

leaves scarcely any available space for carrying out a perfectly satisfactory system of watertight cellular compartments. In such vessels as the *Inflexible*, of enormous beam, and capacity beyond the requirements for stores, &c., there is every opportunity for constructing wide wing passages and subdividing the interior of the ship to a very considerable extent. True it is that all our ironclads are built in water tight compartments; but many of these are very often of very large capacity relatively to the displacement of the ship.

It is in the direction of internal subdivision rather than increased thickness of armour that we should look for warships development. Mr. Barnaby, the Admiralty Director of Naval Construction, said, more than a year since, that in the two feet of armour which coats the *Inflexible's* citadel we have probably attained the maximum. We are decidedly of that opinion. By the very necessities of the case it is possible to float only a certain weight of armour on a ship of manageable dimensions; and as the battle between gun and armour now proceeds, it is evident that the gun has the mastery. Whatever armour can be carried on the side of a ship of reasonable dimensions, a gun can be carried on a much smaller ship that will penetrate it. The 81 ton gun is already looked upon as a small affair. Not only is the 100 ton gun designed, and as good as made, but we hear rumours of one of 150 tons. We commenced the sixth decade of this century with the 68 pounder smooth bore; the seventh decade is not half expired, and 38 ton rifled ordnance are treated as mere pop guns. Who, then, shall say what we shall yet do in the way of guns? We believe that neither the possible nor the probable limit has yet been reached; for when we cease to armour plate our ships, the guns will still be needed to bombard land fortifications. We repeat, the safety of ships must be provided for in their internal construction, by such subdivision as will ensure both stability and buoyancy when pierced.

Our thoughts are no sooner directed towards the ram than the torpedo at once suggests itself as an enemy similar in kind but different in degree. The one is above board and to some extent a fair opponent; the other is below, hidden, and as deadly as it is crafty. Much as torpedo warfare may be opposed to British instincts, it must needs be studied. While torpedoes are made by other countries we must prepare ourselves for them, and further, we must thoroughly arm ourselves with the best form of that weapon, and with ships whose special purpose it shall be to discharge them.

Two conditions are necessary in order to successfully resist the explosion of torpedoes under a ship's bottom. One is to construct the bottom of the best material, so as to limit the damage as much as possible; and the other is to subdivide the ship to the fullest extent practicable. We believe that every effort is being made by the Admiralty to secure both of these conditions in the ships now being built. But their duty does not end there, for whatever recent discoveries and developments have made known should be introduced into existing ships as soon as possible. Had the inner bottom of the *Vanguard* been constructed in the same way as those of more recent ships, we believe she would now be afloat. We hope that no time will be lost in putting the remainder of our ironclad fleet in a satisfactory condition. Better to lose one ship during time of peace—however ignoble the circumstances of that loss may be—than

lose the fleet itself by the enemy's rams. That absolute immunity from loss, or even anything approaching to it, will ever be attained, we do not for a moment dream, but we do expect that the ships of the British Navy will be put into at least as safe a condition as those of any other Power; the rest can then be confidently left to the courage and skill of our officers and men.—*Broad Arrow.*

RIFLE COMPETITION.

FROM OUR BRITISH COLUMBIA CORRESPONDENT.

The Second Annual Prize meeting of the British Columbia Rifle Association commenced on Thursday 2nd September last, at the Clover Point Range, Victoria.

The arrangements made by the Council of the Association in the preparation of the Range and for the comfort of visitors were highly praised, and it is to be hoped that the future prize meetings will be equally successful. It is to be observed, however, that the existence of British Columbia as a Military District is very recent, and the instruction of its volunteers has hardly reached the same state of perfection as is noticeable in the older Provinces of the Dominion.

There are two companies of Rifles located at Victoria, one company of Rifles and a detached Battery of Garrison Artillery at New Westminster, and one company of Rifles at Nanaimo; all armed with short Snider-Enfield Rifles.

The outlying companies were very well and successfully represented at the meeting. The meeting was opened on the first day at twelve noon, the Hon. Mrs. Gray, firing the first shot.

The following is the result of the first days shooting.

NO. 1, OPENING MATCH.

Open to members of the Association Range 200 yards, 5 rounds.

	Pts.
Pte McLean No. 1 Co.....	24 \$15
Mr Bramwell, B. C. R.A.....	24 10
Sergt Butler, No. 1 Co.....	23 6
Sergt Wilson, No. 2 Co.....	23 4
Sergt Brown, N. W. Rifles.....	22 2

NO. 2 EFFECTIVE MILITIA MATCH.

