INSIDE A TORPEDO FACTORY

How the Most Terrible Weapons of Warfare Are Constructed.

Secrets of the Steering and Balancing Genr Withheld from Public Knowledge-What a Torpedo Consists Of.

"The most wonderful machine ever invented, from the point of view of the highest mechanical ingenuity and perfection of construction, is the Whitehead torpedo. In the hands of skillful and resolute men it is the most terrible engine of warfare the world has eyer seen. A ship which receives a blow from it is doomed as surely, as if it were already at the bottom of the ocean.

This is the estimate which Lieutenant G. navy, places upon the implement of war mechanics are employed. States and Spain, and it is likewise the

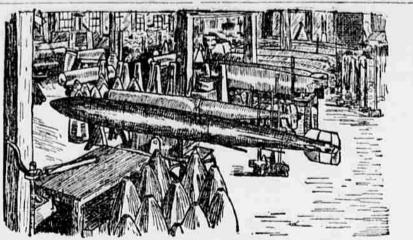
A torpedo is an intricate piece of mechanism, too, so delicate in its poise and balance, so complicated in its operations, that none but specialists, even among the officers of the navy, can thoroughly understand it. A man can study torpedoes a dozen years and still be learning new facts about them at the end of that time.

understand the torpedo is the belief that it is a bullet in the same sense as is, say, a thirteen-inch shell. The latter is propelled by the charge that is behind it in the gun; it will go the distance that charge drives it, no more, no less. The former carries its being autonomus, as it is automobile. "steel babies." A more appropriate name would be steel devil fish. They are the modern and real successors of those fabled

It operates is the same as that which keeps vised by the ingenuity of man. modern rifle bullet pointed straight by spinning it on its long axis. The gyroscope and its enveloping apparatus, known torpedo experts as the obry gear, is conpected with the rudder and steers the big MYSTERIES OF ITS MANUFACTURE steel fish. If the torpedo in its journey strikes a current or any sort of an obstrucion that tries to turn it from its course and send it kiting in the wrong direction, the ing two lawyers locally well known. little top sets to work and tugs at the rudder until the torpedo is brought back to its Western Union Telegraph company, lived proper course. It thus acts both as compass for some years in Omaha, where his reputa and helmsman and has enormously increased tion was that of an orator and a gentlethe efficiency of the torpedo. By experi- man rather than of a good lawyer. That ments made with torpedoes fitted with the shows how a man's neighbors misjudge obry gear it has been proved that they will him. Still, despite his fame for loving ease not show a lateral variation of more than and literature a great deal better than the three yards either way in travelings 800 energetic practice of his profession, Mr. Esyards, the distance at which torpedoes are tabrook often rose to heights of daring and intended to be fired. Considering the work accomplishment in court which startled his that this apparatus performs, one is not best friends. Once he snatched a victorysurprised to learn that it is carefully or, what is of more importance, a feeweighed and shaped and tested, until it is out of the jaws of certain defeat in a most as accurate as the hairspring of a watch, picturesque way. E. Amestrong, recently of the British Foyal and that in making it the most skilled

which is expected to play a leading part in the present struggle between the United should keep to the fixed path mapped out for There was a time when Estabrook was countered. opinion held by most of our own naval depth which will vary according to the Baldwin figured as attorney for the defense. The first idea to get rid of in order to to its proper immersion distance.

Secrets of Tornedo Construction. The details of these two pieces of torpedo mechanism were for years the most careand firms engaged in making them. They own engines: it can be regulated to travel were known only to a few naval officers fifty yards or 2,000. It is within one step of and to highly paid workmen sworn to se-They are made public now only the English navy torpedoes are called after the governments of Europe have all gained knowledge of them in one way or another, through their secret service men, and after they have been fully protected



THE ASSEMBLYING ROOM IN THE WHITE HEAD TORPEDO FACTORY, BROOK-LYN, NEW YORK.

