

ENGLISH ARMY IN INDIA.

Cost of Maintaining Defense There Is Very Great.

Native Soldiers Paid \$3.50 Per Month for First Three Years—Rations Issued With Care and Exactness.

The ever-increasing prodigality with which England is drafting upon her military resources, both at home and abroad, makes it pertinent to recall to mind that British India and her vast population of nearly 400,000,000 are practically kept in check by only 70,000 British troops. These troops usually serve ten years in India and are transferred from one military station to another every two years. "Tommy Atkins," at least when in India, is very precious in the sight of the British government. As he stands in his uniform, a disciplined soldier in the prime of health and strength, he is said to have cost a paternal government the sum of \$2000 American money, and he is valued accordingly. His daily rations are carefully examined by medical experts, and his one quart of ale and one ounce of rum are served out to him with the greatest regularity. When the exigencies of the service permit, he is sent in the "hot season" to the mountains, where he works on the roads and gets a laborer's allowance besides his pay. When on the plains everything is done that possibly can be accomplished by his officers to make his life pleasant, and if he behaves himself a good conduct stripe is added to his coat sleeve and a penny a day (2 cents of our money) is his income. When he gets drunk he goes to the cells for a week or is given a five days' drill. In due time he returns to England and enjoys a pension—that is, if he does not fall victim to the climate. The biggest outdoor attractions at the Indian military stations are the cemeteries, the one at Peshawar alone containing the graves of 3500 British soldiers.

The full strength of Great Britain's Indian army, in round numbers, approximates 300,000 men, of whom 230,000 are native and 70,000 British soldiers. In addition to this military force there are about 20,000 enrolled European volunteers, and a native police, officered by white men, nearly 200,000 strong. The army proper is divided into three main forces, known as the Bengal, the Bombay and the Madras divisions, all of which are under the commander-in-chief of India. A native Sepoy regiment usually consists of 800 men, and is commanded by seven English officers, namely, a commandant, two wing commanders and four wing officers. There are also sixteen commissioned native officers, eight of whom are subadars, or captains, and eight jemadars, or lieutenants. The noncommissioned officers are eighty in number, all natives, forty of whom rank as havildars, or sergeants, and the remaining forty as naiks, or corporals. In the cavalry the captain is styled risaldar, the lieutenant, risai-dar. The chief native officer of an infantry regiment is the subadar (major). Every regiment is divided into ten companies, each of which is usually made up of a different nationality, such as Goorkhas, Sikhs, Dogras, Pathans, Punjabis, etc. It is owing to this precaution that a combination of forces for the purpose of mutiny becomes almost impossible. The Goorkhas and Sikhs, whose loyalty is rated the highest, are in some localities permitted to constitute entire regiments by themselves.

The pay of the Sepoy or native soldier is \$3.50 per month, with a gradual increase after three years' good conduct service. The pension system is particularly liberal and is really the magnet which draws the native recruit. It is so skillfully arranged that there can be no jobbery, and twice a year the pension officers visit the great centers of population to pay the pensions. When a Sepoy soldier falls in action his wives—and there are four of them—are all pensioned, as well as their young children. As regards the artillery branch or the Indian army, white men only are employed, both as commissioned officers and in the ranks, and the guns of all forts are entirely manned by Britons.

As to the fighting qualities of these Sepoy soldiers, the Goorkha ranks first; in fact, many English experts believe that the Goorkha, who is a native of Nepal, is the best soldier in the world. Sturdily built, of an average height of five feet three inches, the Goorkha is equally good in a hand-to-hand contest with the bayonet or at long range as with the rifle. The Sikh ranks second as a

soldier of the native contingent. He comes from the Punjab, averages six feet in height and is supple, sinewy and athletic as the stereotyped red Indian. The Sikhs and Goorkhas are ancient enemies, and did their best to exterminate each other in the Sutlej war of 1846. The Pathan probably stands third in the native list as a warrior, but does not class with the other two tribes named above in the matter of endurance, and there is always a doubt about his loyalty.

A unique native regiment in the employ of the British is that known as the Guides, which is composed of a motley race of freebooters, who for many years were the terrors of Northern India. This old principle of setting a thief to catch a thief has worked excellently, and the guides have the reputation of being the fiercest fighters of the entire Sepoy army.

If corroboration were required of the martial qualities of the native Indian soldiery, the Nepaulese war of 1814, and the siege of Kalunga in particular, will afford any needed illustration. At Kalunga 600 Goorkhas were entrenched in a stockade and succeeded in repulsing fierce assaults of the British. It was only when this brave band had lost 530 of their number that they hoisted the flag of truce, and the loss they inflicted on the British amounted to thirty-one officers and 710 men. *Philadelphia Inquirer.*

The Reindeer for Nome.

Messrs. Vernon & Co., have secured the steamer Reindeer and the barge Duff for the Nome run. The Reindeer it will be remembered steamed from Vancouver to Dawson under her own steam and is a safe and thoroughly seaworthy boat. She will make the trip direct to Nome stopping at St. Michaels. The barge Duff is the only craft on the river built on true barge lines. Frank Simons has secured space and accommodations with the company to carry his people and scenery to the beach city. The steamer Reindeer is now at Five Fingers in a safe harborage and will land at Dawson immediately upon the opening of navigation, taking on her passengers and freight and casting loose for the down river voyage at the earliest moment possible.

The Arctic Brotherhood.

