

"Volunteers enjoy special privileges and have a distinctive badge on their uniform, even in the first probationary period of their service, while acting as rank-and-file.

"Volunteers may be allowed furloughs not exceeding four months; but the time of furlough is not counted and delays promotion.

"The pupils in the cadet institutions, page institutions, and military schools serve as first class Volunteers.

"GENERAL LEVY.

"All able bodied men freed from active service, by lot, up to their fortieth year, are included in the general levy. During the continuance of peace the general is never called out for muster or drill, and, in fact, is no more than a list of names to be turned to account in case of need.

"In war, the general levy, or a portion of the general levy, may be called out at discretion. It is then divided into two classes, the first comprising those added to the body within the last four years, and the second containing the rest. The first class is separately organized under Reserve officers.

"While a man is doing duty in the general levy, his family must be maintained by his parish. If he falls, the State takes care of them."

The men of the General Levy are called warriors (*ratnik*), not soldiers (*soldat*).

"GENERAL SURVEY OF THE ARMY.

"The new military Law affects only the standing Army, Reserve, and General Levy. In addition to these, there exist the different Cossack corps and some Native Irregulars. The Cossacks retain their former institutions which make every man a soldier and a colonist at the same time. The native population of the Caucasus and Siberia is expressly exempt from the new law, it being intended to issue special regulations for these various tribes. The total of the natives coming under this category may be estimated at something like 12,000,000, exclusive of Khiva and the Turcomans.

"NAVY.

"In certain districts to be specified by the authorities, young men on attaining their twentieth year will be draughted into the Navy, not the Army. Government, however, reserves the right to place any number of them in the Army, instead of the Navy, should they think fit. In addition to these, men belonging to the following categories are enrolled in the Navy, not in the Army:—1. All sailors, steam-ship engineers, and stokers who have been at sea at least one navigating period, about six months, immediately previous to the conscription. 2. Workmen in steam engine factories who have been there employed at least a year. 3. Ship-carpenters, caulkers, and boiler makers. 4. Professional sailors who join the Navy as a profession.

"The time of service in the Navy is fixed at ten years, seven of which are passed in active service and three in the Reserve. Excepting the pupils of the schools of navigation, young men from the naval recruiting districts who have attended superior or middle-class schools will be draughted into the Navy only if preferring that service to the Army. In this case they remain three years in active service, and seven years in the Reserve. Of other young men draughted into the Navy, those who have passed their examinations as masters or boatswains remain only two years in active service and

and eight in the Reserve; while those who have qualified themselves as boatswains for the coasting service remain three years on active duty and seven years in the Reserve.

"The naval service, too, has its exemptions. Active service in entire remitted and only a ten years' service in the Reserve exacted in the case of all masters, boatswains, engineers, and pilots serving on board Russian vessels. Sailors who have been at sea for two navigating periods, and engineers, if engaged on board Russian vessels, serve only two years in the Imperial Navy, and are added to the Reserve for ten years more. Sailors on coasting service and stokers serve one year in the Imperial Navy and eleven years in the Reserve. All sailors, engineers, and stokers engaged on board Russian vessels may, moreover, demand to have their time of service put off till after the completion of their twenty-fifth year. The time they pass in the Russian merchant fleet between their twentieth year and their entering the navy will be deducted from the time they are obliged to pass in the Reserve, one month in the merchant fleet counting as equal to two in the Reserve."

The last few regulations are evidently intended to contribute towards the increase of the very insignificant, mercantile fleet of the Russian Empire.

"PENSIONERS.

"Men invalided in the army or navy are accorded by the Crown a pension of from three to six roubles a month or are placed in public hospitals. The families of the dead and missing will be assisted under special regulations to be shortly issued."

So far the conscription law. The measures required to adapt the organization of the troops to the immense increase of numbers have not been made public.

FAMINE IN INDIA.

What a famine in India is like, is pictured to the London *Times*, from an old resident of India.

In 1833 a grievous famine prevailed over Southern India, extending nearly from Madras to Cuttack—some 700 miles of coast. Notice had been given of its approach, but the voice of warning was unheeded, so that when the crisis arrived the Government found itself taken by surprise, amounting, it may be fairly said, to panic. In the presence of so terrible an emergency, there was every willingness to do all that could be accomplished to save life. Neither public nor private charity was wanting throughout the length and breadth of the field of suffering; but it was all too late. Wild theories of the most unwise description then made themselves heard—such as forcing the sale of rice at a fixed rate, thus alarming the great grain dealers of India, and tending to check those vast operations upon the increased activity of which, stimulated by gain, the supply of millions depended. As for any government undertaking to feed its whole population, the notion has only to be examined for a moment to be utterly discarded. Still, the idea of coercing the grain dealers is one quite in accordance with the popular feeling in India, as it was at the time I am referring to with too many of our own officers, who surely ought to have been better informed.

The eyes of the authorities at Madras were, however, only open to the disaster before them when made conscious of the arrival of thousands of starving wretches day by

lay, to whom there was but the one alternative of immediate relief or death. But long prior to this, on the Great Northern Road, hundreds of miles from Madras, there might have been noticed, night and day, a stream of pilgrims as it were, of the most sad description, wending their weary way southward—not paupers, but cultivators, artisans, weavers—with their families and some remains of their household goods in covered carts, on bullocks, or on their own backs. Delicate and refined women were there, and children whose classic forms and ways it had been a delight to look upon, until, with skinny limbs and protuberant trunks, they trotted along often to their graves, by the roadside, though, in numerous cases, the parents, in utter despair, and rather than see them die before their eyes, sold the female portion to wretches who conveyed them into Hyderabad, the Moslem capital of the Deccan.

A little later, and that same Northern Road, as it approached Madras, presented a still sadder sight—its surface strewn with dead bodies lying half unburied, arms and legs protruding above the soil, and the forsaking village dogs toying about the torn remnants of those who had become the prey of the jackals. A hideous sight it was to see these creatures dragging by their long tresses the heads of those precious ones who a few days before had been as centres of hope to their households.

Travelling the road it was often hard to distinguish between the dying and the dead—between those who had fallen from sheer exhaustion and might still be recovered, from those who had fallen to rise no more in this life. Strange scenes presented themselves at that time. Famine was made accountable for all deaths, as of a well dressed man lying near the village with his throat cut it was declared that, having fallen asleep, the dogs had seized upon him and made the wound we saw.

Nor was it in small towns and villages only that such extermination was going forward. At Masulipatam, the very capital of the part of the country, carriers for the dead went their rounds every morning, conveying their loads of carcases from the street to large open pits, left in possession of birds and beasts of prey—the former so gorged as to be unable to take wing even at the approach of the living.

But a fate worse than that of the dead was often the portion of the living; for an order has gone forth to relieve none at the public expense who could be put to the coarse and humiliating labour of tank digging. It was a heart-breaking sight to see tenderly nurtured daughters of respectable castes and descent subjected to the authority of gross native overseers, against whom they could have but scanty protection or redress.

Truly, famine under such aspect as these is a sore judgement. Nor was that last sad evidence of extremest suffering to be wanting Human flesh was reported to have satisfied the hunger of some; but of this I cannot personally testify; amid all the other horrors, it might or might not have been witnessed.

To aggravate the miseries of that period, also, it became impossible to transport grain without armed escorts, for villages, on the intelligence of grain merchants being near, would turn out and fight for possession of any means of subsistence, and this, in their simplicity, without any sense of moral guilt in seeking their own preservation at the expense of the rights of others.

The routine of village existence day after day, when the heavens continued as brass