

## FORCED INTO ARMY.

### MEN OF EUROPE COMPELLED TO BE SOLDIERS.

#### Precious Years of Golden Youth Spent in Military Service by Helpless Men—What Conscription Means to the Breadwinners Abroad.

In Germany, France, Russia, Austria and Italy every able-bodied man must expect to give from twenty-one to twenty-nine years of his life to soldiering, his service commencing at ages ranging from 17 years in Germany to 21 years in France and Italy.

At the beginning of each year lists are prepared throughout Germany of all youths who have reached the prescribed age, and during spring the Recruiting Commission makes a visiting tour of all the headquarters of the various districts, where the youths are mustered for inspection.

All who are physically unfit for service are finally rejected, and those who are still physically unripe for it are put back for a year. Men who, though strong and healthy, fail to reach the requisite standards are passed into the Ersatz reserve, together with those who are sons of widows or the support of their families, and from those who are passed as fit for service the required number is selected by ballot. Of the recruits certain privileged men of birth and education are only called upon to serve one year in the regular army on condition that they pass certain examinations and pay the cost of their equipment, while the remainder are expected to serve three years in the ranks, followed by four years in the reserve. The next five years they spend in the first levy of the Landwehr, and they are then passed into the second levy until they reach the age of 39.

In France military service begins at 21 and lasts for twenty-five years, with similar exemptions from service and limitations to one year in the ranks to those sanctioned in the German army.

The French conscript must spend his first three years of service in the regular army, followed by seven years in the army reserve. He is then passed into the territorial army for six years, and the remaining nine years are spent in the reserve of the territorial army, which is called out only in case of absolute necessity.

A man's service in the ranks may be reduced to one or two years according to the number he draws in the ballot. Army reserve men have only eight weeks of drill, while the territorial army is only called on for a period of fourteen days.

In Russia the conscription takes place every year in the months of November and December, when the required recruits are selected by lot. Clergymen of all churches are exempt from service, while Mohammedans and the inhabitants of certain districts in Asia can substitute payment for service; and some of the higher classes may reduce their term of service in the ranks under certain conditions.

Service begins in the twenty-first year and lasts for twenty-four years, of which five years are spent in the ranks and thirteen in the reserve. On finishing service in the reserve the soldier is passed into the militia, where he spends the remainder of his period of service.

In Italy a youth is liable for service when he reaches his nineteenth birthday, and is only exempt when he reaches his fortieth birthday. None but those physically unfit for service are absolutely exempt, but sons of widows and sole supporters of families are passed into the militia without being called on to serve in the army ranks.

Army recruits are divided into two classes, of which the first division spend from three to four years in the ranks; the next five years are spent on furlough, succeeded by four years' service in the mobile militia and seven years in the territorial militia.

Members of the second class of recruits must spend twelve years in the army, more than half of which is usually spent on furlough, and the remainder of their service is spent in one branch or other of the militia until the limit of age is reached.

In Austria the only exemption is in favor of the physically unfit, and even they are required to pay a sum, proportioned to their means, into the army pension fund. Service begins at 19 and lasts for twenty-three years, of which three are spent in the line and seven in the reserve.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

### RULES FOR HORSE TRADERS.

#### Memphis Man Who Could Give David Harum Points on the Business.

David Harum was a good horse trader, but a recent transaction in horse flesh which was made by a well-known Memphis shows that there are others who know how to get the long end of a horse trade. Several weeks ago this Memphis man saw a fine buggy horse which he thought he wanted. He located the owner and asked the price. "One fifty," was the reply. After looking the animal over closely and trying her speed he concluded it was a good trade, and without more ado wrote a check for the amount. The next day he found that the mare was as blind as

a bat, but this did not hinder her speed nor detract from her general appearance. He drove the animal for several weeks and succeeded in attracting the admiration of another lover of horse flesh, who made a proposal to purchase.