Open to all efficient members of Provincial militia. In two stages.

First stage, Ranges 200 and 400 yards 5 rounds at each range. The ten highest scores to compete in the second stage.

	Pts.
Lieut Wolfenden, No. 1 Co.....	33 \$10
Pte Bickford, No. 1 Co.....	32 5
Pte A Jones, No. 1 Co.....	32 5
Pte Rose, No. 2 Co.....	29 5
Pte Williams, No 1 Co.....	27 5

Second stage. Ranges 500 and 600 yds, 5 rounds at each range.

	Pts.
Pte Rose, No. 2 Co. NRA medal and	23 \$20
Sergt Brown N. W. Rifles.....	22 10
Lieut Wolfenden, No. 1 Co.....	16 5

The second day's shooting commenced with

NO. 3. GOVERNOR GENERAL'S PRIZES.

Open to members of active militia, Ranges 300, 500 and 600 yards, 5 rounds at each range.

1st Prize. Governor General's silver medal and \$20. 2nd Prize. Governor General's bronze medal and \$10

	Pts.
Sergt Brown, N W Rifles.....	38
Sergt Jackson, N W Rifles.....	37

Lieut Peelo, N W Rifles.....	36 \$7.50
Pte McLean No. 1 Co.....	35 5.00
Lieut Wolfenden, No. 1 Co.....	35 4.00

NO. 4. LIEUT. GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE CUP.

Open to members of active militia, Ranges 200, 400 and 600 yards. 5 rounds at each range.

1st Prize. Lieut. Governor's Challenge Cup and \$20.

	Pts.
Sergt Butler, No. 1 Co.....	41
Lieut Wolfenden No. 1 Co.....	45 \$15
Pte McLean, No. 1 Co.....	43 5
Pte Berkeley, No. 1 Co.....	42 5
Pte Cox, No. 2 Co.....	42 5
Pte Kennedy No. 1 Co.....	41 5

It is to be observed, in connection with the above competition that the Cup is now the property of Sergt. Butler, the conditions of its presentation being that it should become the property of the marksmen winning it twice in succession.

NO. 5 ALL COMERS MATCH.

Open to all comers, any Rifle, Range 300 yards, 7 rounds.

The prizes in this match consisted of articles donated with money prizes added by the association.

	Pts.
Sergt Brown, N. W. Rifles.....	22 \$10
Sergt Jackson, N. W. Rifles.....	21 5
Pte Kennedy, No. 1 Co.....	21 5

NO. 1 CORPORATION STAKES.

Open to members of active militia, Range 500 yards, 7 rounds.

1st Prize. Silver medal of Corporation of Victoria and \$10.

	Pts.
Pte Fletcher No. 2 Co.....	22
Pte Kennedy, No. 1 Co.....	21 \$10
Pte James, No. 1 Co.....	20 5
Sergt Brown, N. W. Rifles.....	20 5

GRAND AGGREGATE PRIZES.

Highest aggregate score in matches No. 1, first stage No. 2, Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6, Gold Badge of B. C. R. A., and \$30; Sgt. Brown, N. W. Rifles—163 points; second highest in above silver badge of B. C. R. A., and \$15; Lieut. Wolfenden, No. 1 Co—146 points.

The third day's shooting commenced with

NO. 7 MAIDEN STAKES.

Open to members of association except winners of 1st and 2nd prizes in previous competitions. Range 400 yards, 5 rounds.

The prizes in this match consisted of articles donated.

	Pts.
Lieut Col Houghton, D.A.G.,.....	17
Pte Newbury, No. 2 Co.....	17
Pte James, No. 1 Co.....	16
Lieut Peelo, N. W. Rifles.....	16
Sergt Woollacott, No. 2 Co.....	15

NO. 8 NAVAL AND MILITARY MATCH.

This, the most interesting match of the meeting, is competed for by a squad of eight officers, non-commissioned officers or men of H. M. Navy, and eight officers, non-commissioned officers or men of the Active Militia of the Province. Ranges 200 and 400 yards, 5 rounds at each range. The competitors on the part of the Navy were selected from H.M.S. *Myrmidon* and *Rocket* stationed at the naval station at Esquimalt.

The match resulted in a victory for the Militia, the total of each squad being as follows:

	Total.
Militia.....	240
Navy.....	183