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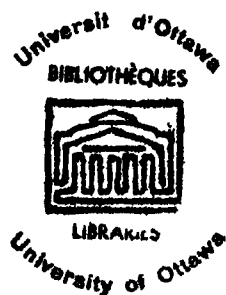
THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
IN
LITERATURE

A THESIS PRESENTED

BY

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P R E F A C E .

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have not only played an important part in the history of Canada but they have contributed a great deal to Canadian literature by their deeds and, not infrequently, by their writings. Their hardships on the pioneer trails across the prairies, their battles with the Indians, their pursuit of horse-thieves and their relentless trailing of criminals in the Arctic have been the themes of many books by Canadian and American writers.

Unfortunately, many of these authors have been more interested in exciting the imagination of the reader than in presenting a truthful picture of the subject.

It is the object of this thesis to prove firstly, that the greater portion of literature relative to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police read by the public is fiction; secondly, that this fiction contains historical and technical inaccuracies which have

contributed largely to false conceptions held by the Public concerning the Force; and thirdly, that members of the Force and conscientious authors have attempted by their writings to correct these false impressions. In conclusion, it is shown that the Force itself has awakened to the necessity of instilling in the minds of the public a true representation of the Force which guards the national safety of Canada and works in the interest of her law-abiding citizens.

PART ONE

FACT AND FICTION.

Whereby it is concluded that the greater portion of literature relative to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police read by the Public is fiction.

THAT the greater portion of Literature relative to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police read by the Public is fiction can be adduced by three methods: namely, questionnaires, the public libraries, and the publishing companies.

The first method entails the most labour and the most patience. Adults have a natural repugnance to questionnaires as, for the most part, they are reluctant to display any ignorance on a subject with which they should be familiar. Children under twelve years of age have not formed any definite reading habits and have a natural tendency to read with a desire to excite their imaginations rather than to improve their intellects; consequently they absorb the story but not the details. "Theirs not to reason why" is applicable to their approach of literature. They find distasteful a questionnaire on a book which they have read but recently because they have read with a lack of attention to details. To them it is another examination paper as a questionnaire, properly answered, requires

a little thought. One can obtain better results in the 'teen age group and from those in their early twenties.

On a subject such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which is distinctively Canadian, the results obtained from questionnaires sent to pupils in foreign countries is practically nil, the reason being a lack of knowledge of Canada's national Police Force. Foreign pupils have heard of this organization and they have read a few stories about it but their knowledge of it is too limited to trust themselves to answer questions involving details. Even in a country as close to Canada as is the United States young Americans are as loathe to answer questions about the Canadian Police as Canadians would be to complete questionnaires on the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or "F.B.I." as it is commonly known, the United States famous "G" men.

To have a cross-section of public opinion the distribution of questionnaires must be fairly representative and with this in mind the reader is presented with replies re-

ceived from Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, the Turner Valley District in Alberta, and Pennsylvania.

Those who answered these questionnaires range in age from fourteen to twenty-five years and may be said to represent the youth of the country. Those in this category showed a preference for fiction. The table shown below represents the various groups and the proportion of fiction books to non-fiction books read by these groups.

1st group - 16 fiction to 2 non-fiction.
 2nd group - 15 fiction to no non-fiction.
 3rd group - 34 fiction to 3 non-fiction.
 4th group - 8 fiction to 3 non-fiction.
 5th group - 6 fiction to no non-fiction.
 or a total of 79 fiction books to 8 of non-fiction.

Out of a total of 400 pupils 36 had read non-fiction books on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or a ratio of 100: 9.

One interesting feature of these statistics lies in the fifth group composed of thirty honour graduates who openly ad-

mitted that their knowledge of the Force was obtained from magazine stories, the comic strips and fiction books by such authors as Curwood.

It is quite possible that the school libraries contained a larger variety of fiction books than of non-fiction but be that as it may the same books were available to all the pupils of each school group and very few chose to read the non-fiction books that were at hand.

