.

"Few men who know the use of them, if going into action, would part with one for a Jew's eye."

No. 5.—Commodore E. W. Moore, Texan navy, writes: "I take pleasure in stating that, while in command of the Texas navy, I had an excellent opportunity of testing the *efficiency* and *durability* of these arms.

"The Texas volunteers of war were armed with Colt's pistols and carbines, which were on very frequent occasions exposed in boats and bad weather, and I unhesitatingly assert that they are as little injured by exposure to the weather as the common musket or ship's pistol. Of their *efficiency*; I think it useless to say anything.

"The Colt's pistols, used by the Texas rangers before annexation, were all supplied from the navy, after they had been in *constant use* in that arm of the service *upwards* of four years; and I know some of these arms that have been in constant use for *nine years*, and are *still good*.

"I have seen the recently improved model which has several

alterations or rather improvements, which make it a *better arm* than those I had in use in the Texas navy, which were among the first manufactured by the inventor."

No. 6.—Major General Gideon J. Pillow, writes: "In reply, I do not hesitate to say, I regard Colt's repeating pistol the most formidable fire-arm with which I have any acquaintance, for all mounted troops.

"Indeed, I do not understand how its value can be doubted by any familiar with its use."

No. 7.—Brigadier General George M. Brooke, writes: "I have no doubt of the great efficiency of Colt's pistols, which have been truly tested against both Indians and Mexicans; and their very destructive fire has elicited the admiration and fear of those against whom they have been directed."

No. 8.—Brigadier General Matthew Arbuckle, United States army, writes: "I am of opinion that Colt's pistol is decidedly the best and most formidable weapon a horseman can be furnished with, and that our mounted force ought to have no other, except good swords, when acting in an open country against any enemy whomsoever."

No. 9.—Brigadier General S. W. Kearny, United States army, writes: "Colt's pistol is most certainly a very powerful weapon in the hands of a cool and careful man, and may be used with very great effect against Indians, or other irregular light troops. The advantages of the pistol, in my opinion, far outweigh the objections that are offered against it."

No. 10.—Colonel Robert E. Temple, 10th infantry, United States army, writes: "I have an exalted opinion of the usefulness and efficiency of this arm; and it appears to me that a substitution of two of Colt's pistols for the carbine, in the equipment of our dragoons, would be a highly beneficial improvement."

No. 11.—Colonel William Davenport, 1st infantry, United States army, writes: "I judge that it may safely be inferred that, if one pistol is useful, six will be still more so; and any invention which will enable us, in time of great need, to deliver six shots without losing time may be regarded as an improvement which should be adopted."

No. 11½. Lieutenant Colonel T. P. Moore, 3d dragoons, United States army, writes: "During my short visit to Washington I had a conversation with Colonel Harney on the subject of Colt's pistols, in which I then expressed the opinion that the arming of our corps with Colt's revolvers would double its efficiency. I am still of that opinion.

"That this weapon should be furnished to mounted volunteers, and withheld from the regulars, is passing strange. Nothing can

be more certain than that the discipline prevailing in the regular army would better secure the preservation, and, consequently, the efficiency of this weapon in the hands of regular soldiers. I hope the government will not hesitate to adopt this measure."

No. 12.—Colonel Ward Burnett, New York volunteers in Mexico, writes: "Colt's pistols are superior in every particular to any other, and especially effective in the hands of mounted men. I regard the late improvements as very important, and recommend that every species of cavalry and all mounted officers should be armed with them."

No. 13.—Colonel George W. Morgan, United States army, writes: "Practical experience has rendered it certain that Colt's repeater is the most destructive and effective weapon that can be used in close quarters; and, in the hands of the disciplined soldier, it requires no more care than the ordinary dragoon pistol. I think that the repeater would be more effective against regular troops than when opposed to mere guerrillas. The guerrilla will fly before the regular soldier begins to fight. Heretofore, good cavalry have been able to cope with good infantry, and, for the simple reason, that the bayonet is greatly superior to the sabre.