monsters, which, according to ancient belief, j by letters patent in every country. They could destroy ships by single blows from their tails. The torpedo is in reality a sea full speed to launch a torpedo into the monster obeying the will of man with devil- water with the absolute certainty that it ish ingenuity. When it is released it follows | will follow the course marked out for it the course mapped out for it in a straight and reach the object aimed at, a thing that line and at a fixed depth. It always re- could not be done with the earlier forms of turns to this course and to this depth, no torpedoes, matter how much it is deflected by intervening influences on its way toward its prey Careful devices guard it against premature explosion and other devices render it prac- | fins in the shape of horizontal and vertical in case it does not hit the object at which it is aimed. It will float in water and yet | circumstances. it can be kept submerged. In fact it has Scarcely less interesting are the muscles all the requisites of a demon except a will of the big fish—three brass cyclinders little and intellect. The torpedo cannot change more than a foot long, but capable together its mind-in that respect it is superior to of developing thirty-horse power when con

There is only one place in this country age chamber and driving the torpedo at where Whitehead torpedoes are manufac- the speed of a railway train by means of tured. That is a big brick factory facing the the propeller blades attached to the tail. East river, in that part of Greater New The propellers revolve in opposite directions York, known as Brooklyn, under the after- and so prevent the torpedo from rolling in noon shadow of the Brooklyn bridge. The the water. They have to be very finely building is occupied by the E. W. Bliss made, in order to exactly neutralize each company, which controls the sole right to other. manufacture the Whitehead automobile torpedo in America. From the outside the factory looks like many another, but you find they do not work properly together, they that an unusual kind of business is carried are detached and a fine steel shaving is on there as soon as you try to enter. At the taken from one or the other, until they door you are met by a respectful but firm have the proper counterpoise guard, who insists on learning the business ing of one of these steel thunderbolts is that takes you inside. If from your account when the many different parts, the work of to change his decision. Torpedo makers assembling room. The long steel cone is seem to have little sympathy with idle curi- placed upon a frame, into which it fits osity. It is not well for Uncle Sam that every one should know the secrets of his pieces of propelling and directing gear are

war engines. steel lathes and all the paraphernalia of a that goes into a torpedo is made under one

What a Torpedo Consists Of.

The outer case of the torpedo is, in brief. a steel cigar, sixteen feet long and seventeen inches in its greatest diameter. consists of five separate parts which, in the completed torpedo, are fitted closely together, so as to be air and watertight. The head, which is the business part of the torpedo, and carries the explosive, is of Tobin bronze. It is in the shape of a cone, and comprises, roughly speaking, one-third of career it is handled with the greatest care, the entire length of the torpedo. Back of but so far it is harmless. The bronze head this, and somewhat greater in length, is the is a practice head and carries only the air flask, its walls made of the finest forged ballast needed to give it the proper weight. steel, to withstand the pressure of 1,500 pounds to the square inch, which is put upon it when the torpedo is ready for use. Still further back is the buoyancy chamber, by the ballasting of which the depth of the torpedo in its submarine voyages can be regulated as desired. Behind this compartment is the engine room, where small cylinders, of enormous strength for their size. utilize the compressed air in turning the propellers, which are fixed at the butt end

The first floor of the torpedo factory is devoted to the forging and shaping of their different parts. While the work is all done with exceeding care and nicety, it is much like that which may be seen in ordinary machine shops and does not strongly impress the unscientific observer.

When one mounts to the next floor, however, and enters the assembling room, where these parts are put together and where the fine machinery of the torpedo is adjusted, the scene grows in interest. Here are down the speed, horizontal and vertical torpedoes lying about in all stages of completion as common as wheat sacks in a the projectile. As fast as these records are flour mill. Here, in different parts of the made they are transferred to the notebooks great room, are men busy in shaping and of the officers for future reference. testing the fine machinery and bearings, as If the torpedo's performance is satisfactory carefully balanced and adjusted as the works it goes next to the government's torpedo

of a watch. tention is a little heap of what looks like on each run is carefully preserved and atbronze tops mounted in pivot frames, set at tached to it. A torpedo is like a living right angles to each other, and on finely person-it has its little habits and peculiarground bearings, so that the top itself can lities, and, as far as possible, these are found easily move in any direction. These are out beforehand, so that when it comes to be torpedo brains, or what serves in the torpedo fired the men in charge may make allowance as the very effective substitute for brains. for all its idiosyncrasies. way in which it is pivoted this spinning taken on board the war ship, ready for its

