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Correspondence and Replies to Queries

J. F. Ruthven

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It follows that the gun does not remain stationary when fired. The nominal rapidity of firing (17 rounds a minute) can only refer to unaimed shots, as the gun's lack of stability renders careful laying necessary, which considerably reduces the rate of fire. At the most, it would be possible to fire some 11-12 aimed shots a minute, and even this would hardly be possible under service conditions.

The fact that officers and men had little or no practice with the new gun had a great effect upon the action of the Russian artillery. The order introducing the new gun was only approved by the Tsar in May, 1904—several months after the commencement of hostilities.

Numerous instances have been mentioned in which the action of the Japanese mountain artillery was decisive. This tends to show that field guns were not used in the difficult ground, or could not be got up into action in good time. If this were so with the Japanese, it would apply still more to the heavier *matériel* of the Russians. It is known that the Japanese mountain artillery is considerably superior to that of the Russian.

It is said that the Russian artillery is improving, as the men are becoming accustomed to the new gun.

One great defect in this new Russian gun, and one not seen in any other Q.F. gun, is that its great weight and lack of stability preclude the use of shields for the protection of the gun detachment.¹

The *Russki Invalid* gives an instance, in the battle of Liao-yang, in which shields would have been of great service in protecting the gunners from infantry fire, which prevented the guns coming into action.

Neither Russians nor Japanese can be said to have a thoroughly modern gun, fully up to modern requirements. The Russian gun has great ballistic qualities, but is not sufficiently mobile. The Japanese gun is very light, and consequently is only mediocre from a ballistic point of view.

In peace time field artillery is ever straining after greater mobility, while in war, or immediately after war, the desire for greater power comes to the fore."

N.B.—The foot-notes appear in the original Italian.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPLIES TO QUERIES.

"FIGHTING IN ENCLOSED COUNTRY, WITH SOME NOTES FROM THE ESSEX MANŒUVRES."

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.

SIR,—Your issue of the 15th of May contains a report of some remarks made by me in the discussion which followed the excellent lecture on "Fighting in Enclosed Country," delivered before the United Service Institution on 31st January last. Speaking on the spur of the moment, I referred in these remarks to some "manœuvres held by Sir

¹The gun adopted in Norway, the weight of which also precludes carrying shields, has special wagons for carrying shields alone, which are affixed to the gun when desirable.—(Note by the Editor of *R.A.G.*)