In the adult group: namely, those who drew their books from the public libraries, the circulation as shown by the "charge-out" cards is greater in fiction than in non-fiction. This could be due to the fact that there are many more readers who wish entertainment rather than truth. Again, many people use the non-fiction as reference books only and do their reading in the library. In such an event the "charge-out" cards would not represent the true circulation. Neither would they present a true picture in the event of fiction books leaving the library and being returned unread.

On the other hand, librarians agree that fiction, whether on the Mounted Police or on any other subject, is read more frequently than non-fiction. A few representative opinions on the subject advanced by librarians strengthen this contention.

At Winnipeg, Manitoba: "It is safe to say that there is a larger circulation of the books of fiction, as a good many of the non-fiction books are in our Canadian section and are used more for reference than circulation."

At Estevan, Saskatchewan: "Judging from our circulation I should say that our fiction books about the R. C. M. P. are borrowed ten times to every one time for the non-fiction."

At Moosejaw, Saskatchewan: "I agree with you that the public read more fiction on the Mounted Police. In this library non-fiction is very much in demand, as many students of the Collegiate Institutes and Normal Schools are given assignments on this subject."

At Summerside, Prince Edward Island:

"My opinion is that more people prefer reading about them (the R.C.M.P.) in fiction form."

At Lethbridge, Alberta: "The average in this particular subject (the R.C.M.P.) is much better for the non-fiction than in some of the others. Two fiction to one non-fiction about the average."

At Calgary, Alberta: "I would say, very roughly, that three times as many fiction books are circulated as non-fiction."

At Fort William, Ontario: "The circulation here is "quite heavily weighted in favour of the non-fiction--likely due to the fact that non-fiction has predominated on the Canadian publishers' lists of books on the Force. At any rate, our non-fiction lists far outbalance the fiction."

It was previously stated that the results obtained from questionnaires sent to foreign countries were practically nil, due to lack of knowledge of the Force. One librarian, who was employed in a library in one of the leading cities of the United States for a couple of years, knows from his experience "that the general knowledge among people there

even among the highly educated, of Canada and things Canadian, was just about nil."

An actual check of both fiction and non-fiction books on the R. C. M. Police was made in several cities. The record of the number of times each book was marked out follows:

AT THE CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY, OTTAWA, ONT.

Non-fiction.

They Got their Man

Godsell - 8 times in 1 year.

The Silent Force

Longstreth - 20 times in 7 years.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Douthwaite - 15 times in 2 years.

AVERAGE 6 times in 1 year.

Fiction.

Honor of the Big Snows

Curwood - 20 times in 6 years.

In Scarlet and Plain Clothes

Longstreth - 8 times in 2 years.

Nighthawk of the North-West

White - 14 times in 1 year.

AVERAGE 7 times in 1 year.

AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

Non-fiction.

Arctic Patrols

Campbell - 11 times in 3 years.

The Law Marches West

Denny - 4 times in 3 years.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Fetherstonaugh - 4 times in 2 years.

They Got their Man

Godsell - 18 times in 3 years.

The Silent Force

Longstreth - 6 times in 3 years.

AVERAGE 3 times in 1 year.

Fiction.

One Man Came Back

Erskine - 41 times in 3 years.

Renfrew Flies Again

Erskine - 26 times in 3 years.

Gold and Guns on Halfaday Creek

Hendryx - 16 times in 1 year.

Law and Order on Halfaday Creek

Hendryx - 31 times in 2 years.

The Trapper of Rat River

Stoddard - 31 times in 2 years.

AVERAGE 14 times in 1 year.

AT THE REGINA PUBLIC LIBRARY, REGINA, SASK.

Non-fiction.

The Law Marches West

Denny - 3 times during 1945.

The Silent Force

Longstreth - 4 times during 1945.

Policing the Plains

MacBeth - 2 times during 1945.

I Lived with the Eskimos

Montague - 20 times during 1945.

North to Adventure

Montague - 1 time during 1945.

To the Arctic with the Mounties

Robertson - 7 times during 1945.

