

ORDNANCE OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, *April 14th*, 1860.

GEN. N. BREWER, of John,

*Adj't Gen'l of Maryland,**Annapolis.*

SIR :

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., and in answer to state, that the Rifle Musket and Long-range rifle, with sword bayonet, both of the cal. of 58 inch; are the latest models adopted for the U. S. troops; the Rifle Muskets for foot troops, and the Rifle for the Regiment of Riflemen. They are considered so far as has been ascertained from experience, very efficient arms for military service.

The Rifle Muskets and Long-range rifles are manufactured at the National Armories; but there is no authority for selling them. There is now a bill before Congress to authorize the sale to the States; but it has not yet become a Law.

Our mounted Regiments are armed with Sabres, Revolver, pistols and Carbines. The pistols most in use were made by Mr. Samuel Colt, and are of two sizes, one for the belt, and a larger one for the holsters; the price of the belt pistol is \$18, and that of the holster pistol \$22 50. A much cheaper and it is believed an equally good pistol, can be procured elsewhere.

The carbines are generally what are called breech-loaders. The most numerous in our service are of the "Sharps'" pattern; which, on account of the greater simplicity of construction, are, I think, generally preferred. Amongst the others I would mention Burnside's, with a metallic cartridge; Maynard's modification of Lafoucheux; also with a metallic cartridge; Merrill's (at Baltimore,) and Joselyn's. Burnside's received the award of a Board of officers appointed to examine and decide upon the merits of different arms of the kind.

The prices paid for these arms are as follows:

Sharp's Carbines manufactured by the Sharp's Arms manufacturing Company, Harford, Conn.....	\$30.
Burnsides Carbines, manufactured at Providence.....	\$30.
Merrill—at Baltimore.....	\$35.
Joselyn's—Millbring Mass.....	\$35.