

# A NEW TORPEDO BOAT.

## Her Speed and Her Peculiar Beller.

The Falko torpedo boat, just built by Messrs. Yarrow for the Austrian Government, made her official trial Dec. 23, 1895, at which the mean speed of her six runs over the measured mile, made in fighting trim, reached the surprising figure of 22.283 knots per hour, the vessel having actually covered 22½ knots within the hour.

Official trial was conducted in the presence of Baron de Haan, the Austrian Naval Attache; Count Sollyk, the future Captain of the boat; Herr Popper, the Austrian naval constructor; and Herr Landecke, the Austrian engineer and inspector. Mr. Soper and Mr. Smale represented the British Admiralty.

The Falko is 135 feet long, 14 feet in extreme width, and 9 feet deep. Her draught forward in fighting trim is 2 feet 3 inches and aft 5 feet 6 inches, her displacement being 83 tons. She is built throughout of galvanized steel, her skin varying in thickness from one-eighth to one quarter of an inch, the greatest thickness being at her bows to strengthen her for ramming purposes. Her machinery is of the compound surface-condensing type, having three cylinders. One of the most important peculiarities of the boat is that she is fitted with a locomotive boiler, which generates steam sufficient to indicate 1,400 horse power.

The trial of this boiler has been looked forward to with great interest, as in the event of its proving successful it will create a complete revolution in the construction of boilers for marine engines where forced draught is necessary. It did its work in a satisfactory manner, furnishing an abundance of steam with a minimum of trouble. It is fitted with a copper fire-box and brass tubes, and it has withstood, without leaking, the bearing strain of eight full-speed trials. The boiler has more than 2,000 feet of heating surface, and there is a grate surface of 44 square feet.

The torpedo arrangements consist of two bow-tubes adapted for discharging the Whitehead torpedo in a direction parallel with the keel, as is usual in the Austrian service. No spare torpedoes will be carried, inasmuch as the Austrian authorities attach primary importance to the maintenance of the highest possible speed, and therefore object to their boat being weighted with a number of torpedoes, which would necessarily greatly reduce their speed. The vessel, however, will carry two Nordenfelt machine guns, one on each side.

The boiler and machinery are partly protected from shot by the coal bunkers, which run longitudinally right through the engine and boiler room on each side, and transversely in front of the boiler, so that when these bunkers are full a certain amount of shot protection will be secured.

The accommodation for the officers is provided in a cabin forward, the crew being berthed aft. In this respect the practice of the Austrian service differs from that of all other nations, which invariably berth their officers aft, where the noise and vibration of the screw are the greatest. The propeller, which is a two-bladed one, is forged out of a single block of steel. The vessel is steered by means of two rudders, one placed at the bow and the other at the stern, which can be worked either by steam or hand gear.

One important point with regard to the navigation of the boat is that the officer in charge, instead of being stationed forward, as is usually the case in these boats, will occupy a steering tower secured to the top of the deck amidships, and thus he will be placed in an elevated position, from which he will have an all-round view and can better direct the movements of his vessel, while he will be removed to a sufficient distance from the rush of water and spray which in most of these exceedingly fast boats, tearing through rough water, greatly obstructs the view of the steersman. In midship section the boat is almost cylindrical, the deck being considerably rounded, a mode of construction which her designers believe will give greater strength with better sea-going qualities for a given weight. All openings in the side and in the deck can be closed so as altogether to exclude water, and therefore it is anticipated that she will prove herself to be safe in a considerable seaway.

To meet, however, the contingency of water finding an entrance into the boiler room, precautions have been taken to pre-

vent the fires being extinguished, the air, instead of being brought directly to the stoke-hole, having to pass first over a bulkhead, considerably above the water line, and thus, even should the stokehold become filled with water, the steaming powers of the boat will not be diminished.—*London Times*.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A tramp at La Grange, Ind., stole the dinners of twenty-six school children.

Owing to the competition of natural gas firewood is \$2 per cord in Jamestown, N.Y.

A man in Los Vegas, N. M., offers to capture every Apache in the Southern country if given 500 men and 50 blood-hounds.

The American colony of 3,000 in Paris is said by the shopkeepers to be worth more to them than the 20,000 Germans and 28,000 Italians of the city combined.

A Worcester, Mass., preacher thus succinctly defines atheism, infidelity and Christianity: The atheist says, "No God." The theist says, "A God." The Christian says, "My God."

In a recent inquest in London a Physician testified that the practice to which young mothers are addicted of lying over their infants at night caused the death of about 500 children a year in London alone.

In the *American Journal of Insanity* Dr. Pliny Earle says, so far as statistics are an indication, the recoveries in British asylums exceeds those in American institutions by between eight and nine per cent.

In the land of the Hindoos, who are a very amiable and gentle people, there is in many houses a room called the krodhagara, or chamber of bad humor, which serves the purpose of the corner for naughty children.

The hedgehog is a favorite food of the gypsies, and those who have eaten of it as cooked by them in their travelling caravans in England say it is excellent. Hedgehogs are nicest in the fall month, and are said to be more delicate than plings.

All sorts of ingenious questions are asked concerning Pasteur's remedy for rabies. "Suppose," inquired a doctor, "that one of the Newark children is attacked with hydrophobia, how are we to know whether the disease was caused by the dog bite or by Pasteur's inoculating virus?"

Several physicians having reported to the *British Medical Journal* cases of children whose weight at birth was only three pounds or thereabout, a practitioner with a long memory refers them back to the *Digest*, where it is shown that infants of one pound and upwards have been born and reared.

