



"TRENCH CLEANERS"

Buck Shot Can Help Win This War

UNDER the heading "Correspondence" in recent issues of the *Scientific American*, two suggestions of interest to trapshooters were made—one that attacking parties of American troops should include men armed with magazine shot-guns; the other suggestion was that a machine shot-gun be developed and used. Both of the plans are timely and should receive the careful consideration of the War Department.

Without detracting from the credit due *Scientific American's* contributors, BASEBALL MAGAZINE would recall to its readers
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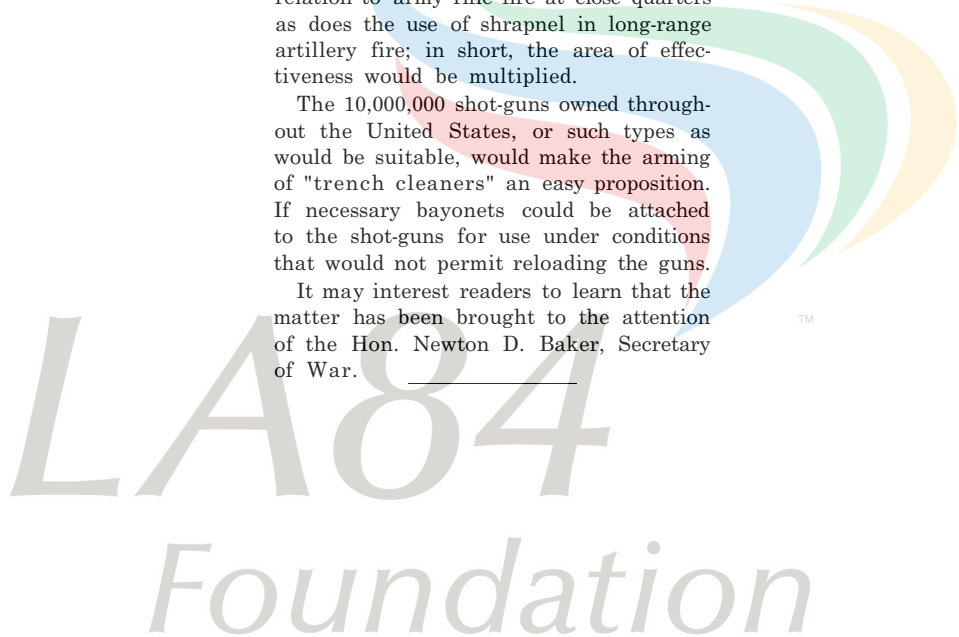
the fact that in several issues, during the past two years, reference has been made to the value in modern warfare of the training more than one-half million Americans have received in following the sport of trapshooting.

If the War Department would mobilize a large force of these expert gunners—men who can average 80 to 98 per cent. of hits on flying targets—and organize "trench cleaning" squads to accompany raiding parties in attacks on our enemy's trenches, the bayonet would likely play a minor part, compared with the shot-gun, in the present conflict. Charges of buck-shot, properly directed, would prove most terrifying and effective in close-range fighting.

Of course the idea of using shot in warfare is novel, but, after all, the use of small leaden pellets would bear the same relation to army rifle fire at close quarters as does the use of shrapnel in long-range artillery fire; in short, the area of effectiveness would be multiplied.

The 10,000,000 shot-guns owned throughout the United States, or such types as would be suitable, would make the arming of "trench cleaners" an easy proposition. If necessary bayonets could be attached to the shot-guns for use under conditions that would not permit reloading the guns.

It may interest readers to learn that the matter has been brought to the attention of the Hon. Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War.



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