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"The Great War
As I Saw It"

By
CANON SCOTT

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"A true bill" was returned in the
case of Adelard Delorme by the
grand jury at Montreal on Friday
afternoon. The trial will take place
on Friday, June 9th.

Diary of the Mounties

By Thomas M. Fraser.

T. M. Fraser.
Ottawa, June 2.—The ordinary
government blue-book is not a partic-
ularly thrilling publication, nor one
such as the average reader would
take up for entertainment; but oc-
casionally there comes from the
printer to the King's Most Excellent
Majesty something a little out of the
ordinary. The report of the Depart-
ment of Indian Affairs, for example,
in the year after the war, told a
thrilling story of patriotism, bravery
and skill which the Indians of Can-
ada had exhibited during that hour
of need to the Great White Father,
some of their records as scouts and
marksmen putting to the blush even
the exploits of Chingachook and oth-
er heroes of Fenimore Cooper. There
is always one small report (this year
of about 70 pages) which contains
more of duty well done, dangers
bravely faced, and deeds of heroism
and endurance simply related, than
any volumes of romance which can
come from the press this year. This
is the report of the Royal Canadian
Mounted Police.

This report is no longer the fat
and voluminous volume it once was.
A few years ago there was created
here an editorial committee whose
duty it is to pass upon the govern-
ment printing, and cut it down where
it can. It claims to have effected a
considerable saving, and probably
has done so—there was considerable
room for such reform; but I am not
sure that the economy which did any-
thing to curtail this thrilling annual
of the "Mounties" was worth while.
Such a course may have resulted in
the filing away from sight of records
of the human drama which would
have been of more value to making
than dry-as-dust records of tariffs
and trade, or the wordy passages of
Hansard. We may hold, as Dean
Swift did with the agriculturalists,
that a man who makes one good
story spring from a source where
none or only a poor one sprung be-
fore "would deserve better of man-
kind, and do more essential service
to his country, than the whole race
of politicians put together"—saying
nothing of the works for which they
are responsible.

The records of the Mounted Police
are of particular interest at the
present time because there has recently
been a somewhat insidious attack
directed against them in parliament,
which, fortunately failed. The num-
bers of the police are likely to be
considerably reduced, however. There
are at present over 1,600 men on
the force or about double the num-
ber before the war. The time of ser-
vice of some six hundred of them
will expire this year, and they will
not be reengaged. In some provinces
there have been established provin-
cial police forces which have to a
considerable extent taken the place
of the Mounties; and in certain polit-
ical circles particularly it is said
the sentiment is against returning to
the old system. It has been charged,
whether with truth or not, that the
provincial police are more pliant to
the will of the political heeler than
the men with the proud prefix of
"Royal" ever were.

The real romance of the Mounted
Police, of course, is connected with
the service in the far north west—
those lonely patrols of the barren
lands where the upholder of the law
is obliged to pit his own strength and
cunning against primitive nature,
red in tooth and claw. Of recent
years, the eternal triangle has reach-
ed Esquimauxland, often compli-
cated by the presence of some white
man of the lost legion. Of this kind
was the tragedy of Ahkuk and Agne-
tuk. Away up in Coronation gulf,
which is north of the northernmost
part of the mainland, and almost at
the top of the map, lived in 1919
Ahkuk and Agnetuk, partners in
hunting and also in the vicarious af-
fections of their common wife, Nut-
ingnik. Along came Olepssek, a
beau of the northland; handsome as
a totem pole, full of grease but not
of grace. He looked upon Nutingnik,
and found her good in his eyes. He
proposed to Ahkuk that he should
dissolve partnership with Agnetuk
by shooting him in the back, and
take him, Olepssek, into the firm.
It was done; and straightway there
was another little job for the Moun-
ties. Four pages of the report tell
the intimated details of the crime
and how its authors were traced
down through that world of empty
spaces for two years before the tem-
pter Olepssek and witnesses to the
crime were secured and brought out
for trial, retribution having overtaken
Ahkuk in the meantime at the
hands of other members of his tribe.
And this is only one of many such
stories.

