

THE NORTHWEST GUARDED

THE CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE AND ITS MANIFOLD DUTIES.

A Peace Organization Under Military Regulations - History of the Troop and some Services It Has Performed.

With the report that the miners in Dawson City were in arms against the mining regulations adopted by the Canadian government, an additional force of the Northwest mounted police was ordered to the front to quell disturbance. This call to action is but one of the many duties to which members of the force are subject, and this hard march over frozen rivers, trackless wilderness and mountain passes, barely exceeds in severity many of the tasks which frequently fall to their lot. For twenty-four years they have regularly patrolled the immense territory of the Canadian northwest, reaching from the United States boundary northward to the utmost bounds of habitation, have preserved law and order and administered justice to evildoers.

THEIR HISTORY.

The causes leading to the organization of this body are very simple. Indians are passionately fond of whiskey, and white men are passionately fond of money. "Firewater" does not improve an Indian's disposition and the trouble arising from the unlimited trade in spirituous liquors caused the government to establish a patrol. Accordingly on the 3rd of November, 1873, 150 men from the eastern provinces were sworn in at Fort Garry, near Winnipeg. Here they remained until the following July, when they were joined by 150 more men, also from the east and marched by horse overland to Fort McLeod, a distance of 1,200 miles. The force consisted of 300 men until 1885, during the Indian troubles, when it was increased to 1,000 men. After the Yukon discoveries a number were sent up there, and the recent difficulties in that region will occasion several more detachments being sent. It is officially announced however, that no new additions will be made, but that men will be withdrawn from districts where their presence is not so necessary.

THEIR VARIOUS DUTIES.

While the primary object in the organization of this body was to keep the Indians in a peaceful state, their duties are many and varied. The occupation of settlers in this district is largely stock raising. In earlier days while herding them, it was the delight of a band of lawless characters to create a stampede and in the disorder which followed, head off thirty or forty cattle and drive them away. The police have sometimes followed for days on their trail, and perhaps regained the cattle, but the thieves themselves nearly always escaped capture. All the season, too, horses and cattle, distinguished only by the brands of their owner, would feed on the prairie, and frequently wander over the national boundary into the United States, or vice versa. To keep these herds separate and prevent neighborhood visits, a constant patrol was kept up along the boundary. In more settled portions of the country the police visit each ranch once or twice a week. It was the further duty of this patrol to keep a sharp lookout for whisky traders and smugglers, who found trade with the northern Indians very profitable.

After the extinction of the buffalo the southern Indians were left practically destitute and the Canadian government in their treaty of 1876, in consideration of the Indians giving up their lands, agreed to put the southern Indians on rations and those farther north on reservations and partial rations. They also agreed to give every man, woman and child \$5 a year and chiefs \$15 a year. Before it became the province of the Indian agent, it was the duty of the police to distribute this money and rations. In the discharge of this duty trouble was often occasioned or narrowly averted, it being the natural tendency among the Indians to claim larger families than they actually possessed, hoping thereby to secure more money and rations.

ACT ALSO AS JUDGES.

The police inspectors make regular trips over the northern trails to the outposts of civilization and on account of the remoteness and consequent rudeness of the judicial system, they are given magisterial powers, receiving complaints, conducting trials and imposing sentences on the way. In this north country the principal resource is the fur trade, and in their anxiety for a large "take," it has been habitual with some to set out poisoned bait. This had the effect of decreasing the supply of fur, as the poisoned animals would frequently wander off and be lost. It also caused the death of many Indian train dogs, which are very valuable to their owners, being used as a pack or draught animal as well as a hunting dog. It had been common for hunters to leave their campfires in careless shape, and the land being musky largely would smolder the fire until summer when it would burst out in the timber with highly destructive results. Very strict laws

these matters, with severe penalties attached.

The inspectors' winter trips are made by dog team, and often over unbroken trails with the temperature from 50 degrees to 70 degrees below zero. The matters coming before these itinerant judges are for the most part violations of the poison, fire and liquor ordinances, but occasionally domestic difficulties, such as wife beating, come up for his consideration. Occasionally, too, he is asked to perform more romantic duties. To quote from the report of Inspector Jarvis, who made a patrol last winter from Fort Saskatchewan to Fort Resolution and return via Peace River and Lesser Slave Lake: "The Indians requested that a chief might be appointed, and they named Chripotom Pische for that position. I explained that I had not the power to make such an appointment, but would report on the matter. He is a good hunter, shrewd, and I believe would be a reliable man for a leader, and would be of use in giving information on matters relating to poison and liquor ordinances." Offenders are pursued with a persistence known only to the law. In the same report he tells how a case of setting out poison had been reported, and securing a guide he set out towards his location. After four days' hard travel through the woods, he found that the delinquent was visiting his line of traps on the Hay River, ten days' journey distant and only when he found his inability to get food for his train dogs did he give up the case for later persecution.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES.

