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THE STATE TROOPS

THE KRAG JORGENSEN RIFLE

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

The issue of the Krag-Jorgensen rifle to the military forces of the United States must of necessity cause some change in the "Manual of Arms" as now prescribed. For instance, the position of the "belt" renders it next to impossible to execute the "carry," and hence the salute now prescribed for non-commissioned officers and sentinels must be changed or done away with. The point upon which I desire to be informed is in relation to the manner of adjusting the "sling" upon the new rifle, in order to prevent its non-interference, not simply with one, but with every position of the manual as now authorized. If it is adjusted "taut" as upon the Springfield rifle, I would as soon attempt the execution of the manual with a "bent bow"; if loose, as we see it represented in some pictures of the foreign arms, somebody and something is likely to become tangled if cadence is attempted. The usually true pencil of our friend Remington gives us no aid, for in his cut in "Harper's," explanatory of the "Rice Equipment," he supplies his soldier representative with a Springfield rifle with a Krag-Jorgensen bayonet, or a Krag-Jorgensen rifle with a Springfield sling - it is not clear which. I would like instruction in the method considered proper for the adjustment of the sling upon the Krag-Jorgensen rifle, in order to permit the use of, or execution of, any "manual" whatever, without extreme awkwardness. I would like to know where Col. Rice expects to carry a change of underwear when his apparently splendid equipment is worn. Men, even in campaign, cannot wear one suit of underwear and one pair of socks forever and keep healthy. I hope my inquisitiveness is not too troublesome. Even a militiaman likes to keep up with the Army he admires.

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