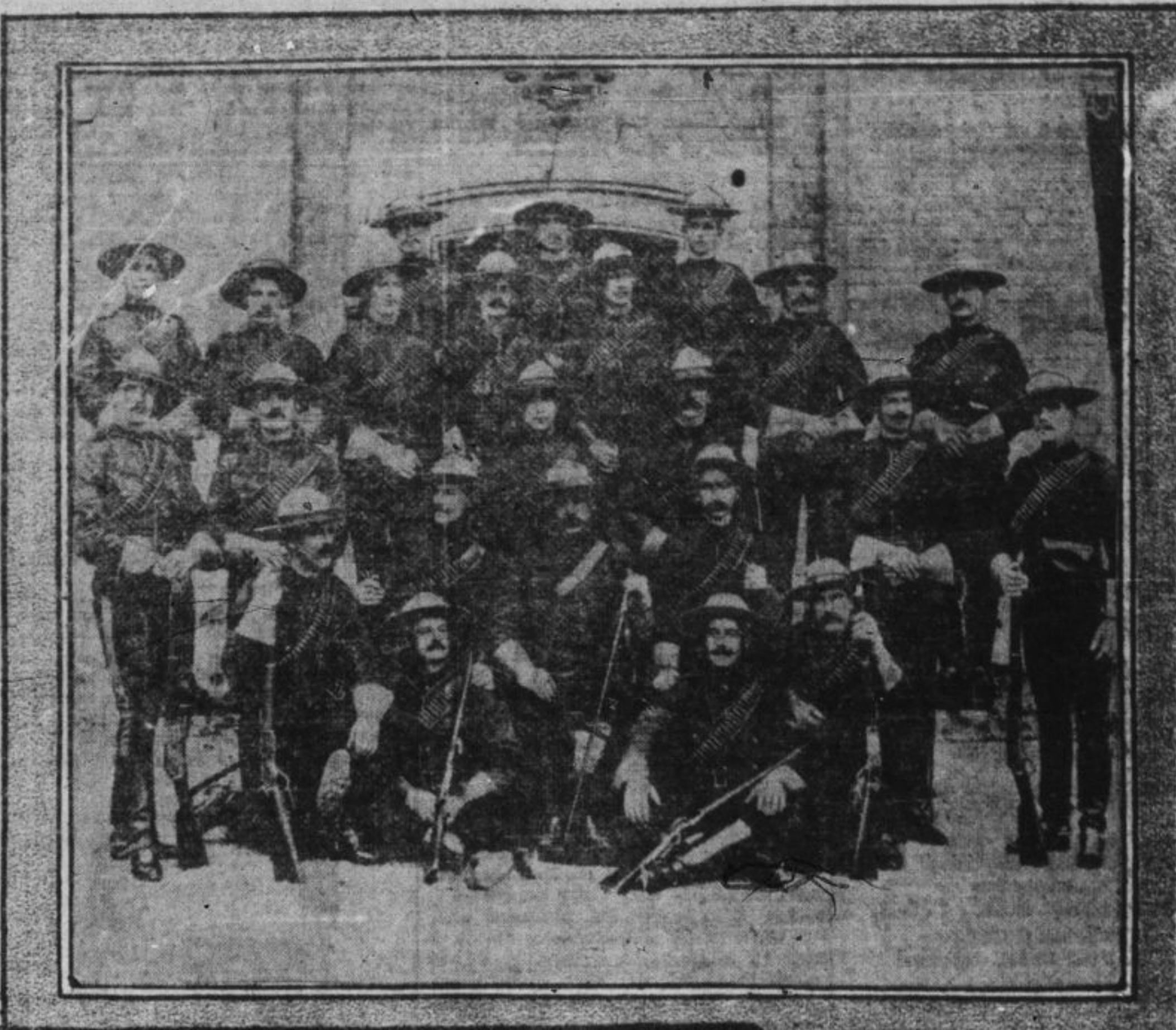


ON THE TRAIL WITH CANADA'S MOUNTED POLICE



ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE

The finest organized, mounted body devoted to police duty, in existence, is the claim made for the Royal North-West Mounted Police of Canada and with justice. While the declaration is a sweeping one, it is equally true. No reflection is cast upon that brave and gallant corps, the Rangers of Texas, nor upon that other world-famous organization, the Rurales of the Mexican army, but in the case of the first-named body its members are not subjected to the discipline or rigorous course of duty to which the North-West Mounted Police are compelled to submit, while in the case of the Mexican troops, it is customary that its membership is made up to a large extent of former bandits, whom President Diaz with much acumen, decided it would be advisable to enlist by the offer of pardon for crimes committed and high pay, with special privileges, for the purpose largely, of hunting down existing bandits, who were still opposed to the Mexican government. In the case of the North-West Mounted Police, however, the moral, mental and physical qualifications are so high that in the case of the Mexican troops, it is customary in Canada, in speaking of the force, to declare that it is "difficult to enter but easy to leave."

It is doubtful if there exists anywhere in the world, or ever has existed, as small an organized body which has exercised as great authority over as many hundreds of thousands of men and women, many of the former as desperate, unruly, law-defying, and godless persons as ever the sun shone on, as has this comparatively handful of men wearing the scarlet coat of the reigning monarch of Great Britain, and to this claim not only do the subjects of that monarch agree, but many subjects and citizens of other rulers also, who have knowledge of this police body, and what it has accomplished in the past and what it is doing to-day, in the direction of aiding in the maintenance of order in the far North-West, and in assisting in the exploration, opening up, and development of comparatively unknown regions, that civilization and prosperity may follow.

appear in the formal and comparatively prosaic reports made to the Dominion organization. Like the members of the police and fire departments of New York, they do not stand at public places and loudly proclaim to the world how well and valiantly they have risked lives and withstood hardships, but modestly turn away and say when asked about their gallant deeds, "Oh, that was nothing; it's all in a day's work," and then resume their tasks.