"In the field of Waterloo we have a case directly in point. The French cavalry charged the English squares, time and again, without effect; and, finally, became so desperate that they sought to back their horses through the English formation. Let us suppose the cavalry to have been armed with Colt's repeaters; that, after having drawn the fire of the squares, they had borne down upon them with the rapidity of thought, poured into their faces six well directed volleys, I will not say that such would have been the result, but there is a strong probability that the squares must have melted away before such a storm of balls."

No. 14.—Lieutenant Colonel J. E. Johnson, voltigeurs, writes: "Fully concurring in opinion with the committee as to the value of Colt's pistol, I earnestly hope that your efforts to introduce it in the army may be successful. If so, you will undoubtedly render our cavalry far more formidable than they now are. Cavalry would, in my opinion, be far better armed with this weapon alone, than with the sabres and pistols now used. In addition to the advantage of repeating, this pistol shoots with more force and accuracy than the ordinary one, and is, indeed, the best weapon known. A strong argument in its favor is, that all those in the army who had the privilege of selecting their arms, when possible, provided themselves with it. The mere workmanship of these pistols, too, is admirable."

No. 15.—Brevet Lieutenant Colonel George A. Caldwell, United States army, writes: "Two years' experience with the army of the United States, in Mexico, enables me to speak with confidence of the value of Colt's patent repeating pistols. Those who had them

there could not be induced to part with them at any price, whilst all those who did not have them, as far as I know, were exceedingly anxious to get them at almost any price. Such was the demand for them, amongst those whom experience in perilous and trying circumstances had taught their value, that I have known one hundred dollars apiece offered and refused.

"I do not hesitate to say, that they ought to be substituted for the *pistols and carbine* now in use in our cavalry service."

No. 16.—Brevet Lieutenant Colonel C. A. May, 2d dragoons, U. S. A., writes: "At the commencement of the war with Mexico, I was fortunate in procuring a number of Colt's pistols for my command. I used them in all the battles and skirmishes in which I was engaged, and take great pleasure in bearing testimony to their superiority over any other arm of the kind I have ever used.

"During the time I had them in use, (which was about one year and a-half,) they were exposed to all kinds of weather and service; and I never found any difficulty in keeping them in proper order with ordinary attention. I consider them the most effective arm we could adopt for our cavalry service, and I trust the day is not far distant when we will have all our mounted men armed with them."

No. 17.—Lieutenant Colonel J. Bankhead Magruder, light artillery, writes: "I have been for many years acquainted with the use of the arms generally called 'Colt's pistols,' particularly throughout the present war with Mexico. I have used them myself and seen them used in the field by others; and I do not hesitate to say that, in my humble opinion it is the best arm of the sort now known in this or any other country. It is, indeed, the only arm in which we have a decided advantage over the troops of any other country; and I consider it a weapon especially appropriate to the regular army, which has the advantage of a more perfect discipline and more thorough instruction than can be expected of irregular troops, who, themselves, have proved the entire efficiency of this arm."

No. 18.—Major Wm. H. Polk, writes: "It is the most efficient weapon that a mounted force can be armed with. One of the companies under my command in the two expeditions commanded by General Lane in Mexico, were armed with Colt's repeating pistols, and proved very efficient in two engagements with the enemy. I believe that a small force would more confidently and cheerfully encounter danger, if furnished with these pistols, than a large force would do with the usual regulation equipment. This I have seen tested."

No. 19.—Lieutenant Colonel J. McClelland, topographical engineers, writes: "It gives me great pleasure to state that the regular troops, above all other, on account of their discipline, the ease with which they can be made acquainted with the use of *any arm*, are the troops to make efficient use of Colt's pistols.

"I have frequently made the remark in Mexico, that the efficiency of the Texas rangers was owing to the arm. They used Colt's six-shooter; and it is evident to any one acquainted with fire-arms that it has immense advantages over other arms."