"Well," said the Memphian, "I gave one fifty for her, but I will let you have her for one sixty-five."

The prospective owner looked the animal over and concluded he had a bargain. He paid over the money and took the mare. When the animal was unhitched the first thing she did was to run against a post and then, by way of emphasizing the fact that she was blind, fell over a barrel. The next day the buyer came back to the Memphian with blood in his eye.

"Colonel, you know that mare you sold me," he began. "Well, she's stone blind."

"I know it," replied the colonel, with an easy air.

"You didn't say anything to me about it," said the purchaser, his face reddening with anger.

"Well, I'll tell you," replied the colonel. "That fellow who sold her to me didn't tell me about it, and I just concluded that he didn't want it known."

The new owner took his medicine and is now on the lookout for a friend on whom he can even things.—Memphis Scimitar.



Spectroscopic and other observations show the fixed stars to be self-luminous bodies—stars to the other systems of planets. An analysis of their light indicates the presence of the same chemical elements that exist in our own sun and earth, together with others unknown in our solar system.

Where ice cannot be procured, water may be cooled by wrapping the pitcher containing it in a towel of loose texture which has been previously impregnated with ammonium nitrate (and dried) and moistening this with water. The same towel may be used repeatedly, after being dried each time.

The news from Lick Observatory that the North star, 255,000,000 of miles away from us, has been found to be not one star, but three—swinging around in great orbits like the moon, earth and sun—is another remarkable result of the application of photo-spectroscopy to the telescopic study of the heavens.

An American electric manufacturing company has been awarded the entire contract for the equipment of numerous electrical plants which will be installed along the line of the Eastern Chinese railroad. It will consist largely of temporary lighting plants. It is thought that ultimately \$200,000 will be involved in the contract.

The first century began with the first day of the year one and ended with the last day of the year one hundred. It could not end with the last day of the year ninety-nine, for one hundred not ninety-nine years make a century. The nineteenth century, therefore, ends at midnight on Dec. 31, 1900, and the twentieth century then begins.

At a recent meeting of the Zoological Society in London a photograph was exhibited, showing a pair of remarkably large tusks which had belonged to an African elephant. Measured along the outer curve, each tusk was ten feet and four inches long, but they differed a little in weight, one weighing 225 and the other 235 pounds, or a total of 460 pounds, which the elephant had carried about without the least inconvenience.

One of the most important American exhibitions at the Paris exposition will be a model, some twenty feet long, of the Chicago drainage canal. In connection with this will be shown models of all the great variety of excavating and conveying machinery which was used in this important engineering work. The models will be shown in operation, and it is believed that it will be one of the most interesting of the engineering exhibitions at the exposition.

Considerable importance is attached to the distance-measuring field-glass invented by Mr. Zeiss, of Jena. It is simply an extension of the natural power of the eyes to estimate the distance of near-by objects. This power depends upon the fact that the space between the eyes serves like a base-line in surveying, the lines of sight converging upon a selected object from the ends of the base. In the telemeter the effective distance between the eyes is increased by means of prisms, and double images of the objects looked at are formed. The distance between the images varies with the remoteness of the objects, and a scale shows what the real distance is. Up to about two miles the results are said to be fairly accurate.

#### Ladysmith Ranks Third.

Ladysmith is the third town of importance in Natal, is 189 miles north of Durban, has thirteen streets, a Town Hall and a public library.

Every man thinks his community is bothered with old barnacles.

## MAN-EATING LIONS.

### OBSTRUCT RAILROAD WORK IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

#### Voracious Beasts Kill Nearly One Hundred Men and Injure Many Others—Their Frightful Ravages Committed in Africa and India.

Obstructing the building of a railroad is a rather unusual feat for lions, yet that is what two of them did some time ago in Central Africa, near Victoria Nyanza. The matter was referred to by Lord Salisbury in one of his addresses in the British House of Lords.

