

OLD WORLD ARMIES

Drafting Methods by Which Their Strength is Maintained.

TRICKS OF THE CONSCRIPTS.

All Manner of Dodges Are Adopted by the Eligible Young Men to Avoid the Enforced Military Service That is So Hateful to Them.

We hear a good deal about conscription, but few people know what it actually means. In no country is every person who is able to fight drafted into the army. All males who are liable to serve undergo a physical examination, resulting in only a certain number being passed as fit for service.

No government has sufficient funds to draft the whole of these men into the regular army, so a selection is made by ballot, the number of men enrolled varying according to the funds in the hands of the authorities.

The pay provided for the conscript is necessarily very trifling indeed and will not compare with that paid to volunteer soldiers. In fact, it is generally true that the conscript must fall back upon his private means.

The methods vary in each country. But take the case of one European power. Every male subject not physically incapacitated is liable to enter the army at the age of twenty, although those who care to enlist may do so at eighteen.

A register is kept of all the youths who reach the age of twenty in the particular year. Men under five feet two inches in height are exempt from service, as well, of course, as those who suffer from natural infirmities which render them unsuitable for active service.

Other men are also exempt if they have helpless dependents—thus the only son of a widow or of a disabled father, the latter category also including the only son of a father who is above seventy years of age. Then the eldest of a family of orphans is exempt, and in the case of two sons only one is liable, there being various other exemptions.

The term served by the conscript is one of twenty-five years, three years being spent in the regular army, six and one-half in the army reserve, six in the territorial army and the remaining nine and a half years in the territorial reserve, all liability to service ceasing at forty-five.

The service is frequently so hated that all manner of methods are adopted in order to avoid it. In many cases substitutes are provided by the wealthy, though there are stringent regulations with regard to the provision of the substitutes.

In most European countries military malingering in order to avoid compulsory military service has reached the stage of a fine art. In fact, a formidable list of new crimes has been added to the statutes as a result, and medical men frequently have to suffer for their assistance in this particular kind of fraud.

Thus some time ago a number of Cologne doctors were arrested upon a charge of having administered pills to young conscripts. These pills consisted of drugs which produced the symptoms of heart disease so effectively as completely to deceive the military authorities, with the result that the conscripts were declared unfit for service. In this case the fraud was brought to light by one of the conscripts dying as a result of an overdose of the medicine.

In Germany, where the conscript is frequently treated with the greatest harshness, there are very few towns where there are not specialists whose living depends solely in inducing such a condition of affairs as will render young men exempt by reason of unfitness.

In the French army it is quite common for youths to feign all manner of illness, deafness being the usual ailment trusted to in order to escape the service. As a result the military doctors have made an especial study of methods of detecting feigned deafness and to trap the cunning youth who acts the part of a deaf man.

Another common practice in France is to tamper with the eyesight, though this frequently results in permanent injury. For instance, short sight is produced by wearing powerful concave glasses for a considerable time despite the risk of bringing about permanent blindness. It is no uncommon occurrence for men to commit suicide rather than submit to forced service in the army.

In eastern Europe most brutal methods are adopted by parents in order that their sons may be able to work for them instead of serving in the army. The boys are frequently ill treated, and it is not at all uncommon even for their limbs to be broken or their sight to be destroyed in order to prevent any likelihood of their having to become soldiers.

Switzerland probably has the cheapest army and the least burdensome methods of conscription, the service being much lighter than in the other continental armies. Indeed, the conscript in the infantry army has to undergo actual training for only 135 days during the entire period of his service.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Knew Her Minutes.
Bridget—Will you have your dinner now, sorr, or wait for the missus? Head of the House—Where is your mistress, Bridget? Bridget—There's an auction beyant the corner, sorr, an' she said she'd stop there for a minnit. Head of the House—Have dinner now, New York Sun.

SUPPRESSED.

A Story That Won a Prize and Yet Was Never Published.