In connection with the unravelling
of another murder case in the far
north, in which the principles were
French half-breeds, it is noted that
the officers detailed on it made the
first aeroplane journey on duty in
the annals of the force. In the course
of this expedition he travelled twen-
ty-eight days, 850 miles, with dogs;
590 miles, five days, by train; 20
miles, one day, by horse; and 640
miles, 3 days, by aeroplane.

With the extension of the sphere
of influence of the police to the east-
ern part of Canada have come re-
cords of rural lawlessness dealt with
which, if there had been no other
agency of justice than the old county
constabulary, would in all probab-
ility have gone un punished. In the
Maritime Provinces there is no pro-
vincial police system and the main
function of the constable is to serve
summonses; consequently the influ-
ence of a few federal officers like
the Mounted Police may be effective.
Very often one or two lawless char-
acters can terrorize over and impose
on a whole countryside; and the or-

inary "village constable" can rarely
be induced to take his office as
guardian of the peace seriously and
exercise the authority conferred upon
him. The knowledge that the
Mounted Police are available is a
very strong deterrent.

Let us take a typical case—what
the Sherlock Holmes narrative might
call "The Story of The Nova Scotia
Motor Bandits." The report sum-
marizes it in this way:

"The episode was a curious one.
Four or five men living at a mill-
camp in an out-of-the-way place some
distance from Truro, after a certain
amount of petty larceny, had em-
barked on burglary. They used a mo-
tor-car, sometimes travelling 50
miles in the night, and robbed stores
in small villages. A rumor that they
had fired on citizens in Tatamagou-
che was not established by evidence
but the entire hamlet of Millville was
destroyed by fire which began while
these men were stealing gasoline
from a garage, the property loss be-
ing upwards of \$50,000. The country-
side was greatly alarmed, the depreda-
tions, in themselves considerable,
being greatly exaggerated and the
thieves being pictured as armed and
ready to commit murder. People slept
with weapons ready to hand, and
numerous precautions were taken."

The principle of the Mounted Po-
lice force is that it is to be used as a
striking force, to be called in by the
local authorities when required. In
the above mentioned case, the band-
its ran their course without serious
interference until the services of the
federal force was asked. The Moun-
ties soon brought them to book.

Last year for the first time the
services of the R. C. M. P. were uti-
lized on harvest excursions. For
many years a few unruly spirits on
such excursions had been able to in-
duce the exercise of psychology of
thoughtless young fellows full of
undisciplined vitality who make up
the harvest trains was often like
the incursion of a guerilla force in-
to hostile territory. Wherever the
train stopped on the prairies, a
crowd of the harvesters would dash
into the village, crowd into the small
stores, and carry off several times
the amount they paid for, commit-
ting any incidental damage to prop-
erty that might take their fancy.
Before any action could be taken
they would be aboard the train and
away again, with no chance of iden-
tifying them. There was also much
disorder on the train while en route.
Last year the Mounted Police es-
corts were attached to twenty-three
harvest trains with the expected hap-
py results. Lawlessness on harvest
excursions will now be a thing of the
past.

The criticism of the forces in the
House of Commons this session was
directed and maintained chiefly by
the two representatives of Labor in
the house, one from Winnipeg and
one from Calgary, and was admitted-
ly due mainly to the part the police
had taken in the Winnipeg strike. It
not only met with very little sym-
pathy, but it elicited many tributes
to the part played by the red coats in
the settlement and civilization of the
prairies, where they have acted in
almost every capacity for the farm-
ers, from herders for their cattle to
nurse aids for their straying child-
ren.

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ready shops in Montreal," said
George VanHorne, who can give a six-
day delivery on any Suit made to cus-
tom measure.

Takes Over Command.

The London Advertiser has the
following: Brig.-Gen. W. B. M. Kinn,
C.M.G., D.S.O., arrived in the city
on Tuesday to take over the com-
mand of Military District No. 1,
while Gen. H. A. Panet, former com-
mander, left for Toronto, where he

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will be in charge of Military District
No. 2.

When interviewed by the Adver-
tiser, General King stated that he
has made no definite plans as yet,
and in the main would adopt the
same methods used by the former
commander, Gen. Panet.

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