In a paper read before the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Association Dr. Joseph Holt deplors the commercial stagnation in that city, and believes it to be caused by unfavorable sanitary conditions. "There is no beginning to the solid advancement of New Orleans," said the writer, "except the beginning of assured health established upon the efficient drainage and sewerage of the city."

A pretty little correspondence is Mr. Gladstone's. Three thousand letters a month, thirty-six thousand a year, one hundred a day, is not bad for one man, exclusive, it would appear, of indefinite quantities of newspapers, circulars, post cards, and the like. He ought to have a special postman, with a special Gladstone bag, to totter backward and forward with all this huge load of ink-stained paper.

Somebody says in a London paper that the highest velocity yet imparted to a cannon ball is 1,626 feet per second, equal to a mile in 3.2 seconds. The velocity of the earth at the equator, due to rotation on its axis, is 1,000 miles per hour, or a mile in 3.6 seconds; thus if a cannon ball were fired due west and could maintain its initial velocity, it would beat the sun in its apparent journey around the earth.

## A Modern Jack Sheppard.

A burglar named Hacket exhibited abilities that were worthy of Mr. John Sheppard. He had been arrested on suspicion of participation in a very daring burglary, and also for an assault on a policeman named Storey. He was locked up in one of the cells of the Marlborough police court, secured by one of Chubb's patent locks and two outside bolts. When the jailer went to the cells to take the man before the sitting magistrate at 11 in the morning the bird had flown. On the Derby day that year the policeman Storey saw him in a chaise cart going over London bridge. After long pursuit and a dreadful fight he was captured, and received a sentence of fifteen years' transportation at the Old Bailey. At Newgate he made another attempt to escape, but his plan was discovered. He was then conveyed to the Model prison at Pentonville, where he was detected cutting through the bars of his prison. Extra precautions were taken in the case of such a noted prisoner. This proved to be in vain. On Sunday evening Hacket went to divine service in the prison chapel. He had managed to conceal about him the sheets and rope of his bed, the spring of the cell door fashioned into a "jimmy," and a metal weight. As soon as he entered his compartment of the chapel—which seems not to have been overlooked by any of the prison warders, as ought to have been the case—he forced up the flooring, got under the gallery, broke his way through a zinc ventilator, and gained a small closet. He then got through a window, over a parapet wall, along which he walked until he climbed the roof of the governor's house, six feet above the wall. He then got rid of his convict clothing—always the surest means of detection—except shirt and trousers, and succeeded in alighting down a gable end wall into the street. The following evening he sent the following letter to the governor of the jail: "George Hacket presents his compliments to the governor of the Model prison, Pentonville, and begs to apprise him of his happy escape from the jail. He is in excellent spirits, and can assure the governor that it would be useless for his men to pursue him; that he is quite safe, and in a few days intends to proceed to the continent that he may recruit his health."

## It Looked Squally for a While.

A young lawyer, who has been recently married to a beautiful belle, was made the victim of a malicious anonymous letter that might have resulted seriously to his domestic happiness. It seems that the young man has made an enemy of a man who has an office so near that he can at times overlook his movements. A few days ago the young man's bride received an anonymous letter saying: "As new a groom as your husband ought not to have a young lady call on him in his office, and he ought not to take her in his arms and kiss her. Wednesday, 11:15, A. M." The young wife was almost heart-broken. She cried until her eyes were red, and when her lord came home upbraided him bitterly. She showed him the letter, and as he didn't have any explanation but a denial, matters began to look very interesting around his home. He couldn't think who would tell such a falsehood about him, and he started down town in a very moody condition. As he sat in the corner of the car brooding over his trouble, an idea suddenly struck him. It had the same effect on him as if he sat down on a pin. In an instant he was running at full speed homeward, while the passengers in the car were congratulating themselves on their narrow escape from a dangerous lunatic. Bursting into his wife's room, he fairly danced with delight as he exclaimed: "Don't you remember? You were in my office Wednesday morning; you were the young woman I kissed!" Peace now reigns, but he has a close call.

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The Inspector on the ground to do.

## SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

NO. II.

We have already received a considerable number of answers to the enigma given last week, the majority of which are correct. Take the following for this week:—

Great teacher of the Gentile race,  
Apostle tried and true,  
Unearthly gleams of heavenly grace  
Upon the earthly path we trace,  
Which Siles trod with you.

1. Fast bound within this house of shame,  
Your midnight hymn you sing,  
And the glad tidings here proclaim,  
Preaching all night the saving name  
Of Christ, the anointed King.

2. Fair shines this city on her height,  
Though idol fanes are there;  
What wonder that your spirit's might  
Is stirred to shed on darkness light,  
The Unknown to declare.

3. False Dian totters on her throne,  
Though crafty craftsmen roar;  
Though lawless tongues her greatness own,  
And tumult into this has grown,  
Her deadly reign is o'er.

4. With this loved friend in Rome at last,  
An aged prisoner waits,  
Till, tells and pains behind him cast,  
Tumult and peril overpast,  
He reaches the eternal gates.

Berry, the English hangman, is a tall, respectable looking man, with the appearance of a mechanic. He is a shoemaker by trade, but does not work now, as the executioner is well paid. He gets \$50 a head, or, when there are more than one; \$50 for the first, \$25 for the second, and \$25 for the third, with all his expenses paid. The first essential is nerve. Bunn, who preceded him, was a braggart, and liked publicity. He would smoke his pipe outside half an hour before an execution, and drink, and had an active tongue. Now the executioner is obliged to sleep in jail the night before a hanging. Calcraft, who was hangman for so many years, was also a shoemaker, and like Berry, a quiet, retiring man.

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