It was in 1873 when Indians roamed the North-West by tens of thousands, and desperate white men and half-breeds, "ran things" about as they pleased, that the Dominion of Canada found itself facing a very serious problem. Rupert's Land had been acquired from the great Hudson Bay Company only four years before. With the establishment of the province of Manitoba, by the Wolsey expedition of 1870, the locating of a garrison at what is now Winnipeg, but which was just then coming into life, became necessary. It was, dignified by the name of Fort Garry, a wooden stockade and little else. All that part of the country beyond the Red River was practically unknown, and nearly 40,000 Indians held those plains, over which the buffalo roamed by hundreds of thousands. Following the withdrawal of the Wolsey forces, it was decided that a body of regular troops was necessary to take possession of and keep the country acquired. It was in 1873 that the Royal North-West Mounted Police was organized, in accordance with the plan of organizing this body. After Sir John's return to power, in 1878, the force was always under his own eye, and was regarded by him as one of his pets. In the sense that he took extreme pride in the efficiency and work which it accomplished so thoroughly.

that came on during the early autumn, though officers and men gave up their blankets to shelter their horses, but these 300 police had accomplished, without losing a life, that which had been declared as impossible without the use of an army—the taking possession of the Great Lone Land.

From that time until the present the work of the Royal North-West Mounted Police has indeed been "cut out" for them. One of the primary troubles which the force had to contend with was the sale of liquor to Indians by white men and half-breeds, which kept the Indians in a chronic state of devilry and was the cause of many murders and other violations of law. Another object of the first expedition was to establish friendly relations with the Indians. In both of these objects the expedition was most successful. The sale of liquor to the Indians, if not entirely stopped, was greatly diminished, while the Indians became convinced that these men in scarlet coats meant what they said when they declared they were their friends and would see that other Indians and white men also gave them justice. As one Indian chief said to Col. Macleod, of the expedition: "Before you came the Indian crept alone; now he is not afraid to walk erect." They were given a general idea of the laws, told that these were for white men and Indians alike, and that they need fear no punishment except when they had done wrong. They were assured that their lands would not be taken from them and that treaties would be made with them which would be respected, which promises, faithfully kept, have saved Canada from many costly Indian wars, in which hundreds of white persons might have lost their lives.