make it possible for a ship running at

Although these two pieces of apparatus will correct any deviation from the torpedo's course, the torpedo is also supplied with serve to keep it straight under ordinary

nected with the compressed air in the stor-

After the torpedo has been completed and tested in the water, if it is found that

it does not seem of sufficient importance you hundreds of hands in different sections of are sent packing, and no protests will avail the big shop, are brought together in the exactly, and one after another the various put in by skillful hands, each one being Once past the portal, however, the air of tested as it is put into place to make sure mystery vanishes. One sees huge drills, big that it is in working order. It is like witnessing the struggling birth of some casting and machine shop, for every part sentient thing to watch the torpedo as it grows under this process until it has all been jointed together and is turned over to the finishers, who go all over its surface, rubbing and filing and polishing it until it glistens like a mirror and offers the least possible resistance to passing through the water.

A Record for Each Torpedo.

The finished torpedo goes next to the storeroom, where it is placed, in company with dozens of its fellows, in wooden racks ranged one above the other. Throughout its

The war head, with its charge of gun

cotton, is not to be put on until the actual need for the torpedo's services shall arise. Next in order comes the testing. For this work the Bliss company has secured the use of Peconic bay, at Sag Harbor, L. I. Here is anchored an old-fashioned wooden vessel fitted with torpedo tubes, and here the torpedo makes its first trip in the water. A course is laid out 1,000 yards in length and the torpedo is sent over this course many times under conditions as varied as possible, and is tried in every possible way. After each trial some slight adjustment is made until the thing is in as perfect working order as it can attain. Then, in the presence of naval officers, it is fired five times in succession from the tube, each time with an identical charge, and its performance on each trip is carefully noted by means of accurate instruments. These records are taken by a mechanism placed inside the hollow practice head, which sets variation and other useful data relating to

station at Newport, R. I. There it is tested One of the first things to arrest the at- again in several practice runs and its record

Torpedo makers call them gyroscopes. To The torpedo remains at Newport until it is explain in detail the workings of this bit needed. When a call for its services is reof mechanism (which, by the way, was in- ceived the practice head is removed. In its vented little more than a year ago) is not place is put the deadly "war head," carrying When the torpedo is launched the 200 pounds of gun cotton, carefully guarded wheel of this little top, known as the against premature explosion, but primed to gyroscope, is set a-spinning, and from the scatter an enemy in atoms. Thence it is

motion keeps it pointed in one drection, no final journey—the completed thunderbolt LIBERTY'S BEACON IN AFRICA snaph, and later on by railways—all in the that sort, and then went over to the winmatter how much the head of the torpedo ready to be launched—the mightlest and may be deflected. The principle on which most perfect engine of destruction ever de

ESTABROOK GOT HIS FEE.

How Judge Baldwin's Planned Defense Was Demolished. Omaha, the town where they are having the exposition, is the way the Chicago Rec ord introduces the story following, concern-

Henry D. Estabrook, the attorney for the

There is a venerable lawyer in Omaha whose name is Baldwin and who is crafty it, but also that it shall remain at a fixed sel for the plaintiff in a case in which Judge kind of vessel it is to attack. This point Estabrook had a good case and Baldwin is looked after by another skillful piece of knew it. So Baldwin busied himself with machinery found in another part of the Estabrook's client and induced the latter workshop, and known as the "immersion to settle out of court for a minor sum; and, gear." This consists of a heavy pendulum what was the most interesting, the settlecarried in the "balance chamber," and at- ment was made without any consultation tached to the rudder in such a way that with the plaintiff's lawyer. The case still if the torpedo goes below its required depth | kept its place on the docket, and in time was the pendulum swings forward, bringing the called for trial. As was usual in those days rudder up and so steering the torpedo back of orations here and banquet speeches there, Mr. Estabrook was not ready for trial and told the court so, but there had been delays before this time, and upon Baldwin's insisting upon an immediate hearing the matfully guarded secrets of the governments ter was rushed into court. Neither Estabrook's client nor any of his expected witnesses were present, and it began to look as though one excellent fee was about to escape him through the cleverness of Baldwin. Then it was that the qualities of courage, brilliancy and dash revealed them- fathers before them have done for many selves in Mr. Estabrook's composition. Baldwin smiled cruelly across the table at him when the jury was sworn and waited

