

RUSSIAN MILITARY LAW.

The following is a "systematic digest" of the more important clauses of the new military Law of Russia, as extracted from the huge and somewhat intricate Ukase in which the law is promulgated:—

"MILITARY LIABILITY.

"Universal conscription is introduced, the former general exemption of the upper classes as well as the right to engage a substitute being abolished.

"After the attainment of his 15th year no Russian subject is permitted to emigrate before acquitting himself of his military liability.

"Upon the attainment of the 20th year all Russian subjects become liable to serve in the army. A certain number not determined beforehand and variable at pleasure will be freed from the obligation every year. By way of selecting those who are to be benefited by this provision, the young men who have attained their 20th year will draw lots. The drawing of lots and the enrolment of recruits will be held annually in European Russia between the 13th and 27th of Dec. and in Asiatic Russia between October 27 and January 12.

"Certain individuals and classes will be entirely exempt from the obligation to serve in the army. 1. All those below the regulation height of five feet one inch. 2. All those declared physically incapacitated by the recruiting authorities. Persons of this category are, in the first place, rewarded for a year. If upon the expiration of this period they are again pronounced incapacitated, they may be either freed for ever or be placed in the ranks on trial. (The latter provision is evidently intended to prevent collusion between the military surgeons and recruits, but the passage is somewhat darkly worded, and seems to admit of various interpretations). 3. An only son is entirely exempt, as is also a son who, though he may have brothers, is the only member of his family old enough and strong enough to maintain a poor and disabled father or widowed mother. The like privilege extends to the only adult brother of poor infant orphans, and to the only adult grandson of indigent grandparents, with no able-bodied son to maintain them. 4. All Christian clergymen and church choristers, but the latter only if they have been educated in ecclesiastical schools. Should the choristers leave the service of the church at any time prior to six years after their exemption from the military service, they will be liable to serve till their thirty-sixth year. 5. All doctors of medicine, veterinary surgeons, and chemists who have passed their examinations. 6. The pensioners of the Academy of Arts sent to study abroad. 7. All teachers in public schools, from the highest down to the very lowest. If a teacher throws up his office at any time prior to six years after the date at which he would have entered the reserve if he had actually served, he becomes liable.

"TEMPORARY ADJOURNMENT OF THE MILITARY LIABILITY.

"Military service may be put off in the case of certain classes of the population. This privilege is accorded.

"For two years to all landed proprietors, excepting the peasants who, acknowledging Socialistic institutions, possess no personal property in land; to all merchants and tradesmen, excepting retailers of spirituous liquors; to all artisans and millhands.

"For four years to all pupils of grammar and mercantile schools (equivalent to the gymnasia and real schools of Germany, attended by the children of the upper classes); to all pupils of teachers' seminaries, schools of art, and schools of navigations; to all pupils of Russo-Orthodox, Armeno-Græcian, and Roman Catholic Clerical Seminaries; and to all pupils of all educational establishments of the like rank.

"For five years to those pupils of the St. Petersburg and Moscow Schools of Art who before the completion of their 27th year have received a prize medal or passed an examination.

"For seven years to the pupils of the universities, academies, or other learned institutions of the like rank; to those who after leaving the university are with the consent of the Government engaged in qualifying themselves for the higher grades of the teacher's career; to those pupils of the Schools of Art who before the completion of their 22nd year have been rewarded by a special certificate.

"For eight years to the pupils of the Russo-Orthodox and Roman Catholic Clerical Academies, the nurseries of the higher clergy; to those who, after leaving the university, are, with the consent of the Government, engaged in qualifying themselves for university professors; to those pupils of the Moscow and St. Petersburg Schools of Art who before the completion of their 22nd year have been rewarded by the silver medal.

"All those included in the above list may two months before they are called upon to draw lots, declare that they wish to serve as volunteers upon the expiration of the respite allowed them.

"If the pupils of the Russian Orthodox or Roman Catholic clerical academies have just completed their studies when called upon to draw lots, another year is allowed them to obtain ordination. The moment they are ordained they are entirely free.

"SERVICE OF THE ORDINARY RANK AND FILE.

"The military service of the ordinary rank and file extends over fifteen years, six years of which are spent in the army and nine years in the reserve. The men told off for the corps station in Turkestan and the remote regions of Eastern Asia serve seven years in the army and three in the reserve; but whether serving in European or Asiatic Russia a man may be added to the reserve before his time is over, or sent home on furlough not exceeding a year, according to the discretion of the military authorities.

"During his nine years' service in the reserve a man is on permanent furlough, is placed under the civil law, and may pursue any calling or occupation. He is liable, however, to be called out twice for drill during these nine years, each time for six weeks. If belonging to the Civil Service, he is freed from his ordinary duties during the period of drill, and resumes his previous functions on his return.

"The men in the reserve are likewise liable to be called out for the augmentation of the army whenever political necessity requires.

"While called out both for drill and war their families are maintained by the parishes and provinces to which they belong, the Crown undertaking to assist the parishes and provinces in case of need. The amount to be paid to the families, and the assistance to be rendered by the Crown are left undetermined.

"In time of war the period of military service, in the army as well as the reserve

is regulated by the requirements of the country alone.

"REDUCTION OF THE TIME OF SERVICE.

"This is a reward held out to culture.

"Whoever has passed his examination at a college or other learned establishment of a like rank, or before a special commission demanding equal proficiency, serves only six months in the ranks and fourteen years six months in the reserve.

"Whoever has passed his examination at a gymnasium, real school or other educational establishment of a superior order, or before a special commission demanding equal proficiency, serves one year six months in the ranks and thirteen years six months in the reserve.

"Whoever has passed his examination at a middle class school, or before a special commission demanding equal proficiency, serves three years in the ranks and twelve years in the reserve.

"Whoever has attended an elementary school, and can read, write, and cipher, has his service in the army shortened by two years, being only obliged to pass four years in the ranks. His time in the reserve is proportionately increased to eleven. The men of this category serving in Turkestan and Eastern Asia remain six years in the ranks and four years in the reserve. Men of non-Russian descent (Poles, Fins, &c.) are allowed this reduction only if they can read, write, and understand Russian.

"VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

"A further reduction of the time service is allowed to those young men of superior culture who intend to qualify themselves for reserve officers. They may enter the army at any time after the completion of their seventeenth year, and are called volunteers.

"To become a volunteer a young man must have passed his examination, either at a university or a gymnasium, real school, school of art, clerical academy, or seminary.

"If a university man, or if he has passed his examination before a special commission demanding university proficiency, he will serve only three months in the army, become a non-commissioned officer after two months, an officer after three months, and remain nine years in the reserve.

"If he has been through a gymnasium, or any of the other superior educational establishments above-mentioned, or passed an examination before a special commission demanding the like proficiency, he will serve in the army six months, become a non-commissioned officer after four months, an officer after six months, and remain nine years in the Reserve.

"If young men, wishing to qualify for Reserve officers, have not come up to any of the above requirements, they may pass an examination of an inferior kind before a special commission appointed for this purpose. Young men thus examined serve two years in the army, are promoted to non-commissioned officers after one year, and to be officers after three years. They remain nine years in the Reserve. Persons of this category lose their ranks as officers unless remaining three years in active service after the appointment.

"In the Guards and the Cavalry, volunteers serve at their own expense; in the infantry, artillery, &c., they are left to choose whether they will serve at their own expense or accept the ordinary regulation pay, and other immunities. Those serving at their own expense may live in private lodgings as long as they behave well.