Steadily the force of mounted police grew. Changes were made as officers died or resigned, and as others came into power at Ottawa, the seat of government in Canada, but the efficiency of the force increased. As difficulties the services of the police were constantly required. The Indians of ten came into conflict with each other and with white men about encroachment on their hunting grounds, and in such cases were quick to appeal to the police as arbiters and protectors, for at that time the force had the entire management of the Indians on its shoulders. They were charged with reconciling the Indians to the coming of the whites and to protect the surveyors who had already commenced to parcel out the country and explore routes for railroads. In 1877 a large part of the force was concentrated on the southwestern frontier of Canada to watch and check the 6,000 Sioux who sought refuge across the line after the battle of the Little Big Horn, in which Gen. Custer and his men of the Seventh United States Cavalry were killed. The Canadian Blackfoot Indians resented the appearance of the Sioux in their lands, and it was only by the exercise of great tact and judgment that the Blackfoot did not rise, not only to drive the Sioux, but the white men also, out of the country, which, if the plan had been carried into effect, would have meant not alone the sacrifice of the lives of hundreds of white men and women, but a war which would have been ended only at great monetary cost. The police intervened, however, and averted trouble.

The modern era which commenced with the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway brought an influx of camp followers, strollers, thieves, and other scum of the Western border into the country. The police were not only compelled to administer justice and keep this dangerous element in order, but also to maintain law among the thousands of laborers who were employed in the construction of the railway. Good work was done also in suppressing strikes.

Up to this time, however, the police had chiefly to consider the question of maintaining their own safety, but with the rapid influx of settlers they became responsible for the lives and property scattered over 375,000 square



ONE OF THE GUARD ROOMS OF THE CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE.

miles. Trading-posts developed into towns and new centres of population came into existence, while cattlemen established themselves with their herds along the base of the mountains. The buffalo, which had roamed the plains for hundreds of miles, began to disappear with the coming of the white settlers, and the Indians, deprived of their chief source of food, became dissatisfied and unruly, thus adding to the cares of the police. Attacks were made by Indians on other tribes and on white men, but in each instance the police, small though the force, perhaps only one or two men being at some of the minor posts, did not hesitate to arrest the offender, no matter if he was in his own camp and surrounded by dozens, hundreds or thousands of his tribe, and take him away to the nearest post where a commanding officer of the police was located, for the purpose of having his guilt or innocence established, for the officers of the police sat as magistrates and dispensed justice. Many a brave policeman, or "constable," as the are usually termed, has lost his life in the performance of duty, for while he could have aided his assistant he decided not to "take chances," yet the rules of the force requiring ever effort to be exhausted before a resort to force was made stayed his hand until too late.

By 1882 such progress had been made in the settlement of the country through the entry of the Canadian Pacific railway that it became necessary to enlarge the force, which was increased to 500. Permanent headquarters were established at Regina, substituted barracks, instead of the log huts and stockades which existed at other posts, being erected. The Riel rebellion gave the police plenty of work, twelve men being killed and an equal number wounded in the first engagement with the rebels at Duck Lake. Immediately after the outbreak the force was increased to 1,000. A few years after it was again increased, this time to 1,100, which marks the greatest strength it has ever attained. Its present strength is 600.

governs the body is taken into consideration, there can only be admiration for the men, which devised such a system and for those that to-day are charged with its administration. While it is in the eye of the law a purely civil body, its officers under the law being magistrates and the non-commissioned officers and privates constables, its internal economy and drill is that of a cavalry regiment, so far as circumstances will allow. From the American line to the shores of the Arctic ocean, and from the westerly line of Yukon territory to Manitoba, the scarlet coat of the mounted police are to be found, the "posts" in some of the more remote sections of the Dominion, as in the Arctic, being 700 miles from the next nearest "post," while in other cases, as on the road from White Horse to Dawson, they are not more than twenty miles apart. In some places these consist only of a couple of log huts, from which the policeman patrols his district, visiting settlers, obtaining information of every kind that may seem to be of value to the government—such as the condition of the crops, cattle, etc.; news of any violation of the law either by theft, assault, the sale of liquor without authority, etc., while often assistance is given a struggling settler either in the sowing of grain, the erection of a log cabin, the search for missing horses or cattle, or aiding in whatever way may be possible those who are seeking to help in the building up and general prosperity of the country.