These lions were man-eaters and for more than eight months they terrorized 6,000 laborers engaged in the work of construction. Scores of these men they dragged off and devoured. The greater part of the camp, having at length moved up the country beyond the forging ground of the lions, several hundred were left behind to build bridges. Upon these the lions made a still more sanguinary descent. Night after night they would carry away one and sometimes two men. They attack-



MAN-EATING LION ATTACKS NATIVES IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

ed white engineers, doctors, soldiers and military officers as well as laborers from India, coolies and African natives. On almost any night, and at any time of the night, the men were liable to be aroused by the shrieks of their abducted comrades, and to hear the cracking of their bones and the tearing of their limbs a rod or two away, while the lions growled and quarreled over their prey. Sick men in the hospital died from sheer terror at these horrible sounds and the horrible scenes they suggested. The beasts were shot at in the darkness, but seldom hit. For firearms, fire or torches they cared nothing. One of them leaped upon an officer, tore his knapsack from his back and then carried away and devoured a soldier near him.

Many became so terror-stricken that they threw themselves on the rails in front of a coastward train and insisted on either being run over or carried off on the train. Those who stayed forsook the tents and huts and camped out on top of the water tanks, on roofs and bridge girders or in beds lashed to the highest branches of the trees. One night one of these broke, letting its lodgers fall within a few feet of the lions. But, being already too occupied with devouring a victim, the brutes gave no heed to this "windfall," but let the intruders escape until another meal.

#### Killed Nearly One Hundred Men.

During the eight months that these lions lived upon these railroad men they would be occasionally wounded by a shot and obliged to retire from active life, thus giving the camp intervals of quiet. But they killed and ate in all nearly thirty natives of India, twice as many African natives, besides injuring many others of various nationalities.

It was impossible to poison them because they confined their diet entirely to human beings, to the neglect of every kind of game, with which the region abounds. The white men were not numerous enough to hunt them successfully and the Sepoys were too unskilled with firearms. At length an engineer of the line who spent months of his time pursuing them, worn out by loss of sleep, sitting up in the moonlight and tracking them during the day, succeeded in shooting them both and putting an end to these man-eaters' reign of terror. They were each over nine feet long.

Both Africa and India are in many parts under the dominion of the lion and tiger. Against the lion of South Africa the native has to be constantly on his guard. The Arabs arrange their tents in a circle in the center of which the herds are penned, and outside the tents is a rude hedge. When they hear the animal begin roaring, and he can be heard plainly at a distance of three miles, sometimes faintly nine miles off, they kindle the heaps of wood that have been piled up before each tent so that the occupant may hurl a lighted brand at him. But some of the brutes have become so wonted to the fire, the yelping of the dogs and the cries of the people that they pay no attention to them. He boldly leaps within the inclosure. He drives men, women and children into their tents, silencing the

dogs and stampedes horses, sheep and dogs through the hedge and across the desert.

From the sheep, too, frightened to flee, he selects his supper and carries it away to the mountains. Or if the moods suit pursues the horses and cattle. Of these he will sometimes kill three or four and suck their blood, leaving their carcasses where he overtook them. The power of these black African lions is enormous. The strongest of them can clear an eight-foot inclosure holding in their mouths a 3-year-old horse. Girard, the lion-killer, declares that he has seen one of them charge into the midst of 300 Arab horse men on an open plain and drive them back to their encampment, the boldest of them with their horses remaining prostrate along his path.

In India a man-eating tiger kills more than a hundred people a year; sometimes four or five and even seven persons at once. In some districts 300 or 400 human beings are annually slain by tigers and in lower Bengal as many as 700 are killed. One tigress has been known to close the public roads, cause the desertion of thirteen villages and put over 250 square miles of territory out of cultivation. They become bold enough now and then to penetrate a



The One—Yes, sir; he died owing nobody. The Other—What an unfortunate time to expire!—Indianapolis Press.

Winks—I can tell a poet the moment I see him. Minks—How? Winks—He never looks like one.—New York Weekly.