At a regular meeting of the Arctic Brotherhood Friday night the degree was conferred upon P. H. Hebb and R. I. Hiltz. The camp decided to hold a social session on the last Friday night of each month, and the first of the series will be held Friday night of this week. At the meeting previous to that of last Friday night honorary office of Grand Camp Patriarch was created and filled by the election of C. J. Riley, who stood god father to the order when it was instituted aboard the steamer City of Seattle, on the 8th of March, 1899, since which time eight subordinate camps, with a membership of over 2000 members have been organized.

Another Route to Nome.

The most feasible and practical winter route, and one that is unknown to the public in general, yet one that has been known to the Russian inhabitants of Juneau and other localities for many years, is the old Russian trail which starts from Katmai, and is blazed through to St. Michael and Nome. A number of persons have already gone over this trail, and last winter several persons came out that way.

To reach Nome by this route, says the Seattle P. I., the person who wishes to make the journey will have to take the steamer at Juneau for Katmai. From that point the trip is made overland by dog teams. Across the Alaska peninsula to Koggijuns is only 80 miles and can be easily made. From Koggijuns the trail leads to Carmel, a Moravian mission. From the mission to Tikhek, a village on a large lake of the same name. This lake is drained by a river and chain of small lakes that empties into the Kuskokwim river, and the trail follows this river and lakes that empties into the Kuskokwim and thence to Oknaganut, a Catholic mission, from which point it is only a short distance to Ikogmuk mission of the Greek church on the Yukon river. From this point the trail leads up the river to the Holy Cross mission and Anvik, and from there to the Eatan reindeer station and Unalaklik. From the latter place Norton sound can be crossed on the ice and the trip to the Swedish mission and Nome can be easily made.

The entire distance is less than 750 miles after leaving the steamer, and at no time will the traveler be more than 30 miles from a mission station or village. This old trail has been traveled for many years and is blazed the entire distance and can be made in from 20 to 30 days.

Parties wishing to sell or buy mining property call on or address Norton D. Walling, Grand Forks.

LOYAL CANADIAN STEAKS.

His Plain Opinions Concerning the People's Purpose.

He Replies to Statements of Mr. Wade and Criticises the Governor's Municipal Proposition.

The Daily Klondike Nugget is in receipt of the following communication, To the Editor of the Daily Nugget.

Dear Sir: I am very much interested in the movement for representative government. I was present at the mass meeting, which was held at the Palace Grand theater on last Friday evening, and in my humble opinion that assembly of British subjects performed its work most successfully, and in a very creditable manner. There were many friends of the local officials present—indeed, there were several prominent officials. The report of the citizens' committee, which severely censured the Yukon council for its treatment of the citizens' petitions, was carried unanimously. The same commendable action was accorded to the resolution which favored public sessions of the Yukon council. The protest against taxation without representation was entered firmly but dispassionately. Mr. Sugrue's resolution, which provided for a reference to Joseph Chamberlain, the home secretary, of all matters relating to the Yukon, was inappropriate; and the meeting had the sense to defer it for one month.

Mr. Wade in his speech said that he was personally aware that the members of the council were willing to make their legislative sessions public. Why do they not do so? Everyone knows their answer. They claim that they cannot separate their legislative duties from those which are executive. This is merely a subterfuge; but they think that the people are so ignorant as to be unable to discern the falsity of their assertion. Mr. Wade also stated that this was an American city upon Canadian soil; perhaps it is to the extent of containing more American citizens than British subjects. But when the crown prosecutor said that there are only a few Britishers on the Yukon, he contradicted the census, which was taken by Col. Steele and his police force last fall. Then there were about 5000 subjects of the empire in this territory. The Nome excitement did not attract any of these. It is a lamentable fact that many of our American friends who were disappointed with the management of affairs here, left for the other side; but it is undoubtedly true that, at present, there are more British citizens in Dawson than there were last September. Mr. Wade contends that peculiar conditions justify the council's levying tax without granting representation. His arguments are to the effect that because Americans cannot be represented, it would therefore be useless to admit Canadian representatives in the council; that because it is impossible to give representation to all those who could be taxed, then it would be inadvisable to grant representative rights to any persons whatsoever.

Are British citizens in other places denied their privileges because of the presence of alien residents. The council had better defer its proposition of taxation until the people's demand for representation is acceded.

Mr. Editor, I see by your issue of yesterday that we will be granted municipal rights if we so desire. The territorial government—that is the council—will retain the collection of revenues; and we will be permitted to assume control of all those civic departments which are sources of expense. Indeed, Governor Ogilvie must believe that the people are assinine fools. When we gain control of the council, Dawson will be granted a civic charter on fair terms, but not till then.

I wish to state that I was born and have always lived in the Dominion of Canada. In politics, I have voted the Liberal ticket. I know Mr. Wade very well. I believe him to be the head and front of the local bar. But he is much mistaken if he really regards last Friday's meeting as an assembly of agitators, whose motive is to manufacture political capital. The people are determined to have their rights. We will continue to progress, and the inevitable result will be representative government, irrespective of all the subterfuges to which officials are resorting in order to defeat us. I voted against the Sugrue resolution; but a month hence I expect that the dilatory actions of the council and the government at Ottawa will induce me to support a resolution. If the officials favor their own interests, they will not oppose the present movement of the people.

We cannot be fooled any longer. The time is not far distant when we shall govern ourselves, and nothing can possibly prevent the ultimate accomplishment of that desirable condition. Hoping that you will publish this communication, I remain as ever, A LOYAL CANADIAN.

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