AVERAGE 6 times in one year.Fiction.Steele of the Royal Mounted

Curwood - 20 times during 1945.

Valley of Silent Men

Curwood - 40(average)1939-1945.

Country Beyond

Curwood - 8 times during 1945.

Renfrew in the Valley of Vanished Men

Erskine - 11 times during 1945.

Renfrew Flies Again

Erskine - 11 times during 1945.

Gold and Guns on Halfaday Creek

Hendryx - 9 times during 1945.

Downey of the Mounted

Hendryx - 4 times during 1945.

AVERAGE 10 times in one year.

Summarizing this survey the results
are given below:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>CIRCULATION PER ANNUM</u>	
	<u>FICTION</u>	<u>NON-FICTION</u>
Ottawa, Ont.	7	6
New Westminster, B.C.	14	3
Regina, Sask.	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	31	15
AVERAGE	10	5
RATIO	100:50	

In the experience of the New Westminster Librarian the result "would be equally true of any books of informative non-fiction compared with light fiction, whether Western, Detective or Light Romance."

When school and public libraries are available the reading public is guided to a certain extent in its reading habits by the books which are at hand. When people purchase reading material they definitely make their own choice and yet we find the same results.

The authenticity of POLICING THE ARCTIC by Harwood Steele is vouched for by the late Commissioner MacBrien and yet only five or six hundred copies of this book was sold by the Publishers in Canada. Compared to a book of fiction this circulation is small. It would not be fair, however, to omit mentioning the fact that this book became out of print and more copies would have been sold had they been available; moreover this book when published in 1935 sold for \$3.50 while books of fiction at that time were selling at between \$2 and \$2.50

In recent years the sale of books of fiction has been stimulated through the agency of the Literary Guild, Book of the

Month, and other Book Clubs in New York and by the Book Society of London, England. This is true of Curwood's THE VALLEY OF SILENT MEN, a book of fiction for which one hundred thousand orders had been placed before the book was published. . .

The following is an extract from the Ottawa Journal, Saturday, April 13, 1946, taken from an article by John K. Hutchens in the New York Times Book Review:

"Three and a half million people in this country and Canada are now book club members.- Since V-J Day the Book-of-the-Month Club which had deliberately held its membership to 600,000 in war-time has acquired 300,000 members and is now aiming at 1,000,000. The Literary Guild with 1,100,000 members, and the Dollar Book Club (600,000 members) its running mate in the Doubleday book club stable, are adding new clients at the rate of 1,000 a day through a promotional tie-up with the Montgomery Ward catalogue. The People's Book Club, owned and operated by Sears Roebuck, Simon and Schuster and the Consolidated Book Publishers of Chicago, has

300,000 members now.

"The Literary Guild accounted for almost 600,000 of the first million copies of THE BLACK ROSE by Thomas B. Costain, and 775,000 of the first million copies of THE KING'S GENERAL by Daphne du Maurier.

"After a sale of 40,000 copies Ben Ames Williams' THE STRANGE WOMAN was thought by its publishers to be 'through'. The Dollar Book Club picked it up, and it wound up with a total sale of about 250,000 copies."

It is unfortunate that facts do not receive the publicity that is accorded fiction as a great many people are eager for the truth and would prefer it to fiction, even as a form of entertainment, if it were presented in an interesting manner and as easily obtainable.

It is surprising and somewhat pathetic to discover that so many children sincerely believe the fiction they read to be the truth and yet four hundred questionnaires distributed among the pupils of five schools, widely separated in distance, reveal this to be true; they reveal, also, that only nine

per cent of the juvenile population read non-fiction books on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. That this preference for fiction over non-fiction is carried forward into the adult stage is proved from library records and book sale orders. Six out of seven librarians expressed their opinion that fiction had a larger circulation than non-fiction and this opinion is verified by the records of three libraries chosen at random which showed an average circulation of ten fiction to five non-fiction; moreover, sales orders for books on the subject of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police average two hundred of fiction to one of non-fiction.