for him to call his first witness. Mr. Estabrook called the name of Baldwas hardly desirable, Estabrook called anthrough the whole list of them and eluciold man dizzy with suppressed emotion. The witnesses whom Baldwin had relied upon to win his case for him were taken up by Estabrook and made to tell their stories in such a way as autterly to annihilate the chances of the defense. Estabrook did not even send a subpoena for his own deserting client, but, turning over Baldwin's last witness to him, said that

that was his case. It was a mad thing to do, but it won. The old judge paltered about in a sad way for a few minutes and then tried to argue out with the jury, but failed, Estabrook's unwilling client getting a verdict in full. The verdict was, of course, never paid, for Baldwin already had the plaintiff's acknowledgment of settlement, but Esta-

"is that you didn't call me to the stand. If you had I'm afraid I'd not only have had to pay your fee, but would have been fined tically harmless after it has run its course rudders of thin steel fixed at the tail, which for contempt of court and imprisoned for arson, homicide or poisoning wells."

THE SOLDIER'S KNAPSACK.

It is a pity that every raw recruit, while serving his apprenticeship, cannot have the advice of some one who has been through the mill and learned the lessons of expe-

"I could just put myself in their places," commented an old soldfer who had been irresistibly attracted to Camp Eaton, speaking to a Detroit Free Press reporter. "I could recall the contents of my own knapsack just as clearly as if I had packed it the day before. It looked as though it had been blown up with a bicycle pump. It contained a heavy pair of boots, a pair of pants, two a bachelor's work basket, a bottle of cough syrup, a Bible and a volume of Shakespeare, blouse, a hand mirror, a can of plums, stationery, hair oil, shaving tools, scissors, to say nothing of the numberless minor articles in the way of 'gent's supplies.' To the top was strapped a heavy woolen blanket inside of a rubber blanket, and concealed within the roll was a bunch of pennyroval which my good mother, had insisted on my taking along, for in her esteem that vegetable constituted a very respectable pharmaceutical outfit. Even thus weighted down like a pack mule, I reluctantly left many things behind and was particularly put out because I couldn't take some kind of a portable kitchen along with me. Add to the load mentioned the necessary equipments for fighting and you can imagine that I at times felt that I was being pulled over backwards, and, at others, that I was being crushed under a load like that born by Atlas.

"The new soldier always carries too much of a burden till he is on his first march. Then the reaction sets in and he goes to the other extreme, throwing away even some of his necessary baggage and making all kinds of sacrifices for the sake of marching light. I'll bet there'll be a great transformation when some of our boys get down into Cuba with their heavy clothing and heavy loads. I shouldn't be a bit surprised to hear of some of them being uniformed in nothing but linen dusters while chasing Dons, or lying about camp in the garb of Greek But they will soon learn the statuary. ropes and strike the happy medium in what they wear and carry."

Novel Use for a Fish Pole. Two unknown men started to subdue the Third ward last night with the heavy end of the local government, and of extending of a jointed fish pole. Without any provo- influence and control among the natives, cation they brought the end of the pole would open the way for aid in the develop-down upon the head of Tony Breck, an Italian vender at Twelfth and Douglas streets, and inflicted a painful wound. When they reached Tenth and Capitol avelope the way for the appointment of the way for the way for the appointment of the way for aid in the development of a system of finance, by which reliable and administered. It would be collected and administered. nue they passed a negro and they struck also open the way for the appointment at him likewise across the head, breaking the at the station, but the club wielders have cate its wealth, and open lines of communinot been arrested.

MODELED AFTER THE UNITED STATES tion of America, and Liberia is ready and anxious to have such friendly aid as these

Great Progress Made Under Discouraging Adverse Conditions New Ere in the History of the Binek Races."

