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ORGANIZATION OF THE PRUSSIAN ARMY

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III.—NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

The value of good non-commissioned officers being acknowledged in all armies, different inducements are offered to efficient men to fill such positions. The French army avails itself of the institution of "substitutes" for this purpose. A Frenchman who has got money enough to pay somebody to fight for him is not called upon to furnish his substitute himself; he simply pays the amount. The government takes another man down the list, and gives the money to a non-commissioned officer as a bounty for re-enlistment. In Prussia any non-commissioned officer who has served twelve years in the line is rewarded by a preference over any competitor who has not served, granted to him for all positions under government which his education and ability may make him fit for; and the greatest number of subordinate clerkships, for instance, are filled by former non-commissioned officers of the army. Schools are established in each battalion for the non-commissioned officers, where the officers teach all branches which are likely to be examined into, as penmanship, accounts, geography, etc.

Non-commissioned officers are appointed by the colonel, but they cannot be reduced except by sentence of court-martial. Their authority is earnestly protected, and no difference made whether an act of insubordination be committed against an officer or a corporal.

IV.—OFFICERS.

A part of the Prussian officers are educated in a corps of cadets, with several preparatory schools. In the first place, the sons of officers who died on the battlefield are entitled to a place there free of charge. Officers serving in the army are entitled next to avail themselves of these schools for their sons, in consideration of a moderate payment, which is regulated in accordance with their own rank and pay. Finally, every citizen may send his son to such a school if he pays the tuition for which generals have to pay. Boys enter the preparatory school at 9 years old; but even then the aspirant must show a certain degree of efficiency, of course very limited. After four years the boys are transferred to the corps of cadets, where they remain three years. They undergo their examination, and those who pass are

assigned to regiments as ensigns. About thirty every year, the most proficient, would say the graduates, remain one year longer, and after a last examination get assigned as lieutenants. The number of cadets however being limited, any boy of the age of seventeen may enter the army as a private, with a view of obtaining a commission, if he is a graduate of a "gymnasium," as they call high schools which prepare students for the universities. He then serves nine months as a private, gets his ensigncy, and joins for one year the cadets of the same rank in a school established within the limits of each army corps. The course of studies there is limited to what are considered the professional branches—mathematics, fortification, artillery, tactics, etc., and proficiency having been proved by an examination, they return to their regiments, to be promoted as soon as vacancies occur. Though the number of officers for the field army is mostly complete in peace, there are so many more officers needed in war for extraordinary duties, in depots with the Landwehr and elsewhere, that provision has to be made for a great increase in case of war. Any young man who is a graduate of a high school, and possesses the means of maintaining himself, is permitted to complete his duty as a soldier in the line by serving one year instead of three. It is considered that a young man of education should be able to learn a soldier's duties in a shorter period.

Poor young men are sometimes excused from maintaining themselves, but the condition of being possessed of this education is never dispensed with. Such young men, after having served one year—the choice of the regiment having been left to them—are then transferred to the reserve, like any other soldier. In their turn, they are called in for the first regular fall exercises, and if they pass an examination on the merely practical duties of an officer in the field, they are promoted to commissions, and, in case of war, join the army as officers. No civilian can ever get a commission in the army, except by one of these three procedures. Nobody receives his commission (and this rule is general, too) except upon recommendation of his captain and colonel, and with the consent of the corps of officers of his regiment—the latter consent being especially required as a test of the young man's qualification as a gentleman. If a majority of the officers object, not even the reasons for their dissent need be given.

It is obvious that all the officers must be men of a sound education. Everybody has to serve, but to every educated man the way is open to obtain a commission by virtue of

knowledge and gentlemanlike conduct. That the positions as officers are filled by the nobility exclusively is simply not the fact. That the sons of the landed nobility like to serve as officers in the army is a fact, but they enjoy no privileges whatever.

It would be a poor lookout, however, if the military knowledge so obtained by the officers of the army were all that the army possessed. Two great military academies exist in Prussia for the two-fold purpose of instructing officers of the special arms, and imparting the higher branches of military science to officers especially fit and ambitious to obtain such instruction. One is the school for artillery officers and engineers, the other the so-called military academy. They correspond to the universities. All officers of artillery and engineers have to go through a course of three years in the first mentioned school, which commences after they have been one year at least with their regiments. About fifty officers besides of all arms enter the military academy every year for three years, after three years' duty with the troops. These enter voluntarily and upon the merits of an examination, a much greater number always making a strong competition.

The studies in the academy embrace higher mathematics (calculus and mechanics), surveying, geodesy, strategy, and history of war, staff duties, foreign languages, etc. They are educated on the plan of the German universities, by lecturing, and at the end of each term the writing of essays upon given subjects stands in lieu of any verbal examination. They do not believe in Prussia that it is possible to finish the higher education of an officer in a cadet school, and they seem to believe that service with the troops is an indispensable preparation for the study of some of the branches of military science. On the other hand, they do not think that the knowledge of calculus, for instance, is indispensable to every officer, nor that it can be expected from a great number of young men that they will in fact and reality master the calculus.

Promotion goes, as a rule, by seniority among the lieutenants of a regiment. Captains get their promotion to field officers' rank in accordance with seniority obtained in each arm of the service and in each corps d'armée. Field officers are advanced in each arm of the service separately—generals through the army. Should an officer be overlooked, he takes it as a hint to apply for permission to retire upon such pension as his rank and length of service entitle him to. Extraordinary promotion can be obtained in peace time—the princes of the