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THE NAVAL SCHOOLS OF THE CHIEF CONTINENTAL POWERS. PART III.

(Continued from No. 168.)

Compiled by Major W. TENISON, the Manchester Regiment, from papers in the "Rivista Marittima," by 1st Class Commissary DANTE PARENTI.

Russia.

THE Russian Naval School is established at St. Petersburg, on the Vassili Ostrof, in a large building capable of accommodating from 500 to 600 students. The Staff consists of an Admiral as Commandant, a Director of Studies, a Director of Exercises, 5 company Officers, 12 Officers (Professors), 60 non-commissioned officers, and 130 civilians (Instructors and employés).

The course of studies lasts over four years, the first of which is devoted to a preparatory course, the remaining three to scientific and naval instruction, with a yearly practical course on board ship, from June to September.

The students are divided into two sections and six sub-sections.

The finances of the School are confided to a Council of Administration, composed of the Director of Studies, the Chaplain, and the Professors. This Council of Administration has also charge of all matters relating to the organization of the studies, the instruction, and the time tables and programmes of work to be carried out.

Conditions of Admission.—The right of admission to the Naval School may be obtained by—

1. The sons of hereditary nobles.
2. The sons of superior Officers.
3. The sons of hereditary notables (a title which may be conferred by the Emperor on certain burgesses, who for ten years have rendered signal or meritorious services to the State).

In Class 2 a candidate must furnish proof of having been born after the promotion of the father to the rank of superior Officer. Exception, however, to this rule is made in the case of a candidate whose father may have obtained by his ulterior promotion the right to rank as hereditary notable.

The candidates must be over twelve years of age on the 1st September of the year of admission, and under fourteen years, and must show a natural aptitude for the naval service. They must undergo a medical examination, before a Board of Officers nominated by the Admiralty, who take particular notice of those defects which would debar them from service. Any disease which may show itself after

the admission of a candidate will cause his instant dismissal from the School. The candidates' sight is tested by the Snellen-Reich scale; letters and signs 23 millimetres high must be read distinctly and without effort at a distance of 20 feet; and as to colour blindness by the Holmgren system.

Parents or guardians desirous of obtaining admission to the School for their sons or wards who have not yet attained the limit of age must send in their claim not later than the 15th July, together with a certificate of baptism, duly attested by competent authority.

In the case of students at Government establishments, a declaration from the Director of the Institute will be sufficient, in lieu of a baptismal certificate. If the claim is made by a guardian, a legalized copy of the right of tutelage must be attached.

The Examinations.—Those authorized to present themselves at the entrance examination must attend at the Naval School at 10.30 A.M. daily on the 12th and 13th August, to undergo medical examination, if not previously so examined.

The examinations begin on the 16th August, and continue till the 26th August. The examinations are public. Those candidates who have been declared medically fit, and have passed successfully the examination, are admitted into the preparatory class.

The first twenty-four are admitted at the cost of the State. The next seven must defray the cost of their maintenance, but have a claim to certain scholarships, which, however, they may forego in favour of others. These scholarships have been founded at the Naval School by the liberality of individuals and recognized bodies, after whom they are called.

The privilege of admission at the cost of the State is granted in the first instance to the sons of hereditary nobles who have given proof of the required ability; next in classification follow the sons of superior Officers; and lastly, the sons of hereditary notables.

In order to obtain one of the above-named scholarships, a candidate must have passed the entrance examination, and been classified as "good."

In classifying the sons of superior Officers, the following gradation is observed:—

1. Sons of Officers who are serving, or have served, in the Navy.
2. Sons of Officers who are serving or have served in naval establishments; sons of Doctors attached to naval establishments; grandsons of naval Officers.
3. Sons of Officers attached to the Admiralty and other establishments dependent on the Navy, and grandsons of Officers and Doctors attached to these establishments.
4. Sons of other functionaries who have a legal claim to admission to the Naval School.