The form of government is modeled after that of the United States and only negroes can own land, become citizens or hold office. A few thousand natives have become win's best witness. He examined the man civilized and are a part of the nation. For as one inspired, and as the elder attorney twenty-five years Liberia was a colony, was in a position where cross-examination under the immediate direction of the colonization societies, but in 1847 the nation was other of the Baldwin witnesses. He ran formed and received the friendly recognition and good will of other nations. Liberia and dated a series of facts which made the Hayti are the only nations in the world controlled entirely by negroes.

brook's fee was. Baldwin had to go down mate, their lack of wealth and experience in his pocket and, with the most extreme in government, surrounded and permeated anguish, fork over the price of the younger by multitudes of barbarous heathen, and "The only good thing about this whole criticisms of white traders and travelers, affair, Henry," he said, in a fatherly way, the marvel is that so much in the way of within a very few years, but little advance

has been made by other nations on either coast of the continent in extending practi-Experience Teaches the Raw Recruit cal and efficient government among the natives of the interior. The advance of the past few years has been the result of enormous expenditures in money, backed by best administrative talent.

the continent must be in constant jeopardy unless the government has the practical friendship of at least one great nation. Both Germany and France are exceedingly sets of underclothing, an extra flannel shirt, anxious to acquire the territory of the republic, and France holds a treaty by which if any part of the republic's domain is alienated it will have the right to reassert its claim for certain valuable territories on the coast, and also its hinterland down to within forty miles of the coast, which would mean practically the annihilation of the republic. Recent troubles between a German subject and some Liberian natives led to the demand for a large indemnity in money and other concessions, accompanied with a proposed treaty for a German protectorate, which if agreed to would settle

> The growth of the republic in population s slow, and it cannot be large until, by the opening up of the country, there can be opportunities for the investment of capital, so that remunerative labor and agricultural penings can be given to those who migrate from the United States and elsewhere. Lack of money has made the development of an efficient educational system impossible, and he second generation of children is growing up with but few facilties for instruc-

A temper-wrecker

-wash-day with soap. Standing on feet, hard work in the midst of soiled clothes and fetid steam, aching back, wear and tear to things washedenough to make any one grumpy.

Fine occupation for a civilized woman! A temper-soother-wash-day with Pearline-wash-day with the unpleasant features left out. Easier, quicker, better, healthier. No woman can find fault with it. Soaking, boiling, rinsing, instead of rubbing on a washboard. Williams Rearline

Present Condition and Prospects of the Republic of Liberia.

States and elsewhere. Whatever America while they were there. They came, and cannot do herself I believe England would notwithstanding her injury, a very jolly gladly co-operate in doing, at the suggestime was had all around. They had the

Dr. J. C. Hartzell, missionary bishop of Africa, writes to the Independent an instructive review of the present condition and rospects of the republic of Liberia. The republic has an area of 75,000 square miles, extends 250 miles into the interior and has 300 miles of coast line. Bishop Hartzell says: It owes its existence to good men in America, both north and south, who many years ago felt that the freed people of the United States should have a place in the land of their fathers, where they could have the opportunity and satisfaction of building a nation of their own, which should demonstrate the capacity of the negro for nation building, and also open the way for his having a share in the civilization and redemption of the African continent. The American Colonization society and kindred organizations inaugurated and have fostered this philanthropic movement by facilitating the migration of negroes from the United States and by advice and material ald in

educational and other enterprises.

There are now in the republic about 24,000 Americo-Liberians, speaking, of course, the English language, and perhaps 1,000,000 native Africans. The former are emigrants from the United States or their descendants and the latter are made up of various tribes of aborigines, speaking many dialects, acknowledging the sovereignty of the republic, but as a whole living in barbarism, as their centuries.

