

A LINE-THROWING GUN.—The necessity of having a reliable method of effecting communication between the shore and a ship in distress, or between one vessel and another, has always been recognized, and to this end various line-throwing appliances have been brought forward from time to time. The latest of these is the shoulder line-throwing gun, invented by Capt. J. D'Arcy Irvine, R.N. This apparatus, which is no tan expensive affair, consists of a shoulder-gun, having the cop, or coil of line, suspended in a case carried under the breach of the gun. A rod is inserted in the barrel, the fore end of the rod being connected with the end of the line, which is in the centre of the cop. The line is 144 yards long, and the charge of powder used is two drachms. Upon the gun being fired at a high elevation, the rod is projected upwards and forwards, carrying the line trailing away after it. The object is, of course, to land the line over the ship or other object, the rod dropping beyond it. By this means a rope can be made fast to the tail end of the line by the succouring party, and be hauled on board by those in distress. A demonstration with this system took place recently at Messrs. Holland and Holland's shooting grounds, Kensal Green. There were present Admiral Sir John Corbett, of the National Lifeboat Institution; Capt. Chetwynd, chief inspector of lifeboats; Col. Clayton and others. Several shots were fired by Capt. D'Arcy Irvine, which successfully demonstrated the value of his system so far as it could be demonstrated on land, and apart from the conditions under which such apparatus is required to be used. Good ranges were obtained, and the line was carried well over the intended object, which, in this instance, was one of the target butts. Capt. D'Arcy Irvine drew attention to the desirability of the invention in the case of taking vessels in tow in a high sea, or in the case of arresting vessels drifting ashore by firing from vessels at anchor. He also pointed out how it might be used in the case of loaded lighters waiting for boats to tow them; for boats trying to reach a ship in a strong tideway; for boats adrift; and also for conveying despatches from one ship to another. He likewise lays great stress upon the use of the apparatus in the lifeboat service, urging that every lifeboat should carry a line-throwing gun, which would enable communication to be effected with a vessel when it might be impossible for the boat to get alongside her. The whole apparatus only weighs nine pounds, and could well be stowed away on board a lifeboat.

The case of "Baird v. Baldwin-Walker" seems to us to be an attempt to get a verdict from a Newfoundland jury against the British Government on the fishery trouble. That a British Admiral should have defended an action brought against him for acting in pursuance of his obligation to enforce the observance of treaties in the interest of State and public policy, is almost an unique experience. Canadian and Newfoundland fishery questions are open to one observation. If those who are dissatisfied with Great Britain because she will not violate treaties were American citizens, they would cease to have any "privileges of ice and bait" against the Yankee fisher, which would be a poor set-off against the lapse of French privileges. Although this country would never tolerate foreign aggression, it is not certain that England would consent to aid Canadian aggressiveness in a conflict with the United States; and the Dominion might have to bear the penalty of its rashness. The case will never arise,—certainly not as long as Sir John Macdonald and statesmen of his school are in power. As to the "Baird v. Baldwin Walker" case, it appears probable that the judge will hold, in accordance with decisions of the courts here, that the Admiral cannot be made answerable for the discharge of his duty under the orders of the Queen's Government in an actioa for damages.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

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It was intended to print the picture in the present issue, as announced last week, but the plate has not yet been completed.