Doctor—And the twins? Are they well? Papa—Quite well, thank you. "How do they sleep?" "In day and night shifts."

A woman can never carry out her resolution to snub another woman if she meets her when she has on her new hat.—New York Press.

"Going to the Paris show?" "No. I compromised with my wife, and we're going to stay at home and study French.—Philadelphia North American.

"War can always be avoided," asserted the lecturer. The man in the back row laughed scornfully. "Evidently," he said, "the speaker is not married."—Chicago Post.

Joe—Aren't you rejoiced that outdoor sports have begun again? "Outdoor sports? Oh, say—you don't mean it's time to beat carpets again, do you?"—Chicago Record.

Bookkeeper—Your wife is at the door, sir, and would like to speak to you a moment. Mr. Sellers—Yes; just see what my balance at the bank is, will you?—Harper's Bazar.

"Yes, madam," sighed the ash man, "I have seen better days. I was once an ice man, but I was fired." "Ah, I see," said the lady; "you were reduced to ashes."—Philadelphia Record.

"Marie, after we are married what course shall you pursue to retain my love?" "Oh, Harry, I shall spend an awful lot of money on fine clothes and look just as pretty as I can."—Chicago Record.

Man's obiter dictum: He—There are two periods in a man's life when he never understands a woman. She—Indeed, and when are they? He—Before he is married and afterward.—Collier's Weekly.

Mrs. Tucker—Tommy, what makes you so late? Tommy—Had some words with the teacher, and she kept me in after school. Mrs. Tucker—You had words with the teacher? Tommy—Yes'm. I couldn't spell 'em.—Chicago Tribune.

"I'm glad to see the snow disappearing," he said. "I suppose that you are thinking of the horrible crossings it makes." "No, not exactly. There are several bad boys in our neighborhood and they don't care who they pelt with soakers."

Bibbs—How is it Jones has thrown up South Africa. I thought he volunteered? Dibbs—So he did, but he altered his mind. Bibbs—What made him do that? Dibbs—He got to know that his mother-in-law was going out as a nurse.—Puck-Me-Up.

"Thurston Tompkins says he is in poverty through no fault of his own." "How does he make that out?" "Why, he says he was born with expensive tastes, but without sense enough to earn the money to keep up with them."—Indianapolis Journal.

"I didn't know you intended to move this spring." "We don't." "But your wife told me she was out looking at houses all day yesterday." "Well, that's true enough; but don't you know there is a vast difference between looking at houses and looking for houses?"—Chicago Times.

She—Oh, Harry, did you mail that horrid, hateful letter I wrote papa? He must have sent this \$100 check the day I wrote it. He—Yes, I mailed it; he's got it by this time. She—That's you! Whenever I give you a letter to mail that'll get me in trouble, you go right off and mail it.—Indianapolis Journal.

Mrs. A.—It's really extraordinary! My nurse tells me that gentlemen are always stopping her in the street to admire my little girl. Mrs. B.—How lovely she must be! Mrs. A.—Oh, I don't know. Of course I think her pretty, because I am her mother. Mrs. B.—Oh, I meant the nurse, dear.—Punch.

The Farmer—Why don't you work? The Tramp—D'yer t'ink everybody in the world is crazy? I never worked in me life, but I don't owe anyone a cent, while I s'pose you've bin workin' since yer was able ter drive a cow; an' I'll bet dey's a mortgage on yer farm dat keeps yer hustlin' ter pay de int'rest on!—Puck.

A benefactor: "James," whispered the good woman, "there's a burglar in the parlor. He stumbled against the piano in the dark. I heard several of the keys struck." "All right!" said James, "I'll go down." "Oh, James, you're not going to do anything rash?" "Certainly not; I'm going to help him. You don't suppose he can get that piano out of the house without assistance, do you?"—Philadelphia Press.

The best diamonds are of the first water—but it's different with milk.