Progress of the Republic. To say that the hopes of the friends of the negro as a nation builder have been realized during the past fifty years in Liberia would not be true. On the other hand, to accept the uncharitable and unkind criticisms of the struggling republic, which are heard along the coast from many traders and travelers and often reiterated in Europe and America, would be doing great injustice to the people of Liberia. I have recently held conversations with representative Liberians and others in the principal centers of the republic, and have studied its present conditions and outlook. When we consider the difficulties which these people have had to meet in a new and, to many, a hostile clisubjected constantly to the uncharitable efficient government and advance in social conditions has been accomplished. True, their national domain, rich in minerals and agricultural possibilities, has not even been explored; but it is also true that, until

powerful governments, able to command the President Coleman and his official advisers have come fully to realize the increasing difficulties which their nation must face. In the first place a few great nations are rapidly dominating all Africa, and the possessions of any one small nation on

the dispute. Slow Growth in Population.

What Liberia wants and needs is, first hat her nationality shall be guaranteed by some powerful friend. She naturally turns to the United States, and if for any cause a proper protectorate cannot be secured from that source, she next turns to England. Both nations have shown he friendly offices several times, and, being of the same language and religion, she naturally looks to them. Her people shudder at the thought of falling under a forced protectorate of any people of foreign language A nationality secured in the way suggested would open the way to practical and efficient co-operation in the administration ole at the handle. The victims complained specialists to explore the territory and location, first, by ordinary roads, then by tele

OF OMAHA.

disterest of the republic, and of such dow to see what damage had been done. friendly representatives of commerce as She was a good deal annoyed at the acci-

might desire to develop trade. Another im- dent, for that afternoon a party of her girl

portant matter would be advice and assist- friends were billed to appear at the house.

of the black races. They are to have their table to bring himself to a decision. At the

share in the redemption of Africa, I believe of it. He even determined to go further

suddenly

prise.

said.

simply cried "Oh, sugar?" or something of use arnica and todine again in her life

ing cigarettes!'

as they liked.

She hated to be even slightly incapacitated

whole house to themselves and did about

On that very evening her best young man

called. The visit was rather unexpected.

Still, she was always glad to see him under

any circumstances, although her friends

said, and she agreed with them to some

extent, that he was just a little too digni-

fied. The fact was, he had thought of the

ministry at one time, but had not been

present time he was so occupied with her

that no ideas, not connected with her per-

When he came in on this particular even

ng, her aunt-she was living with her aunt

-told him of the accident while he was

waiting for his idol to appear. When she

did come he thought that as an experiment

he would not mention it, but would see

how long she could refrain from speaking

than this, and have a little joke on the

speaking to her for a little while, he said,

"Why, Grace Ethel, you've been smok-

The girl was taken completely by sur

"Why, how-how did you know?"

She faltered, and then said:

It was now the young man's turn to be

stunned. It was as if he had received a

heavy blow. He was in no fit condition

for conversation, but in answer to her

questions be assumed a faint smile, and

mechanically went through the line of

thought upon which he had based his joke.

And now she has taken a vow never to

JOBBERS AND MANUFACTURERS

"Why-why look at your fingers,"

sonality, made much progress.

ance in proper emigration from the United

With the exception of this little patch of

territory owned by the Republic of Liberia,

all the African continent, with its 150,000,000

of black natives, is rapidly passing under

the rule of the white man. This tremendous

fact must be accepted as in the providence

of God marking a new era in the history

chance in their continental home for gener-

ations at least under the tutelage of white

Liberia, however, has existed for seventy

five years as a colony or nation. It is the

providential child of the best thought and

prayers and help of thousands of Christian

people, whose convictions were clear and

positive that in some organized way the mil-

lions of negroes in America should have a

that conviction was of God, and I also be-

lieve that it is the duty of America and

England to hear and heed the appeal of this

HIS JOKE AND HER FINGERS.

Idol Shattered by a Mixture of Iodine,

Guilty Conscience and Arnica.

she is only 19, relates the New York Sun.

Her friends say that she has a dozen re-

markable qualities. She is not only in-

tellectually brave, but she has physical

The other day a door shut on the first

two fingers of her left hand. Another girl

might have screamed loud enough to bring

out the fire department, and then fainted

away. She did nothing of the kind. She

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child of Providence.

courage, too.

nations could properly and wisely give.

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