REAL TEST OF TORPEDO.

Target Like Part of Battletaph Sunk in Practice.

A short distance out to sea from Sandy Hook one of the most realistic bits of submarine warfare ever seen around New York Harbor was recently enacted. The regulation target shooting on land at the proving grounds in time compared with this thrilling experiment.

An important problem of modern sea fighting which has more or less remained greenhouse work is the exact effect of the explosion of a torpedo on a modern battleship. In the late Russo-Japanese War the work of the Japanese in this direction is regarded as being extremely effective, but it has not been fully made public. Government officials, however, may soon know from actual tests just what injury the bursting of the torpedo will do if it is sent home or even if it is exploded some distance from the side of a warship.

Torpedoes of a new 21-inch type, which will travel four thousand yards, are now being built for the navy at a cost of nearly $500,000 each, and before ordering too many of these expensive fighting machines exhaustive trials will be made to determine exactly their real worth as engines of destruction.

For these experiments there was recently constructed at the Brooklyn navy yard a huge armored cabin for the Ordnance Department. This peculiar target represented a complete armored section of the latest type of battleship, having identical compartments, bulkheads and armor construction. It was driven by twelve feet square and thirty feet high. About seventeen or eighteen feet of it was sunken. It rested in the water in the proper position to be fired at. It weighed over 175 tons, and cost nearly $2,000. To simulate the latest in the water a ballast of 146,000 pounds of pig iron was arranged on the sides and bottom. The pigs were piled one on top of another and held fast by a network of chains. The gun was fitted with a watertight door, permitting man to enter it, and an iron ladder led down to the bottom, affording opportunities to examine the interior and make the necessary test upon the plate. The cannon was sent down to Sandy Hook at a cost of $1,000 for transportation. The 200-ton electric crane Hercules lifted the big steel target from the pier in a silo of heavy chains, and lowered it slowly into the water.

It was then righted and the ballast of pig iron placed inside, while the crane still held a first grip on the structure to steady it and keep the proper balance.

After it arrived at Sandy Hook several torpedoes were shot at the target. Finally about a hundred pounds of a new explosive to a 21-inch torpedo warhead was exploded fifty feet away. This represented the average charge that will be fired from the torpedo tubes of battleships and battleship destroyers with the new torpedoes. The effect demonstrated that in an actual engagement it would probably sink or disable the most up-to-date battleships. When the great explosion of water had cleared away the explosion the target had sunk.

A diver went below and examined the damaged done by the explosion. The whole end of the target was stove in, and it was evident that any vessel receiving such injury would be put out of commission at once. The target was raised and will be used again. The tests are expected to yield new and valuable information regarding the use of torpedoes.

HIS FATHER'S MAKE.

By Edward Brooks, teacher and author of Philadelphia, described as a dinner to the great strike that popular education had made in the last fifty years.

"Similar and smaller," he said, "because the percentage of the illiterates, of those who cannot read or write, it won't be long before a thing..."

"We've sent to do..." he said.

"Ah, yes, you do," said. "Think's a matter."