

The rear half of its body contains those mysterious intestines by which it receives its motive power, the front half is packed with gun cotton, and the snout holds the detonating fuse. This marine monster is moved through the water by a screw at the tail driven by small engines, which are worked by a reservoir of compressed air. The torpedo can maintain a speed of about nine knots for about 300 yards, but it will run a mile at a less speed, and it can be so adjusted as to maintain its direction at any depth under water desired by the operator.

"The 'fish' is generally launched from a tube immersed about 4ft. below the water; it immediately dives under water to the depth to which it has been sent, and then continues to move on at that depth in a direct course until the reservoir is exhausted. It can be launched either from a boat or from an ironclad by night or by day. The officers who have been engaged in bringing the Whitehead system to perfection in this country have carried out numerous experiments and have made many important improvements; but its effect on future naval tactics cannot be accurately judged until some experience has been gained in real war. It may turn out to be difficult of employment in actions on the high seas, and its use may have to be confined to calm waters and adjacent ports; but the system will undoubtedly be largely tried in the next naval war."

PEOPLE who are fond of lauding the "Prussian System" will find food for reflection in the following paragraph from *Broad Arrow* of 10th October. It is evident the new German Empire needs another war of "more blood and iron" to consolidate it.

"A telegram from Berlin confirms us in the opinion we had formed of the very serious character of the new Landsturm Bill submitted to the State Council by the chancellor of the empire. Under this bill, we are told, the Empire may summon the Landsturm without requiring the consent of the State Council. To the Emperor alone likewise belongs the right of organising the new force, which is to be placed under the military code, and the individual members of which may be draughted into the Landwehr in case of necessity. This means that every able-bodied man in the country is placed at the Emperor's disposal for the reinforcement of the army in time of war. Imagine such a measure applied to our force of Yeomanry and Volunteers!"

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR—Your correspondent "Ixion," in his letter of 24th October last, seems to begrudge Colonel Stuart the thanks which you tender him for his important item of news concerning the "Scarlet Jacket." It is very possible that "Ixion" and others were cognizant of the information contained in this item before you had published it, but that is not a reason to draw down upon Colonel Stuart the sarcasms with which

your correspondent so flippantly assails him. On the contrary, I think that Colonel Stuart deserves the thanks of his brother volunteer officers for the information no matter how tardy it might have been.

The most amusing part, however, is to see "Ixion," no doubt to follow Colonel Stuart's example, announcing "a really important piece of news," which is not new at all, at least to volunteer officers in Quebec. That is, that the Rifle Exercise and Musketry Instructions have been revised and will be shortly issued. Why! not only has this been known in Quebec for some time, but the revised firing exercise and regulations are already in the hands of some officers. I can assure "Ixion" that there is no cause to alarm himself about the revision, and although the work may not be very much simplified, it is simplified enough to disappoint him.

If you allow me, Mr. Editor, I will give your readers the alterations that have been made in the Firing Exercise.

"1. In the third motion of the 'Present,' the flap of the back sight, if raised, is not to be put down until after the breech is closed.

"2. The caution *Fire a Volley and Order* to be simply *Fire a Volley*, the men coming to 'The Order' in all cases on ceasing to fire.

"3. When the Order is to fire more than one round, the breech is not to be closed at the third motion of the *Present*, nor the flap of the back sight (if raised) to be put down after the last round.

"4. On the caution *Prepare for Cavalry*, the standing ranks will come to the 'ready position.'

The Regulations for Musketry Instruction have also been somewhat changed, especially in their compilation. I will give but one example, (see Rifle Reviews of 1870, page 73, at the word: *Present*). In the revised Firing Exercise, it reads thus: "*Present*. Bring the rifle smartly into the hollow of the right shoulder, which must not be allowed to give way (carrying it to the front, so as to clear the body in doing so), pressing it to the shoulder with the left hand; and at the same instant bring the left elbow under the rifle, and the right elbow nearly square with, and well to the front of the right shoulder to form a bed for the butt, without moving the body, head or eye; placing the forefinger round the trigger, but without pressing it; the top part of the keel plate to be in a line with the top part of the shoulder; the right hand to hold the small of the butt lightly, thumb pointing to the muzzle, which is to be directed a few inches below the mark the right eye is fixed upon; the left eye to be closed."

Your obedient servant,

A VOLUNTEER OFFICER.

Quebec, 5th November, 1874.

"A" BATTERY—CANADIAN ARTILLERY.

On the 5th inst., Major General Selby Smyth, accompanied by his Aid-de-Camp, Captain Stapleton, reached Kingston, when the customary salute of 11 guns were fired from Fort Henry. In the evening Major Irwin and officers entertained them at mess when a number of officers in the District took the opportunity of meeting the General. On the 6th inst., General Smyth, accompanied by the Hon. Alex. McKenzie, inspected the Battery. After the inspection the Battery marched past in column of half batteries. The Battery then went through the Manual and Platoon, after which Major General Smyth addressed the men in a few words in which he expressed himself well pleased with the smartness and general soldier-like appearance of the men. At the men's dinner hour the General made an inspection of the barrack rooms, canteens, &c. The General and Staff then adjourned to the officers' mess-room for lunch, after which they went round all the fortifications and towers. On Saturday, the General again visited the barracks and examined the Battery books, &c, also a number of plans and sketches drawn by the officers during the past six months. The General and his Aide-de-camp left Kingston by the afternoon train.

Toto de Pont Barracks, Kingston,
11th November, 1874.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Montreal, 6th November, 1874.

As expected the Victoria Rifle inspection on the 2nd instant was a perfect success, this fine and efficient body of soldiers turned out in full force, and performed the parade and other movements in a manner that did not fail to elicit the approbation of the inspecting officer, Lieutenant Colonel Fletcher, C.M.G., Deputy Adjutant General of the district, who, in his remarks on the termination of the drill, highly complimented Col. Rethune, on the soldierly and smart appearance of his men. The band of the Victorias was in attendance, and played several choice selections during the parade. The Victorias are about importing from England, at their own expense, the new regulation busby as now worn by her H.M.'s 60th Rifle Corps.

Captain Tees of the 1st Troop V. Hussars of this city, who has just obtained his nomination to that rank, is the only member now remaining in the corps since its reorganization under Col. Lovelace and Captain Ramsay in 1856. Captain Tees is most deservedly appointed to the command having worked his way up from a trooper to the position he now holds. As Sergeant Major he was present at all the Fenian raids, received a gold medal for the best mounted pistol practice at the great cavalry tournaments in 1862, and is a recipient of a first