

the case of the Havock, and remembering the wonderful advances which have been made in the direction of speed during the last fifteen or twenty years, this constructor was confident that a rate of from thirty to perhaps thirty-five knots an hour would be attained before many years had passed by the constructors of torpedo boat destroyers and catchers. These craft are, after all quite a recent invention, and it is much too early yet to say for certain that they are only capable at the most of what the Havock can perform. This much, however, is pretty clear—that the greater the speed the greater must be the sacrifice of all other desirable points.

MILITARY AND NAVAL NEWS.

The Army and Navy Gazette publishes the following from a correspondent:—

Sir,—With reference to Col. Henderson's case it appears to me that no one can have any objection to a colonel, who is still in robust health and who has done good service, being saved, for a time, retirement on account of age, provided no injustice was thereby occasioned to his juniors. I would therefore submit, for the consideration of the authorities, that, when colonels, serving with the temporary rank of major-general, by seniority, and have reached the colonel's age-limit, they should be passed over, but be allowed to hold their appointment until the expiration of the term for which they were gazetted, and be then allowed to retire with the honorary rank of Lieut.-Gen. This would be a compensation for their previous slow promotion. If this were carried out there would be no heart-burnings or disappointment, and equally good men junior to them would not be made to suffer. On the contrary, everyone would be glad to see qualified men saved to the service for a short period longer.

COLONEL.

Major-General C. Mansfield Clarke, C. B., assumed the duties of Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army on October 28, when Major R. G. Kekewich, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, joined his Staff as Military Secretary, and Captain the Hon. F. R. Bingham as Aide-de-Camp.

Major-General K. G. Henderson, C. B., accompanied by Mrs. Henderson, arrived at Alexandria on the 16th ultimo by the steamship Cathay, where he was met by the Staff, and shortly after landing took command of the Alexandria garrison in succession to Major-General Sir William Butler. But for his appointment to the Alexandria Command, General Henderson would have been placed on the Retired List on Monday 27th. Having obtained the temporary rank of major-general, he can now serve on until November 27, 1898.

Col. Gordon, Commandant of the South Australian Military Forces, re-

cently submitted to his Government an elaborate report for the year ended June 30th, 1893. The whole strength of the forces, officers, and men, including those absent with and without leave at that date, was 2,235. The Commandant says it is quite evident that the present condition of the public finance will not allow of an Eastern encampment. This he took to be the case with the other colonies also, and suggests that the other colonies be approached with a view of holding a military encampment of a federal character. He suggests that the colonies should select representative units, who, on arrival at camp, should be formed into squadrons, batteries, and battalions, the whole brigade, numbering probably some 1,500 men, with 12 to 15 guns.

The cruiser Duquesne is to be put into commission at Lorient, to replace the Arethuse in the French naval division of the Atlantic.

The French are about to build an experimental wooden torpedo, the dimensions and engine-power of which will be exactly similar to those of a sea-going torpedo-boat. The object is to test the conditions of sinking a torpedo-boat going at full speed by gun fire. The wood of the new vessel, which is being built merely for the sake of an experiment, will not be thick, and will be as light as possible in order to obtain conclusive results, either favourable or unfavourable.

The Garnet on the Pacific Station is to be relieved by the Satellite.

General Lord Roberts has taken Grove Park, Kingsbury, for next year, and intends to occupy it as soon as the hunting season is over. His Lordship it is said has no desire to go to Malta in succession to Sir Augustus Smyth.

A committee is being formed to take steps for the erection of an equestrian statue of the Duke of Cambridge near the town railway station at Aldershot, as a national memorial of His Royal Highness's fifty-two years of active service.

To give some idea of the large number of men annually required, under the present service system, to feed the linked battalions in India and the Colonies, and to what straits the battalions at home are put to keep up the supply, it is stated that on the departure of the drafts of the 1st Batn. Northumberland Fusiliers and the 1st Batn. Royal Lancaster Regiment (both Aldershot batns.) the former will require 300, and the latter regiment over 250 men to complete their home establishments. The clerical and other labour, such as raising, clothing, equipping, training, etc., of such a large number of men every year is therefore enormous, and the cost immense.

A competent French critic has, in the *Revue du Cercle Militaire*, discussed the French manoeuvres of the year in a most interesting article. He brings forward the almost inevitable charge, common to all critics of all manoeuvres, large or small, that of too great extension of front as characterising the general tactics. The front of an army corps, according to French text-books, including artillery, should not exceed 4,500 metres (about 4,800 yards). It is alleged that in the campaign of 1870-71 the Germans rarely exceeded 4,000 metres (4,300 yards) but the average lay somewhere between 2,500 and 3,000 metres (about 2,800 yards). Turning movements were also, during the French manoeuvres, too freely attempted, without regard to the excessive expansion and to the occurrence of gaps in the firing line thus occasioned. The infantry are justly commended for the capacity evinced by them for marching.

Deployments were, however, often prematurely effected, the first audible round of opposing fire generally sufficing to occasion immediate deployment of any infantry near the front. Little regard was paid, according to the *Revue*, to fire discipline, and volley firing or individual firing was adopted without any apparent method or actuating cause. Individual firing commenced sometimes at 1,000 metres (1,090) yards, and much waste of ammunition resulted.

A telegram, dated Sierra Leone, Nov. 26, states that "The troops selected to form part of the military expedition against the Sofas, who have taken refuge within the British sphere of influence, and have been causing much trouble, commenced to move yesterday. In view of the previous friendship between the Government and the Sofas, public opinion here is divided as to the necessity of the expedition."

A Times correspondent states that the Russians are about to lay down in the Black Sea a new first-class battle-ship of the Trafalgar type, to be named the *Paris*. She will, therefore, presumably be a sister ship to the *Three Saints* which has just been launched.

A good deal of curiosity is being evinced in French naval circles with respect to the approaching trials of a new automobile torpedo, the invention of an engineer at Nantes. It is claimed for the new torpedo that by a special arrangement all lateral deviation is avoided, and that it is much superior in accuracy of running to the Whitehead. The greatest innovation, however, consists in an arrangement which also allows of the explosion being made to take place either on impact or after some minutes' delay. If the new torpedo possesses the special attributes with which it is credited, it is considered that it will prove of great use to