A number of years ago a series of prizes for the best detective story was offered by a certain well known western newspaper, and the late F. R. Burton, in collaboration with a fellow craftsman, entered the competition. Their story, the theme of which involved an ingenious method of robbing a safe in spite of the protection afforded by a time lock, was one of the five which won prizes, and the authors' portraits were duly published in the issue of the paper which announced the result of the competition. The prize money, constituting a considerable sum, was promptly paid over, but to the author's surprise, although the other four winning stories were published, that of the time lock failed to appear. After a few weeks a representative of the paper called upon Mr. Burton, explaining that the editor was anxious to know what authority he had for his story and whether it would really be possible to rob a bank after the fashion that he had set forth. With the help of a pencil and a few diagrams Mr. Burton easily proved the accuracy of the method to the apparent satisfaction of his interviewer and thereafter looked forward to a prompt appearance of the story. But a few days later the secret of the delay was revealed. A special envoy of the paper waited upon him, full of consternation and apology, and prepared to make any amends within reason, but was emphatic in announcing that it was absolutely impossible to publish the story, because after expert investigation they had become convinced that if it should appear in print it would destroy the protective power of every time lock safe in the country, and the representative of the newspaper did not take his leave until he had obtained what Mr. Burton under the circumstances easily granted—a signed agreement releasing the paper from its obligation to publish the story and solemnly pledging himself not to attempt to publish it elsewhere. Accordingly the curiosity piqued by this bit of inside history is likely never to be gratified.—Bookman.

HE BOUGHT IN PARIS.

Then He Found He Could Have Done Better Nearer Home.

Enrico Caruso, the famous tenor, told a curious story once while in conversation with a man prominent in musical circles in Philadelphia. The two were ascending the stairs from the basement of the Bellevue-Stratford when at the first landing they halted, and Caruso pointed to a marble bench of ancient Florentine pattern.

"I am a great admirer of those benches," he said, "and last summer I had a strange experience with them. I had just purchased a villa in Italy and was always on the lookout for something decorative in the way of novel furniture.

"While in Paris I happened to see one of these benches and at once concluded to put a dozen of them about the grounds. I found the dealer and asked the price. He said \$50 apiece. I ordered the dozen.

"A few weeks later I was at my villa looking it over and happened to discover across the hedge at the border a marble yard, and there was the marble cutter working on one of those same benches.

"I climbed the hedge, and after chatting with the man a few minutes and admiring the great care he was exercising I asked if he usually made such benches. 'Oh, yes,' he replied. 'I make many. I have an order now for twelve of them for the great tenor Caruso. He ordered them in Paris.'

"When I recovered from my surprise I questioned him and found that he was really the man who supplied the Paris dealer. I asked him how much he would make me some for, and he replied, 'Twenty dollars apiece, signor.'

"So I was paying \$50 for the privilege of buying in Paris what was being made at my own door, in addition to freight both ways and extra incidental expenses. Now when I want to buy anything for my home I go to the nearest place first."—Philadelphia News.

A Chinese Joke.

There was a man in Ch'angnan who was very fond of giving dinners, but the food given was atrocious. One day a guest threw himself on his knees in front of this gentleman and said, "Am I not a friend of yours?" "You are, indeed," replied his host. "Then I must ask of you a favor," said the guest, "and you must grant it before I rise from my knees." "Well, what is it?" inquired his host in astonishment. "Never to invite me to dinner any more!" cried the guest, at which the whole party burst into a loud roar of laughter.—North China Herald.

Persistent.

Shopkeeper (to commercial traveler)—Can't give you an order. Quite overstocked. Traveler—Let me at least show you my samples. Shopkeeper—Spare yourself the trouble. I can't look at them. Traveler—Then will you allow me to look at them myself? It is three weeks since I have seen them.—London Penny Pictorial.

English Cigars.

"Do cigars ever contain rope?" "No. That's just a pleasantry of the jokemakers. As a matter of fact, hemp is too expensive to put in the cheaper brands of cigars."—London Mail.

The eruptions of Vesuvius greatly increase the fertility of the ground in the vicinity.

THE ATLANTIC LINERS

Signs, Signals and Flags Used by the Various Companies.

COLORS OF THE BIG FUNNELS

In Some Cases They Are Very Much Alike, but the Night Lights Used by the Vessels of the Different Lines Are Quite Distinctive.

It is said that but comparatively few of the many thousands of persons that each year patronize the various lines of steamships crossing the Atlantic are familiar with the various distinguishing signs and signals employed by the vessels of the respective companies. Yet it is a very easy thing to tell at a glance to what line any given ship belongs—the American line, for instance.

About all that one must remember in the case of the vessels of our own line is that the funnels are black, each with its white band. When you see an Atlantic liner at night with a blue light forward, a red light amidships and a blue light aft you know at once that she is of the American line.

All Cunarders show a red funnel with black rings and a black top, while the night signals consist of a blue light and two roman candles, each throwing out six blue balls.

There are but two of the leading transatlantic lines the ships of which carry cream colored funnels—the North German Lloyd and the Holland-America lines. The first employs a perfectly plain funnel without any other color than cream, and the latter shows a cream funnel with a white band and green borders. Signals displayed at night by these lines are, in the case of the North German Lloyd, two blue lights, one forward and one aft, and, in the case of the Holland-America line, a green light forward and aft, with a white light under the bridge.

