

Mr. LAY's boat, on the interesting subject. We do not think it necessary to more than merely allude to this state of the affair as the correspondence is lengthy and of a technical character, possessing no particular interest, especially as the whole discussion turns on opposing theories of which there have been no practical demonstration. The latest phase of it however, is that both competitors engage to build boats for trials in order to decide the value of their respective systems.

Captain ERICSSON's offer is as follows—

*Hon. Geo. M. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy.*

"SIR.—In accordance with the letter which I had the honor of addressing to you, January 17, 1873, I now beg to report that I have commenced the construction of two moveable submarine torpedoes. One of these, arranged for harbor defence, will be capable of running to any point six thousand feet distance and returning, thus traversing a total distance of twelve thousand feet. The other moveable submarine torpedo, a smaller one, will be arranged for the special purpose of being despatched from some small vessel, such as a monitor, towards the enemy's ships. This smaller vessel will run a distance of about 2,500 feet and return, thus making the total distance traversed about 5,000 feet.

Aware of your desire to ascertain as soon as practicable whether these torpedoes can be operated successfully, I have made arrangements for completing the same ready for trial in the month of June next."

I am Sir,

Your most obedient servant,  
J. ERICSSON.

New York, February 24, 1873.

The *United States Army and Navy Journal*, from which the above paragraph is taken, says the trial is to come off in June, and we can see no reason to suppose it will be with much more satisfaction than those already undertaken.

It must be evident to the person least conversant with mechanics, that those machines are totally unreliable; that a hostile vessel will be very remiss indeed, if she allows a small monitor to approach her so closely as 800 yards, without testing her vulnerability to shot. And it has not been yet shewn, that the operator either afloat or ashore can change the course of the *Torpedo* boat at his will, as instantaneously as will enable it to keep pace with the motions of the vessel against which it is intended to act.

This *Torpedo* boat has also to tow heavy cables, in one case of a length of 1000 fathoms, in the other of over 400 fathoms; the projector seems to have forgotten the "drift way" such an operation would involve, or else assumed that it will be conducted in still water. In either case the *Torpedo* boat will prove in reality, a speculative toy, very ingenious, but of no particular value.

A correspondent in the *United States Army and Navy Journal* labours to prove it would take *twenty six* horse power to tow the torpedo boat and its attachments, as proposed by Capt. ERICSSON; whereas the lat-

ter says his boat has only *fifteen* horse power, there is evidently a discrepancy somewhere which the trials in June next will test, although we are confident they are not by half the number of difficulties to be overcome before the machine is rendered effective—if it ever will be.

ON Wednesday the 5th inst., His Excellency the GOVERNOR GENERAL proceeded under escort of Captain SPARKS's Troop of Cavalry, to the Parliament Buildings, for the purpose of taking the preparatory steps to open the first Session of the Second Parliament of Canada. He was received at the main entrance by the usher of the Blackrod, (R. KIMBER, Esq.) The Adj. General Colonel P. ROBERTSON ROSS, the Deputy Adjutant General at Head Quarters Lieut. Col. POWELL, the Assistant Adj. General, Lieut. Colonel STUART; Lieut. Col. Cumberland, extra aide camp, and the following staff:

Lieut. J. Macpherson, D. A. G.; Lieut. Col. Wiley, Lieut. Col. Brunel, Lieut. Col. Chamberlain, C. M. G.; Lieut. Col. Griffin. Lieut. Col. Jackson, D. A. G.; Lieut. Col. Ross, Guards; Major White, do.; Major Macdonald, unattached; Major Smith, B. M. Cobourg; Major Worsley, G. T. R. B.; Capt. Glifford, 4th Battalion; Surgeon Malloch Guards; Paymaster Wickstead, do.; Captain Perry, Militia Staff.

A guard of honor furnished by the Governor General's Guards, under the command of Captain TILTON, and a detachment of the Ottawa Field Battery, commanded by Lieut. STUART.

Preceded by the usher of the Blackrod, His Excellency, followed by his Staff, entered the Senate Chamber, and on being seated, the Honorable, the Speaker of the Senate (Hon. Mr. CHAVEAU) announced to the Blackrod that he had in command from His Excellency to direct him to proceed to the Chamber of the Commons, and command their attendance at the Bar of the Senate. This duty having been performed, the faithful Commons with the Clerk of the House at their head, came trooping along like a lot of school boys, with the younger members in front; and, having succeeded in wedging themselves into the space between the bar and the southern wall of the Chamber, subsided into comparative quiet. The Honorable the Speaker of the Senate then stated that he had it in command from His Excellency to announce that he would not on that day give his reasons for summoning Parliament, but they were to retire and elect their speaker, and on the following day (Thursday the 6th) at three o'clock he would detail to them his reasons for calling them together. Thereupon, the faithful trooped out in pretty much the same way as they came in, and retired to the privacy of their own chamber, at least, as much as the press gang will allow them to have. His Excellency, preceded by Blackrod, and

accompanied by his staff left the buildings at nearly the same time under a royal salute from the artillery and escorted by the cavalry, returned to Rideau Hall. The splendid appearance of the Guard of Honor powerfully impressed the beholders with the idea of the material the Canadian Army is recruited from, numbering seventy-five non commissioned officers and soldiers, of the average of five feet nine inches in height, it is questionable whether any battalion in the regular service could turn out as fine a body of men, and they possess a magnificent band; the squadron of cavalry, under Captain SPARKS, are a smart soldier like looking set of young fellows, the very style for light dragoons, while the artillery as is well known belong to a corps which has always borne a high reputation for efficiency; altogether the military display has been the best yet witnessed at the opening of Parliament.

On Thursday, the 6th inst., at a few minutes before three o'clock, His Excellency, escorted as before, drove up to the main entrance, the same Guard of Honour and the same Staff received him, the Senate Chamber had been previously filled with the beauty and fashion of Ottawa, headed by Her Excellency the Countess DUFFERIN, Mrs. HOWLAND, wife of the Lieut. Governor of Ontario, Mrs. ROBERTSON-ROSS, wife of the Adjutant-General, and other ladies of rank; Lieut. Governor HOWLAND accompanied the GOVERNOR GENERAL; immediately on the appearance of the latter in the Senate Chamber, the Usher of the Black Rod was despatched to summon the faithful commons, who had in the interim gratified the popular wish, done themselves honor and established the true English precedent by the election of the Hon. JAMES COCKBURN, the Speaker of the First Canadian Parliament by acclamation as their Speaker, an office which we hope he will hold for the country's benefit, while Canada can find him a constituency, in which case it will be a life tenure.

Headed by their Speaker the Commons, if possible more, unruly came crowding in and when they had effected a lodgment the Hon. Speaker announced his election and pleaded the grace of Parliament. In reply His Excellency stated that all the privileges should be accorded in conformity with the Constitution; usage, and then proceeded to read the following Speech in English and afterwards in French:—

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate Gentle men of the House of Commons*

I. In addressing for the first time the Parliament of Canada, I desire to express the satisfaction I feel in resorting to your advice and assistance, as well as my deep sense of my own good fortune in being permitted to associate myself with you in your labours and aspirations for the welfare of this Dominion.