On such trips, too, it is their duty to report on the numbers and condition of the inhabitants, a thorough description of the country regarding timber, trails, etc., as they proceed, and the missions, schools and improvements. In fact an inspector's report answers very well for a complete guide book for the country he has traversed. They also carry a letter mail to and from the northern posts, thus giving their isolated inhabitants their only communication with the outside world.

Although for the most part their duties are of a civil nature, and they are under the civil department, yet they are a semi-military organization and subject in case of necessity to regular military duty. In the Indian rebellion of 1885 this force furnished excellent service, and several members point with pride to the war medal with the queen's image stamped thereon, as the reward of valor. Even recently, on the occasion of the death of Capt. Alleyne, a member of a Yukon-bound party at present in Edmonton, and an officer in the British army, a detachment of four mounted police from Fort Saskatchewan composed the military escort, as he was accorded a soldier's burial.

THEIR ORGANIZATION.

With headquarters at Regina, they have divisional headquarters at convenient points throughout the territory, including Prince Albert, Battleford, Maple Creek, Lethbridge, Fort McLeod, Calgary and Fort Saskatchewan. From each division are sent out detachments to different villages or settlements in that district, who report to their respective headquarters. It is generally understood that there are 100 men in each division but the number has actually dwindled down to 50 or 60 men.

The entire force is in charge of the police commissioner, Lawrence Herchmer, located at Regina, with an assistant commissioner. Each division is in charge of a superintendent, who has two inspectors and a staff of assistants. The forts at each divisional headquarters are fully equipped with blacksmith, carpenter and harness shops, a saddlery, stables, sheds, and "sick stables," where injured or indisposed horses are cared for. A veterinary surgeon completes the equipment.

Although most of the men are out on their respective patrols continually, yet each day the members remaining are called out regularly for exercise and guard mount, even though the number may not exceed one or two. The rules regarding the duration of service are much the same as in the regular army. An enlistment requires a service of five years and a re-enlistment a further service of three years after which in certain cases they are pensioned from year to year. After 21 years of faithful service, they are pensioned, however, partly for the reason that it is but little over that time since their organization, and for the further reason that nearly all have been promoted or have left the commission before the expiration of their time. Desertions, however, are unknown.

The salaries paid these troops vary according to length of service, as follows: Private, from 50c. to 98c. a day; staff sergeants, \$1.50 a day; inspectors, \$1,000 a year; superintendents, \$1,400 a year; commissioners, \$3,000 a year. Additional privates and staff sergeants are allowed clothes and rations. THEY ARE INDISPENSABLE.

After the quelling of the northwest rebellion, a feeling existed in official circles that so large a force was unnecessary, particularly as the Indians are fast becoming extinct, and are frequently "doubled up" on their reservations. It is argued, on the other hand, that their warlike spirit is dormant and lacks but the opportunity to break out again. It is a fact that the Indians are losing their old awe of the police, and while a few years ago, two or three men could go on the reservation and arrest even a Blackfoot chief, such an undertaking would not be attempted now, except with a much larger detachment. They also relate the following story of Almighty Voice of the Cree tribe, and offer it as an illustration of what would be general in case of further withdrawal of police: In 1896, Almighty Voice was arrested for some trivial offense, and while in custody shot and killed a staff sergeant and thus effected his escape. Some time later he was located at Duck Lake and a detachment of police sent for his apprehension. When they re-

had entrenched themselves in a clump of bushes, and succeeded in killing several of the police. So impregnable was their position, it was decided to open a siege and communicate with headquarters at Regina. In a few days they received a field gun, which was brought into position and a shell dropped in the midst of the Indians. Almighty Voice and most of his companions were killed by the explosion and the law was vindicated.

OLD ENGLISH GRAVES.

Strange Customs and Rites in Britain in the Olden Time - Methods of Interment.

From A.D. 984 to 1014, strange modes of burial were in vogue in the South of England. There existed a distinct form of interment for each sex. In the case of a man who died before attaining the age of fifty his body was subject to a curious examination immediately after death. Every portion of it was vigorously rubbed over with a solution of water and the juices of various plants, herbs and berries, which it was necessary should be picked within a radius of a mile of the deceased's abode. As soon as this was completed a newly-cut branch from the nearest tree was brought in and improvised as a sort of brush to sweep the body with, the idea being that by this means all earthly particles were removed from the corpse.