Two lines use buff funnels, the White Star and the Hamburg-American, the difference between the two being that, while the former shows a black top, the latter is plain buff throughout. White Star night signals are two green lights flashed simultaneously.

Quite a number of lines carry black funnels—the American with a white band, as mentioned above; the Anchor, which is entirely black; the Bristol, with a variegated and fancy touch, the black smokestack being relieved by a white band in the center and a blue star in the middle of the white band. In the regular service of the Hamburg-American line, as distinguished from the express service, we find that the color is plain black, while the Red Star is black with a white band and a black top.

The Scandinavian-American and the Wilson lines have red and black funnels, black in the first case with a red top and red funnel with a black top in the second.

The red funnel of the French line has a black top similar to the funnels of other lines, but with different proportions of color. On this line the night signals are a blue light forward, a white light amidships and a red light aft, forming the French tricolor.

At night the Anchor line of vessels shows a white light, then a red. The Bristol displays a green light only. The Hamburg-American ships for both services, regular and express, show two red-white-blue lights in quick succession at the stern. The Red Star displays three red lights, one forward, one aft and one amidships, all flashed together. The Scandinavian line employs one white-red, followed by one red-white light, and the Wilson puts out two red lights about sixty feet apart.

It will be observed from the foregoing that the night signals of all the different lines vary, while the funnels in some cases are very similar. This, however, does not lead to confusion, for in determining the line to which a vessel belongs one must also take into consideration the flag or pennant she flies. Every line, of course, carries a different "house flag," as it is called.

The flag of the Cunard line is red with a golden lion in the center, while that of the White Star vessels is of the same color, but swallowtail in shape and containing a white star. The house flag of the Red Star line is exactly the same as that of the White Star company with the colors reversed—flag white, star red.

The flag of the Hamburg-American line is an elaborate affair—white and blue diagonally quartered with a black anchor and a yellow shield in the center. The North German Lloyd flag is a handsome one, showing a design of a key and an anchor crossed in the center of a laurel wreath in blue on a white field.

The Atlantic Transport line flies a pretty flag of red, white and blue horizontal bars, with stars.—Edwin Torrance in Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Just One Sentence.

"They say that Stevenson frequently worked a whole afternoon on a single line." "That's nothing. I know a man who has been working the last six years on one sentence."—Boston Transcript.

The Two Power Standard.

"England thinks her navy ought to be just twice as large as that of her principal rival." "My wife likes to regulate her wardrobe along those identical lines."—Pittsburg Post.

The liar is sooner caught than the cripple.—Spanish Proverb.

Stockholders' Meeting.

The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Athena, Oregon, for the election of directors for the ensuing year and for the transaction of such other business as may lawfully come before it, will be held in its office in Athena, Oregon, on Tuesday, the 11th day of January, 1910, at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m. F. S. LeGrow, Cashier. Dated December 10, 1909.

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Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. A. O. Hammond, Pastor. Sunday service: Sunday school at 10 a. m.; preaching service 11, Epworth League devotional service 6:30, preaching service 7:30. Ladies Aid Society every Wednesday afternoon at 1 p. m. Prayer meeting every Thursday evening at 7:30 p. m.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County. In the matter of the estate of Robert J. Boddy, deceased.

Notice is hereby given to all persons whom it may concern that Jackson Nelson has qualified as executor of the last will and testament of Robert J. Boddy, deceased; and that all persons having claims against his estate are required to present them, with proper vouchers as reason by law, to said executor at the law offices of Peterson & Wilson at Athena or Pendleton, Oregon, within six months from date hereof.

Dated this 7th day of January, A. D. 1910.

Jackson Nelson, Executor.

SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Umatilla County. Dora C. Hahnert, Plaintiff,

vs. William F. Hahnert, defendant. To William F. Hahnert, the above named defendant:

In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby summoned and required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled suit within six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons in the Athena Press, a newspaper published weekly at Athena, Umatilla county, Oregon, and you will take notice that if you fail to so appear and answer the said complaint or otherwise plead thereto within said time the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief prayed for and demanded in said complaint, viz: For an absolute decree of divorce from you; for plaintiff's name to be changed to Dora C. Adams, and for other equitable relief.

This summons is published pursuant to an order of the Hon. H. J. Bean, Judge of the Sixth Judicial District of the State of Oregon, duly made and entered on the 29th day of December A. D. 1909, and the first publication thereof is made on Friday the 31st day of December A. D. 1909, and the same will be published for six consecutive weeks, the last publication to appear on Friday the 11th day of February A. D. 1910.

Peterson & Wilson Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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