No. 20.—Major M. L. Burnham, 12th infantry, writes: "I am gratified to see that the matter of Colt's pistols is attracting the attention of Congress. For mounted troops, especially, that will be employed in our extended Mexican and Indian frontier, they are incomparably superior to all other inventions, admitting of being shot with accuracy on horseback, which the ordinary carbine and rifle do not. This arm might be used, too, with great propriety by the artillery, and would be invaluable in those hand to hand conflicts which artillerists would engage in before yielding to an assault."

No. 21.—Major Nathan Boone, 1st dragoons, United States army, writes: "I am bound to state that, in my opinion, Colt's repeating pistol is the most efficient which could be furnished the cavalry or mounted men, more particularly when acting against lancers, or our western Indians of the prairies."

No. 22.—Lieutenant Colonel B. L. E. Bonneville, 6th infantry, writes: "I look upon Colt's repeating pistol invaluable as an arm. In fact, whilst the army was operating in Mexico, every officer and soldier who could obtain one, had it, cost what it would. I deem the arm invaluable in the hands of riflemen and light infantry, acting as skirmishers. I have no doubt they would be valued highly, also, by the cannoneers, in the melee which follows a charge upon a battery of field pieces."

No. 23.—Major P. Morrison, 8th infantry, writes: "From the experience I have had of these arms, I am of opinion that they would be invaluable in the hands of well disciplined troops, particularly mounted men."

No. 24.—Major J. J. McCarty, 10th infantry, writes: "With regard to Colt's improved repeating pistol, I unhesitatingly say that I believe it to be the most efficient weapon now in use, and I think it important that every mounted man in the service should be furnished with it. I have never heard any person, familiar with its use, speak of it in any other than the most favorable terms."

No. 25.—Major John F. Hunter, 11th infantry, United States army, writes: "I take great pleasure in stating that the new model pistol is a great improvement upon the old arms, and I have no doubt can be relied on under all circumstances.

"I am glad that this subject is exciting the attention of government, and I hope immediate measures may be adopted to obtain a supply of this most valuable fire-arm."

No. 26.—Major John G. Reynolds, United States marine corps. “A long experience with the ‘Colt arm,’ and feeling an interest as to its utility in active service, during a campaign in Mexico I made it a point to inquire of reliable persons, who were in the constant use of said weapon, as to its utility, and am gratified in being able to state that all concur in the opinion of their great superiority over all other descriptions of small arms.”

“I fully concur in opinion with Captain Reynolds.

“A. A. NICHOLSON.”

Major and Quartermaster Marine Corps.

No. 27.—Lieutenant William A. T. Maddox, United States marine corps, writes: “My command, of about forty horsemen, were armed with Colt’s repeating carbines and pistols during the campaign in California. They were exposed, without tents, in every kind of weather, and I do not hesitate to say that, with ordinary care in the soldier, under instruction from their officers, no weapon can be so efficient. I found them as little liable to accident as the best government muskets, and to be relied on under all circumstances. In one instance, when I had occasion to swim the Santa Cruz river on horseback, the arms were necessarily three-quarters of an hour immersed under water, and an hour and a half afterwards when an opportunity for trying them offered, it was found that only one out of the whole number of charges failed to go off, and that merely in consequence of an imperfection in the percussion cap. The simplicity of construction, and the apparatus for loading which have been employed in the new model pistol that I have recently examined, give it even additional advantage, and render it completely comprehensible by the commonest soldier.”

No. 28.—Captain H. Swartwout, 2d artillery, writes: “In relation to the comparative efficiency of your repeating pistols for the dragoon arm of the service, I take pleasure in giving my testimony in their favor.”

No. 29.—Major John S. Simonson, mounted rifles, writes: “I fully concur in the opinion, that Colt’s repeating pistol should be adopted and placed in the hands of all the mounted men in the service. Against Indians in skirmishes, or in a close fight, it is the most effective weapon in use, and the fact of holding six shots in his hand would add much to the confidence of the soldier. I have witnessed many experiments with this pistol, at distances ranging from ten paces to eighty yards, in all of which shots were made with great certainty, in quick succession; and I have not heard a single officer speak of their utility who did not give them the preference over all others. I trust the regiment of mounted riflemen will be armed with these pistols, as they will add much to the efficiency of that corps.”