Wherey grasses have been committed the policeman makes arrests and often trails the guilty for several thousand miles. As pioneers in roadmaking the police are of the greatest value, their latest work in this respect being the construction of a trail from Edmonton to Dawson, a distance of nearly 2,000 miles; through the Peace River country. This section is indescribably rough and difficult of access, it having been necessary to cut a path through the primordial forest, ford deep and swiftly-moving rivers, scale steep mountain sides, and make their way through heavy grass and waste and across lakes where at times it seemed impossible to get through or across. The difficulty of constructing this trail may be understood when it is said that three years has been occupied in making it. Its principal use for some time to come will be as a route for the conveyance of prisoners from Dawson to Edmonton, without passing through United States territory.

The affairs of the Royal North-West Mounted Police are managed by a distinct department of the government at Ottawa, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, prime minister of the Dominion, being the nominal head, while the permanent civil subordinate head is the Hon. Frederick White, whose official title is controller of the force, and who, as secretary of Sir John Macdonald, more than thirty-five years ago, was one of the 250 men in the establishment of the force, indeed, to such an extent that he is often referred to as the "Father of the Royal North-West Mounted Police." His knowledge of the force in every detail is so thor-

ough, complete, and minute as to be remarkable. Seated in his spacious office at Ottawa, he is in complete and constant touch with every branch and post of his department as far as may be possible when stations are so great, scattered and so far apart. The executive command is held by Commissioner A. B. Perry, who holds the rank of major, and whose headquarters are at Regina. To assist him there is an assistant commissioner, ten superintendents, thirty-five inspectors, six surgeons, and a veterinary surgeon.

Rigid Entrance Qualifications.
The rank and file is not surpassed by any picked corps in any service in the world. Recruits must be between the ages of twenty-two and forty, of sound constitution, and must produce a certificate of exemplary character. A rigid medical examination is required. They must be able to read and write either the English or French language and be able to ride well. Married men are not enlisted. The minimum height for recruits is five feet eight inches, the minimum chest measurement thirty-five inches, and the maximum weight 175 pounds. The enlistment is for five years. The punishment for violations of the rules of the force are exceedingly severe. For instance, for the infraction of any of the following rules a sentence of one month's pay as a fine and one year's imprisonment at hard labor may be imposed. For oppressive or tyrannical conduct toward an inferior; for intoxication, however slight; directly or indirectly receiving any gratuity without the commissioner's sanction; or any crime, wearing any political em-

blem or otherwise manifesting political partisanship; divulging anything which should be kept secret; communicating anything to the press respecting the force, either directly or indirectly, without the commissioner's permission; using any cruel, harsh, or unnecessary violence to a prisoner or other person.

Many men who enlist are former soldiers, but there are also on the force a number of well-educated men, some of them college graduates and others who have been "plucked" at college and have decided to take up the free and adventurous life afforded, especially at remote posts, where the discipline is not as strict and the routine of drill not as irksome as at Regina or the larger posts.

As pay, the controller receives \$1,000 a year; the commissioner, \$2,400; assistant commissioner, \$1,000; superintendents and surgeons, \$1,400; and inspectors, \$1,000. With quarters, rations, fuel, etc. A staff sergeant's pay is from \$1.50 to \$2 per day; corporals, \$1.30 to \$1.25 per day; and privates, 60c. per day for the first year's service, with an increase of five cents per day until the ninth year is reached.

There are not a few civilians who wonder at the degree of enthusiasm and love of adventure which will induce a man to risk the arctic cold, the discomforts, the lack of food at times, and the frequent risk of losing one's life by a bullet in exchange for a stipend of sixty cents a day. In answer to this may be cited the observation that "there is no accountancy for tastes," as the old woman said when she kissed the cow.

The Tonic You Need.
When you are constantly tired, when none of your organs seem to work properly, when food does not strengthen or sleep refresh you, you need a reconstructive tonic of positive value. There is no other that will build you up so promptly and thoroughly as Wade's Iron Tonic Pills (Laxative). They are a great nerve strengthener and blood maker. In Boxes, 25c., at Wade's drug store. Money back if not satisfactory.

The Hamburg-American line will fit out a number of small channel and North Sea steamers with gyroscopes.

No one knows better than those who have used Carter's Little Liver Pills what relief they have given when taken for dyspepsia, dizziness, pain in the side, constipation, and disordered stomach.

It is an easy matter to twist the truth, but when it springs back somebody is likely to be pretty badly upset.

Occasionally a man makes his mark, and pays alimony ever afterward.