In the case of either maternal or paternal grandsons of naval Officers, and of Officers and Doctors attached to naval establishments, in addition to the certificates of birth, there must be attached to the claim for admission another certificate proving the parentage, and, if necessary, the certificate of birth of the parents, and the declaration of nobility

obtained from the provincial authority in whose jurisdiction they are domiciled.

Those candidates who have failed to pass the examination, or who, having passed, are unable to enter the School through inability to do so at the expense of the State (all such places being already filled up by candidates having prior claims to this privilege), may present themselves for re-examination the following year, provided they have not passed the limit of age.

All documents of those candidates who are not admitted are returned on application.

The subjects for the entrance examination are:—

The Catechism and Religion, Russian, Geography, Russian History, Mathematics, and French.

The maximum of marks is 12, according to which the general classification is made. All are rejected who fail to obtain—

a. 8 marks in oral examination in Religion and Mathematics, or in the written solution of mathematical problems.

b. 6 marks in oral examination in Russian.

c. 5 marks in oral examination in History, Geography, and French.

The parent or guardian of every candidate claiming admission to the Naval School must send in to the Chancellery of the School, together with the application for admission, a document acknowledging formally his obligation to meet all the expenses of the candidate's maintenance in the event of his failing to obtain gratuitous maintenance or some special scholarship. This amounts annually to 530 roubles.

The yearly accounts of the paying students, and of those who hold a scholarship, are submitted for examination to the Ministry of Marine, and the sums due must be paid into the Public Treasury, the receipt being in due course sent to the School.

The uniform is provided by the School.

Those students for whom the sums due for maintenance have not been received at the appointed time, are dismissed from the School.

The sums paid for the maintenance of paying pupils can in no case be refunded.

The holders of scholarships and the paying students are in every way on an equal footing as those admitted at the expense of the State.

The holders of scholarships retain their scholarship during the whole of their sojourn at the School; the others pay only so long as they remain in the two preparatory classes.

The Studies.—The following are the subjects of study at the Naval School:—

Religion, Russian, French, English, Drawing, Natural History, History, Geography, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Geometrical Drawing, Statistics, Plane and Spherical Trigonometry, Integral Calculus, Descriptive Geometry, Mechanics, Physics, Chemistry, Physical Geography, Navigation, Pilotage, Astronomy, Theory of the Deviation of the Compass, Hydrographical Drawing,

Naval Construction, Naval Architecture, Steam Engines, Naval Artillery, Fortification, Submarine Defences, Law, Naval History, and Figure and Landscape Drawing (voluntary).

No pupil may remain in one class more than two years.

Each School year commences on the 15th September, and terminates on the 25th May. The summer months are spent on board one of the ships of the squadron of instruction.

Cadets are promoted to Midshipmen after passing the prescribed examination, provided they have passed twenty-four months on board ship.

Other Schools.

School of Navigation and Artillery, at Kronstadt.—No special conditions as to birth are necessary for admission. A candidate need only pass the necessary examination. The object of the School is the education of Master Gunners, Pilots, and Engineers.

The ages of admission are—

For the Artillery section, 13 to 17. For the Navigation, Construction, and Engineering section, 15 to 18.

At the end of the course the students, if they have passed the examinations successfully, are nominated probationers, and two years later, if they again pass the prescribed examination, obtain the effective rank of Officer.

A School of Artillery is annually established on one or more ships.

Torpedo Schools.—At Kronstadt, for Officers. Duration of course, eighteen months. Subjects of instruction, Physics, Chemistry, Explosives, Telegraphy, &c.

At St. Petersburg and Odessa, for non-commissioned officers, corporals, and seamen.

School of Musketry.—For Officers and non-commissioned officers. Subjects of instruction: Musketry, Fencing, and Gymnastics. The course lasts one year.

Superior Naval Academy.—At St. Petersburg, in the same building as the Naval School, for the higher education of naval Officers. The admission is by competitive examination. The course lasts two years, and the subjects of instruction are:—

Higher Mathematics, Mechanics, Steam Engines, Chemistry, Hydrography, Astronomy, Physics, Law, International Law, Tactics, Naval Construction.

