

But the privates of this small army are of a much better class than Tommy Atkins. In the ranks you will sometimes find the sons of decayed landowners (there is a sergeant-baronet now serving at Dublin), besides several men who have graduated at the university. A district inspector may have to take his men to an eviction on Monday, and be cursed and pelted with all the wealth of Irish phraseology and Irish missiles. On Tuesday he will meet the very same people, whom he knows individually as well as he knows their landlords, and they will greet him with smiles and "your honours" and seem and be perfectly friendly. And it is the same with the men; they are generally on the best of terms with the people whom they protect. And all factions combine to honour the constabulary, and look to them for protection from other factions, because they know they are absolutely non-political and non-sectarian.

At present the force consists of one inspector-general, one deputy-inspector, two assistant inspector-generals, and roughly speaking, about 12,600 persons of other ranks. The grades are—County inspectors, district inspectors, (1st, 2nd and 3rd classes), head constables, sergeants, and constables. The rates of pay are—County inspectors, £350 to £450 per annum; district inspectors, 1st (maximum), £300 per annum; district inspectors, 2nd, £180 per annum; district inspectors, 3rd, £125 per annum.

In the lower grades the pay varies from that of a head-constable, who receives £104 per annum, to that of the newly joined constable, who receives £54 per annum. As regards pensions, a service of thirty years entitles a man to the maximum retiring allowance of two-thirds of his actual salary; pensions are also granted to widows and orphans.

Formerly, the officers of the force were all nominated by the Chief Secretary for Ireland, after undergoing an examination conducted by the Civil Service Commissioners. Now, the Inspector-General nominates alternately with the Chief Secretary, and bestows his patronage on sons of officers in the force, and deserving head-constables. The examinations are still conducted by the Civil Service Commissioners, and are of a very searching character. Besides ordinary English routine subjects, a proficiency in Latin or French, as well as the elements of law is required.

The force consists exclusively of Irishmen, though the first Inspector-General, Sir Duncan Macgregor, hailed from the Land of Cakes. About three-fourths profess the Roman Catholic faith. To enter its ranks a written application is sent to the Inspector-General, backed by as many testimonials to character and ability as can be obtained. Then, should these prove sufficient, the aspirant for thief-catching fame is directed to report himself to some local doctor for examination. If found medically fit, his name is placed on a list of eligible candidates kept by the Constabulary Office in Dublin, and he must patiently bide his time till called upon to come and report himself at the depot.

Then his service commences. He is kept here for about six months learning his drill, and then is drafted to some station down the country where a vacancy for a policeman exists. No greater transformation can well be imagined than the change from the country rustic, after a couple of months' drill at the depot, to the smart, dapper policeman.

The uniform of the constabulary is dark green. In full-dress, a helmet similar to that worn by regiments of the line, is worn, whilst in undress a round forage cap takes its place. The arms used are the short Snider and sword-bayonet, but for ordinary duty a box-wood truncheon alone is carried. A certain number of the force are mounted, but these are used more as messengers than for any other purpose. The band of the Constabulary is certainly one of the best in Great Britain.

Our engraving represents a parade of a detachment of the force in front of the barracks in Dublin. Many past members of the force are now in Canada, and are invariably found steady and trustworthy.

The officers of the 53rd Batt., Sherbrooke, Que., have rented a room in the Art Building, which will serve as a place of meeting and recreation for members of the corps in the evenings. A drill class will be formed for the benefit of officers intending to qualify, and also for men of the Batt. desiring to qualify for promotion.

FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA DEFENCE.

The first-class battle-ship *Temiraire*, which has been undergoing extensive repairs at Devonport, is to be out of the dockyard hands by the 28th February. The *Temiraire* will then be despatched to Esquimaux as sea-going guardship, with the view of strengthening the squadron on the Pacific station. This will in no way affect the selection of the new flagship to relieve the *Warspite*. The *Temiraire* has received new boilers, with which she will be capable of steaming 16 knots.

The Russians have now a powerful vessel stationed in the Pacific, and it is understood that in addition to the *Temiraire* a first-class cruiser—either the *Blake* or *Royal Arthur*—will be despatched to that station as flagship. The *Temiraire* is to be commissioned in February.

The *Temiraire* is a twin screw barbette battleship of the 1st class. Material of hull, iron and wood; brig rigged; two masts; built at Chatham, and launched in 1876; displacement in tons, 8540; length, 280 feet; breadth, 62 feet; draught, 26 feet 9 inches. She is armoured on the belt with 11 inches of steel, on the battery and breastwork 10 inches. Her two barbettes are armoured with 10 inches of steel, and her decks are protected with 1½ inches of the same material. Her armament consists of 4 11-inch 25 ton R.M.L. guns, 4 10-inch 18-ton R.M.L. guns, 6 4-inch R.B.L. guns, 8 6-pounder and 3-pounder quick firing guns, 13 machine guns, and 2 torpedo launching tubes. Her indicated horse-power is 7520, coal capacity 400 tons, speed, 16 knots. The 25-ton gun fires a 11-inch projectile weighing 544 lbs.

The *Temiraire* took a prominent part in the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882. There was also a *Temiraire* made herself famous in the world-renowned victory of Trafalgar, in which the immortal Nelson lost his life.

THE LAST INVASION OF CANADA.

An American officer writes:—It is a fact not generally known that a few years ago an armed force of Americans invaded the British possessions. It occurred in the early part of 1877, during the pursuit of Sitting Bull's band of renegades. A few troops of the Second Cavalry were hot on the trail of the Indians, and we hoped to catch them. We had been wandering about for several weeks, and did not know exactly where we were. Just about dusk one evening the major in command, who was riding at the head of the column, came upon one of the iron posts that marked the British boundary. I never heard a man swear harder in my life, for the trail was hot and he was hopeful of bringing the Indians to a fight. He called the officers around him and held a council of war. Both horses and men were worn out, and it was twenty miles to the nearest water on our side of the line. Under the circumstances he decided to take the risk and camp with his command on British soil. We went about three miles into British territory and spent the night there. Next morning, however, we were up early and slipped back to our own side of the frontier very quietly. Fortunately no one saw us, and the matter was not brought to the knowledge of the Canadian Government. I have often wondered what would have happened if the Indians had attacked us on British soil, where we had no kind of right to be.

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

The following letter, in *Shooting and Fishing*, chronicles the death of an organization that has been of great benefit to rifle-shooting among our American neighbours. It seems remarkably strange that so useful an institution should be allowed to pass out of existence with so little protest:—

Editor Shooting and Fishing:—Owing to the refusal of General Whitlock to allow the usual weekly matches to be shot at Creedmore, and thereby cutting off our only source of income, this association has been forced to close its office, and, in future, will exist only in name. I want to thank you for your valuable Journal, and wishing you all success in the future, I remain,
JOHN S. SHEPHERD, Sec'y N. R. A.
NEW YORK, Dec. 26.