No. 30.—Captain M. E. Van Buren, mounted riflemen, writes: "The introduction of this pistol into our mounted regiment would render them the most formidable cavalry in the world. So well satisfied am I of the importance and efficiency of this arm, that I intended to apply in the proper quarter for it for my company of mounted riflemen. I trust now, however, that Congress will render such an application unnecessary by the adoption of your joint resolution."

No. 31.—Major D. H. Rucker, 1st dragoons, writes: "I have seen these pistols used for a number of years by our frontier soldiers, and since I have been in Mexico. In every instance they have been preferred above all others.

"I think them exceedingly well adapted for cavalry, and in a close fight they must be very effective.

"If they are continued to be as well manufactured as heretofore, I do not think they will be at all liable to get out of order. There are plenty of them now in this country that have been in constant use for years, without having been repaired, that are in perfect order."

No. 32.—Major James Henry Carleton, 1st dragoons, United States army, writes: "I have had one of Colt's revolving pistols of the largest size in nearly all the campaigns of the 1st regiment of dragoons since 1840, whether upon the plains, at the Rocky Mountains with General Kearny, throughout Texas, or in Mexico with General Taylor, it never was out of order but once during that period; then the main spring was broken by an act of sheer carelessness of my own, when I had taken the lock apart. I consider it the best weapon (always excepting the sabre) for mounted men I ever saw."

"If our regular cavalry could abandon the present *horse killing* carbine, and could be furnished with such of Colt's pistols as were made for the mounted rifle regiment, the corps, in my opinion, would, at a less expense, be infinitely more efficient, and I am disposed to believe that the dragoon officers, generally, would concur with me in recommending that it be adopted by our arm of the service."

No. 33.—Major R. A. Arnold, 2d dragoons United States army, writes: "I have for years considered the revolving pistol the very best weapon which could be furnished cavalry or mounted men, for frontier service. An experience of three years and a half in the Florida war, and more than two in the Mexican, has taught me fully to appreciate this fine weapon. I would vastly prefer, for all service in the field, that my company should dispense with the carbine, and that each man should be armed with two of Colt's revolving pistols."

No. 34.—Major Philip Kearney, jr., 1st regiment dragoons, United States army, writes: "My services on the prairie in Mex-

ico convince me that it is the most efficient fire arm to be put in the hands of mounted men; that it should be adopted; a pair given to each dragoon, and the present carbine be dispensed with.

"Its advantages are obvious and immense. It is not as delicate an arm as the carbine; and in the hands of our regular dragoons will be most easily preserved in order.

"If your committee succeed in having Colt's pistols adopted, you will have the lasting thanks of every cavalry officer."

No. 35.—Captain Edward Deas, 4th artillery, United States army, writes: "I regard Colt's pistol as the most efficient weapon I have ever seen for cavalry, and as a small arm, or accessory means of defence for light artillery. I believe that those arms of the service should never be without these arms; and with them their efficiency is quadrupled."

No. 36.—Colonel Geo. W. Hughes, volunteers, writes: "I heard but one opinion expressed, in Mexico, on the subject by those who had occasion frequently to use that arm, which was decidedly in its favor. They all spoke in the highest terms of its accuracy of aim, force of projection, and safety; in which opinion, from my knowledge of the arm, I concur."

No. 37.—Dr. W. S. Parrott, writes: "I have used Colt's repeating pistols since 1845, and been familiar with their use in the hands of others. They can be relied upon when other small arms fail. On one occasion, Colt's patent pistols were kept loaded for a period of nine months, and on being tried, were found in perfect order, and fired as well as if they had been just loaded."

No. 38.—Major F. T. Lally, writes: "The simplicity of its action, and the certainty and force with which it fired, gave all the greatest confidence in the weapon. I have frequently known some half dozen persons armed with the large 'six shooter' go on expeditions, when, with ordinary arms, it would be considered hazardous to move with less than fifty men."