There are special courses for Naval Constructors, Engineers, and Hydrographers.

Officers who have passed successfully the final examination wear a distinctive badge on the arm, consisting of two oak branches encircling the imperial cipher, and reap great professional advantages.

Spain.

The Spanish Naval School is established at Ferrol on the frigate "Asturia." The Minister of Marine, as chief of all naval corps,

institutions, and establishments, is Inspector of the School, and the General Commanding the Department is Sub-Inspector. The Staff consists of:—

A Post-Captain as Commandant and Director,
 A Captain as Second in Command and Sub-Director,
 A Commander as Third in Command,
 14 Lieutenants as Professors,
 6 Lieutenants as Duty Officers,
 An Administrative Official,
 Three Medical Officers, and
 A Chaplain.

The Instructors of modern languages, drawing, gymnastics, and fencing may be civilians, engaged under special contract, in the event of a dearth of Officers of the various corps capable of imparting such instruction.

The servants of the establishment and students' batmen are partly soldiers, partly civilians, as may be most advantageous.

Admission to the School.—The following are the necessary conditions for admission to the School:—

1. Application must be made direct to the authority named in the published notice of a forthcoming competition. To the application must be attached a baptismal certificate duly attested, testifying that the candidate is over 13 and under 18 years of age.

2. The candidate must be a Spanish subject.

3. He must be healthy and of good physique, as certified by a Medical Board composed of three naval Medical Officers, under the presidency of a Superior Medical Officer.

4. He must pass successfully an entrance examination in the following subjects, viz.:—

English or German, French, Drawing, Arithmetic, Algebra, Plane and Spherical Trigonometry.

5. He must furnish to the Board of Examination a certificate obtained from an accredited school, testifying to his knowledge of geography, and Spanish history and grammar.

The Board of Examination consists of:—

A Post-Captain as President.

A Captain, or Commander, as Vice-President.

3 Lieutenants (2 of whom must be Professors at the Naval School) as members, and 1 Lieutenant as supernumerary member.

The Board record their opinion of the merit or demerit of the candidates by the following marks:—

7 Excellent, 6 and 5 very good, 4 and 3 good, 2 and 1 satisfactory, 0 unsatisfactory.

In order to obtain the total marks for each candidate, the foregoing marks are multiplied by the following coefficients:—

Drawing 1, English or German 1, French, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry 2.

The entrance examinations are public, but the record of the marks obtained is not published.

Sixteen students are admitted yearly.

Candidates after admission may, within the first fifteen days of their sojourn at the School, pass the first and second bi-yearly examinations, thus proving their complete knowledge of the required subjects, provided, however, that they pay the amounts due for the time that they have succeeded in saving thereby.

The following are the daily payments due for each candidate, and which may be paid either in one sum or quarterly in advance.

For sons of naval and military Officers, 2 pesetas per diem.

For all others, 3 pesetas per diem.

(1 Peseta = 1 franc.)

By a special law, passed 8th July, 1860, sons of Officers killed on active service are admitted at the expense of the State; and of these six are admitted annually, provided they obtain the requisite number of marks in the examination.

Officers' orphans are admitted at the reduced rate of 1 peseta per diem; the number not to exceed 15 in the School at one time. Those entitled to this privilege must send in their claim in due time.

Every candidate not eligible for gratuitous admission, or admission at reduced rate, must bring with him his outfit according to established scale, and all charges for uniform, &c., and for repairs and renewal thereof, must be borne by the candidate's parents, as well as all loss and damage of School property. These charges for uniform, &c., amount to 1,250 pesetas, which may be paid half on admission and half at the beginning of the second year.

Officers' orphans who have obtained gratuitous admission pay nothing, and are not required to furnish any outfit, provided they establish their claim 15 days before admission.