Moral Influence of Scarlet Tunic.
The scarlet tunic, and what to American eyes seems the ridiculous little "forage cap," worn by the English Tommy Atkins, of a few years ago! What a story these two typical garments tell! When but one man, even wearing them, appeared in the middle of a band of several thousand blood-thirsty Sioux Indians, fresh from the war trail, their hands still red with blood, of white men or women, and when for more white men's coats, or when the scarlet tunic and "dinky" little cap (when the wind felt that was not worn) came into sight of white or half-breed murderers, thieves, and cut-throats, the westerly bravely approaching the leader of the band and formally placing him under arrest, seized him by the collar, without even drawing a pistol, marched him to where two horses were standing, and rode off with him to the nearest post of the mounted police, perhaps one hundred miles away, not a hand would be raised in attempt to rescue or in attack upon the representative of England's king or queen, as the case might be, for, as the saying went in those remote places, "If you shoot or stick a knife into a member of the North-West Mounted Police, you are doing the same thing to the entire British nation, and the English will follow you to the ends of the earth and punish you."

So much for the tremendous authority exercised by the police, and the fear and respect in which they are held in that part of the world in which they hold sway, and administer strict and impartial justice. Their deeds have often been told in song and story, but one-tenth of what these remarkable men have accomplished in "blazing" the trail for civilization and the enforcement of law has ever been told, nor will it ever be, for much of the record does not reach government by the heads of the

Organized in 1873.
The nucleus of the Royal North-West Mounted Police was gathered in Manitoba in the fall of 1873, under command of Lieut.-Col. French of the Royal Artillery, who had shown much aptitude and some splendid work for Canada in the organization of its artillery schools and who arrived in Canada fresh from Australia, where he had won distinction and had been recruited from the imperial army as major-general. The remainder of the necessary organized force was recruited in Toronto, the entire force at that time numbering only 300. Permission having been obtained from the United States government, the force proceeded by railroad to Fargo, in June, 1874, and made a march to Dufferin of 170 miles, as a forerunner of their work. Weeding out the weaklings, the Mounted Police began their work, and scored from the start.

With two field pieces and two mortars, and relying solely on their own transport train for supplies, they marched 800 miles westward through an unknown country, inhabited by nearly 40,000 Indians and many white desperadoes, until they reached the Rocky Mountains. Here Fort Macleod was established, in the very heart of the Blackfoot country, where no white man's life was safe. Another force was sent north to Edmonton, among the Assiniboines and Wood Cree. The main body turned back, crossing the plains to Fort Pelly, and then to Dufferin. The thermometer, which had stood at 100 degrees in the shade when they left Dufferin, marked thirty degrees below zero on their return. In four months to a day the force had traversed 1,350 miles. Many good horses had lived through lack of water and forage on the arid plains, where cactus and sage brush are the only vegetation around the alkaline lakes, only to die from the unaccustomed forage or from the bitter cold

Wide Field of Operation.
When the extent of the country over which the police even now hold sway is considered, and the remarkable system and wonderful organization which

Get acquainted with **Black Watch** the big black plug chewing tobacco. A tremendous favorite everywhere, because of its richness and pleasing flavor.

MARTYR DAYS ARE NOT YET PASSES!

GREAT ARMIES OF MEN AND WOMEN GO UP AND DOWN THE EARTH IN BONDS MORE IRKSOME, IN SUFFERINGS MORE INTENSE, IN SHACKLES MORE SECURE THAN WERE THE IRON MANACLES OF SLAVERY DAYS, AND YET THE LINCOLN OF EMANCIPATION FINDS IN THESE LATER DAYS HIS COUNTERPART IN

Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder

whose mission it is and which mission it fills in freeing thousands from the bondage of dreaded, disgusting, distracting, catarrh, that cruel, relentless master that is no respecter of persons. How do you know you are in its thrall? Note the symptoms—headache, watery eyes, pain over the eyes, deafness, buzzing in the head, drooping in the throat, offensive breath, dryness in the nostrils—any or all of these symptoms are forerunners of catarrh, and catarrh in the head and throat can be relieved in 20 minutes by Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder and the sufferer may be saved the suffering that comes with the chronic stage and the distress and maybe fatal results when catarrh takes hold on the lung tissues.

Take catarrh in time with this wonderful cure, which, as thousands have said and thousands more could say, "works like magic," and you will have struck the chord that is the keynote to health and happiness.

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