

home and abroad with this weapon. Although we have published an ample historical review of the toy, the two following paragraphs are from *Broad Arrow* of 12th September, the latter entitled "Torpedo-Officers, R. N." is suggestive enough.

"The third of a series of torpedo experiments arranged by the Oberon Torpedo Committee, of which Colonel Sir W. F. Jervois is president, was to have taken place on Friday afternoon in Stokes Bay, near Portsmouth, but at the eleventh hour it was found necessary to postpone it in consequence of some of the minor arrangements not having been completed in time. As our readers are aware, the *corpus vile* which is operated upon is an old paddle steamer, the *Oberon*, which has been fitted with an iron double bottom, similar to the *Hercules*, the object of the experiment now in course of execution being to ascertain the distance at which a submarine torpedo can be sunk from a vessel with the certainty, barring unforeseen contingencies, of the mine when fired taking effect. The two first experiments were with an iron cased torpedo, charged with 500lb. of Professor Abel's gun cotton, placed respectively at 100 and 80 ft. horizontally from the broadside of the *Oberon*, which was moored in Stokes Bay, about a thousand yards distance from Fort Monckton. The two first experiments showed that at those distances a torpedo would inflict but little injury upon the hull of an ironclad. The third experiment, which took place on Saturday afternoon, was looked forward to with great interest, the distance between the *Oberon*, which occupied her former position, and the hidden engine of destruction having been reduced to sixty feet, the quantity of gun cotton used being the same as on the last occasion, and, as then, saturated with water. At a quarter to four o'clock, all the necessary preparations having been made, the torpedo was fired by means of electricity by a party stationed in Fort Monckton. The upheaval of water which followed, accompanied by a shock which was perceptibly felt on board the Government tugs and other craft lying in the vicinity, were very much higher than on the previous occasions, but the volume of water was not so large, and owing to the wind blowing along the side of the vessel none fell upon her deck as before. There were some rabbits and lambs on board, but they escaped without any injury, and the only result which a somewhat cursory examination disclosed was that the hatchway combing had been unshipped as before, but it was not ascertained whether the condensers had received any injury. The *Oberon* was afterwards towed into Portsmouth Harbour, and placed in No. 1 dock, where a minute examination will be made of her hull to ascertain whether any, and if so what, effect the "crusher gauges" which were placed on the side of her hull had, and also to ascertain the exact results internally of the explosion. A fourth experiment, when the distance between the ship and the torpedo will be reduced to forty feet, will, it is expected take place about a fortnight hence. There was a high wind, with a rather "loppy" sea at the time of the experiment."

"Torpedoes will, there are good reasons for expecting (says the *Portsmouth Times*), play a most important part in the naval warfare of the future, and it is well, therefore, that the rising generation of officers, to whom the State would look for service in

the event of an emergency arising, should have the means afforded them of obtaining all the knowledge they can in this department. While scientific men are devoting their attention to the production of torpedoes of the most deadly description, and we are often led to exclaim "What next?" the naval officers' torpedo class has been formed in order to obtain that proficiency in the working of these submarine engines of destruction, which is only to be gained from practical experience. A service contemporary truly remarks:—"If any of the most captains of the 'old school' of naval officers at present on a visit to Portsmouth were to take a boat up the harbor to a well known creek of Portchester, they would have an opportunity of seeing what is expected from post-captains—and also commanders and lieutenants—of the present day. They would observe boats moving about in what might possibly appear a purposeless sort of way, all their crews, however, hard at work, some pulling, others hauling and dragging at wire ropes, others handling curiously-shaped metal cases—in fact working like 'niggers.' These hard workers, however, are not 'niggers'; they form the officers' torpedo classes, and comprise the present and future commanders of England's navy." The development of torpedo warfare will add very materially to the duties and responsibilities of naval officers, and we must admit that we were greatly surprised on reading, in the journal from which we have already quoted, that the officers who thus go through a course of very hard work, with accompanying wear and-tear of clothes, receive nothing beyond an allowance of 1s 6d per diem for luncheon. It is a trite axiom that "the laborer is worthy of his hire," and why should an exception be made in the case of officers who thus evince a laudable desire to render themselves more efficient in the discharge of their duties? It is to be hoped that the attention of the Admiralty will be directed to the matter, with a view to some addition being made to the half pay of the naval officers' torpedo class."

**PERSONAL.**—At the great fire in Lennoxville, Eastern Townships, a short time since, Lieut. Colonel Hottson, 53rd Battalion of Sherbrooke, by his great personal exertions and energy, was instrumental in saving the contents of the Lennoxville Volunteer Armory from the flames that have laid nearly the whole of that beautiful and thriving village in ashes.—*Con.*

The tallest, shortest and stoutest members of the British Parliament are all Irish. Mr. O'Sullivan, the member for Limerick, is the tallest. Diogneda has sent the smallest man, Dr. O'Leary, and the most bulky, is The O'Gorman, member for Waterford, who is said to be as stone heavier than the claimant was.

The Leeds *Mercury* states that at the last sitting of the Barnsley County Court a tailor's bill was disputed on the grounds that the trousers and waistcoat did not fit. To the amusement of all in court the Judge ordered the man to put the garments on, and then decided that they were a good fit, and gave plaintiff a verdict.

The *Tullet* states that the Pope intends sending a religious souvenir to the Marquis of Ripon.

## DOMINION OF CANADA



### MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

#### HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 16th October, 1874.

#### MILITIA GENERAL ORDER (27).

##### No. 1.

Major General Edward Selby Smyth having arrived in Canada on 14th instant, has assumed command of the Militia of the Dominion in pursuance of "The Canada Gazette" notification of 1st instant.

Captain the Honorable Miles Stapleton, Coldstream Guards, is appointed Aid-de-Camp to the Major-General, from 1st instant, with the rank of Captain in the Militia.

By Command of his Excellency the  
Administrator of the Government,  
WALKER POWELL, Lieut. Col.  
Deputy Adjutant General of Militia,  
Canada.

*Apropos* of the approaching manœuvres in Germany, the *Pall Mall Gazette* observes that the difference of opinion between the two schools of German officers as to the future use of cavalry remains as unsettled as ever. Since the great manœuvres at Dessau last year some of the chief tactical theorists, especially Colonel Verdy and Major Scherff, have very plainly given their opinions against the encouragement of any belief in the power of horse used in mass on the battlefield. On the other hand, some of the best practical soldiers in the army, who are understood to have the weight of Prince Frederick Charles's authority on their side, advocate strong the maintenance of the great traditions of Ziethen and Seydlitz. The latter party has evidently the most weight with the War Office, for we find that there are to be three sets of cavalry manœuvres this autumn, though in each that arm will only be represented by the regiments of a single corps. Those of the 3rd Corps are to be trained at Frankfort on the Oder; of the 4th, near Magdeburg; and of the 15th, or Alsace-Lorraine, Corps, near Haganaue. One chief point to be settled at these assemblies is the value of the new Cavalry Exercise Book, as revised by the commission under General Schmidt, and now about to be formally adopted. Another still more important one is the mobility of the new horse artillery guns lately served out, which has been questioned by certain officers of the mounted services, and is to be fully tested and reported on.