This sweeping completed the nearest relative made a minute examination of every inch of the body, with the object of discovering whether any blisters or sores existed. In the event of any being found, prompt means were taken to remove them. Exactly at noon on the third day after death the funeral took place, the body wrapped in various cloths and grasses, and enclosed in a peculiarly constructed box, being carried to the grave on the back of a horse or other animal. Immediately the grave was reached the coffin was deposited therein with as much haste as possible and a retreat beaten by all who had accompanied the cortege, except the nearest relatives who were left behind to fill in the earth.

When a woman died the body was consigned to the earth just one hundred hours afterwards. A weird form of service was performed at the open grave. If she was a married woman, and died leaving a husband and children behind, these were assembled round the grave, and each provided with a large posy of newly-gathered flowers, which they gesticulated with in a manner illustrative of the character of the deceased when alive. If she had any physical deformities or defects they were shown in the dumb acting of her relatives, who, after engaging in this sort of thing for an hour, began to exhibit the most poignant signs of grief, ending in wild lamentations and wailings.

HE WAS RESIGNED.

A young fellow who drank much more than was good for him, was advised by his friends to take the gold cure, but he refused. But, protested

The Same... Old Sarsaparilla.

That's Ayer's. The same old sarsaparilla as it was made and sold by Dr. J. C. Ayer 50 years ago. In the laboratory it is different. There modern appliances lend speed to skill and experience. But the sarsaparilla is the same old sarsaparilla that made the record—50 years of cures. Why don't we better it? Well, we're much in the condition of the Bishop and the raspberry: "Doubtless," he said, "God might have made a better berry. But doubtless, also, He never did." Why don't we better the sarsaparilla? We can't. We are using the same old plant that cured the Indians and the Spaniards. It has not been bettered. And since we make sarsaparilla compound out of sarsaparilla plant, we see no way of improvement. Of course, if we were making some secret chemical compound we might... But we're not. We're making the same old sarsaparilla to cure the same old diseases. You can tell it's the same old sarsaparilla because it works the same old cures. It's the sovereign blood purifier, and—it's Ayer's.

Durham Tannery.

Robe Tanning.

Horse Hides Cow Hides, Dog

SKINS, Etc., Tanned Suitable for ROBES and COATS by the best process, which for Finish and Softness can't be beat.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

THOS SMITH.

N. B.—To ensure a first-class job the hides must be salted as soon as taken

his friends, your physician says that if you keep on drinking you will surely go blind. Now, the question is simply this: Do you prefer being cured of the drink habit and retaining your sight, or do you prefer to keep on drinking and go blind? The young man paced the floor for some time and was in a brown study. Finally he turned to his friends, and, with a resigned expression of countenance, replied: "Well, I guess I've seen about everything."

Advertisement for Dr. K. & K. medicine, titled 'SINFUL HABITS IN YOUTH'. It describes how youthful excesses lead to various ailments like syphilis, impotency, and nervous debility. The ad includes testimonials from satisfied patients and a list of ailments treated, such as gonorrhea, kidney disease, and general weakness. It emphasizes that the cure is guaranteed or money is refunded.

Advertisement for Webster's International Dictionary. It highlights the dictionary's authority, its comprehensive coverage of words, and its practicality for students and professionals. It mentions that it is the standard for schools and libraries and is published by G. & C. Merriam Co. in Springfield, Mass., U.S.A.

Advertisement for Laxa-Liver Pills. It claims to be a cure for torpid liver, constipation, sick headache, and dyspepsia. The ad states that the pills are gentle and effective, and provides pricing information: 25 cents or 5 for \$1.00.

Advertisement for Farmers, Threshers and Millmen. It lists various agricultural machinery and services offered by the company, including furnace kettles, power saw cutters, hot air furnaces, shingle machinery, and more. It also mentions repair services for various types of machinery.

Advertisement for Charter Smith, Durham Foundryman. It lists various foundry services and products, such as steam engines, horse powers, separators, mowers, reapers, and circular and cross-cut saws. It also mentions repair services for gunned, filed and set.

Advertisement for A. Gordon. It lists various jewelry and watch services, including dealing in watches, clocks, jewelry and spectacles, silver and flatware of all descriptions, and repairing specialties. The ad is located in Upper Town, Durham.

Advertisement for Ladies' The Luxury of Security. It promotes Dr. LeRoy's Female Pills as a reliable and trustworthy remedy for various women's ailments, including menstrual irregularities and general weakness. It is found in Victoria, B.C., Canada.

Advertisement for Dr. Kennedy & Kergan. It offers a cure for various ailments, including gonorrhea, kidney disease, and general weakness. The ad is located at No. 148 Shelby St., Detroit, Mich.

Vertical advertisement for various goods and services. It includes mentions of 'Drug Store', 'Durham', 'St & Wood', 'Livingston', 'Goods You Want!', 'Jewelry', and 'Gordon'. The text is partially obscured and difficult to read in many places.