The School receives 1,350 pesetas from the Admiralty for each pupil admitted gratuitously, to cover all expenses incurred during his sojourn, and at the termination of the course, if promoted to Naval Cadet; and 250 pesetas for each half year spent in preparation for further promotion.

The Minister of Marine, as Inspector of the School, is Commandant-in-Chief. The General Commanding the Department wherein the School-ship may be anchored must, in his capacity of Sub-Inspector, visit and inspect it from time to time (making any proposition he may think necessary to the Inspector), and, when convenient, preside over the Board of Examination.

The Commandant of the ship is Director of Studies, and responsible for the moral, scientific, and naval education of the Cadets. He holds his appointment for four years, and has to send a monthly report on the discipline and administrative regulation of the School to the Commandant of the Department, and reports from time to time as to the capabilities and conduct of the Professors.

The Second in Command also holds his appointment for four years. He discharges the duties of Commandant during the latter's absence, and has charge of all school instruments, books, &c. He sends in a

written report at the beginning of each month to the Commandant on the progress and conduct of the students, and to their respective families on their conduct, punishments, and health. All punishments inflicted, and marks awarded, are entered by him in a register kept for that purpose. He publishes the orders issued by the Commandant.

The Third in Command takes the place of the Second in Command during his absence, and is a member of the Board of Administration and of the Council of Discipline. He holds his appointment for three years. He has under his special charge those students who are attending the School with a view to passing for promotion to Sub-Lieutenant.

Six Lieutenants are attached to the School as duty Officers. Of these two come on duty daily, one acting as Officer of the watch, in charge of the ship and the personnel attached to the ship, the other in charge of the students, as well during the hours of relaxation as during the studies. Both Officers on duty must attend all meals, and during the night they relieve each other at stated intervals.

The Professors have each charge of some particular branch of study. They send in a monthly report on the progress made by the students to the Sub-Director. They do not sleep on board the ship, except in case of necessity, but must report themselves half an hour before the commencement of the studies, and must not leave the ship till the evening. After three years as Professors they become eligible for the Naval Cross for Merit, with a distinctive badge corresponding to the rank they hold. A prize is given for any original work, of sufficient merit, which may facilitate the instruction of the students, 500 copies of which are published at the expense of the School.

The Chaplain must be a man of high literary and moral attainments: he has charge of the religious training of the students, and visits the sick daily.

The duties of the Administrative Officer are the same as those of the Paymaster on board a man-of-war. He holds his appointment for four years. At the end of each quarter he sends to the students' parents an account of all expenses incurred on their behalf, and reports in writing to the Director in the event of payment not being punctually made. He is a member and Secretary of the Board of Administration.

The duties of the Medical Officers are the same on the School-ship as on any other man-of-war.

No student may leave the School-ship except with the approval of the Minister, and with the permission of the Council of Discipline.

In the case of illness, and on the recommendation of the doctors, a student may obtain his discharge from the School, but it must first be approved by the Minister.

The principal duties of the students are:—

1. Absolute obedience and respect to their superiors, the Officers of the School, and all naval authorities.
2. Love of the profession they have voluntarily chosen, and to which they propose to belong.

3. Obligation to maintain and uphold at all cost the honour and reputation of the service to which they belong, and to conduct themselves always in an exemplary manner.

They must habituate themselves to keep always clean and neat all books, instruments, and articles of clothing, and to comport themselves decorously.

They are not allowed to possess or wear any article of jewellery, with the sole exception of a silver watch with a black guard.

The students are divided into four sections, each under the supervision of a Lieutenant, and to each section is appointed a corporal and a lance-corporal, who are selected from amongst the students on account of their application, progress, exemplary conduct, and fitness to command. They wear a distinctive badge on their right arm and are nominated by the Sub-Inspector on the recommendation of the Commandant, and receive a monthly allowance at the rate of 10 pesetas for corporals, and 7½ for lance-corporals. They can be deprived of their appointment on the recommendation of the Council of Discipline.

(To be continued.)