P A R T T W O

THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
IN FICTION

In which it is shown that this fiction contains historical and technical inaccuracies which have contributed largely to false conceptions held by the Public concerning the Force.

THE RIVER'S END. By James Oliver Curwood.
Grosset and Dunlop, New York, N. Y., 1919.

IN the preceding chapter not only did we find that both the juvenile and adult population read more fiction than non-fiction but we found, too, that the general opinion of the younger readers was a fairly accurate indication of the opinion of the more adult population. Younger readers preferred fiction to non-fiction in a proportion of 100:9, adults 100:50. The answers to the questionnaires by pupils ranging in age from fourteen to twenty-five years would indicate, then, the conception held by the whole adult population and would mean that a large percentage formed their conception of the Police from fiction books. That these conceptions are false can be traced directly to the historical and technical inaccuracies of the fiction read.

(1) CURWOOD was an American, born at

(1) TWENTIETH CENTURY AUTHORS. edited by
Kunitz and Haycraft. Publishers, H.W.
Wilson Company, New York, 1942.

Owosso, Michigan. He was no amateur at writing. At the age of thirty he wrote his first novel THE COURAGE OF CAPTAIN PLUM. Between the years of 1900 and 1907 he served as a reporter, then as an editor. According to his own declaration in his WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA biography he was employed for two years by the Canadian Government as a writer. His statement is not substantiated by the Canadian Government. During this time he travelled extensively in the Hudson's Bay District where he became well acquainted with the habits of the Eskimos. He was familiar with the North and intimate with the works of the Mounted Police but being a novelist he had a lively imagination and was more concerned with the plot of his story than with the facts.

The plot of THE RIVER'S END is possible but improbable. Derwent Conniston, an Englishman, wrongfully accused of theft by his uncle with whom he lived, fled to

Canada and joined the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. He left behind him his crippled brother, who was the actual thief, and his little sister.

Some years later he was despatched by McDowell, the burly Inspector commanding Prince Albert Division, on a man-hunt for John Keith suspected of murdering Judge Kirkstone, the man responsible for sending Keith's father to the penitentiary for a crime he never committed.

This man-hunt led Conniston into the Arctic regions and into the Hudson's Bay District. Although he was successful after a chase of twenty-seven months in arresting his man he was forced to remain with his prisoner in a log cabin near the Bay for several weeks because of a frozen lung.

During this period the two men became fast friends and owing to a striking similarity in their appearance Conniston decided to save Keith's life. As for himself, he knew that he was doomed to die.

He taught Keith the drill and confided in him certain things which he must know. When Conniston died Keith buried his benefactor beneath the shack and donned the uniform before starting on his long trek to Prince Albert.

Although Keith had been well prepared for the sharp eyes of McDowell he did not know of Shan Tung, the Chinaman, nor of Conniston's sister in England, both of whom were to play an important part in his life. Shan Tung, who had a reputation for remembering faces, was not deceived but he kept his knowledge a secret from McDowell. He had a trump card to play and when the right time came he would play it.

As for Conniston's sister, she accepted Keith as her long-lost brother and Keith, in turn, immediately returned her affection.

Shan Tung was determined to gain possession of Miriam Kirkstone, the murdered judge's daughter, and the crafty Oriental held her in his power by a threat on her brother's life.

Keith, who had learned well the mannerisms of Conniston, even to twirling deliberately his moustache when in the most distressing situations had partaken of the dead man's spirit. The desire to strengthen this spirit of courage and disdain of fear was due in no small measure to Conniston's sister and when Keith was called upon to face Shan Tung in the latter's own apartment he faced the ordeal as Conniston himself would have done. The Chinaman threatened to expose him if he did not prevail upon Miriam Kirkstone to sell herself to him body and soul. McDowell, who was in love with Miriam, had hinted that Shan Tung must be put out of the way. Keith refused to compromise with Shan Tung much to the latter's surprise. He told that crafty individual that he had decided to tell McDowell the truth let the consequences be what they may.

The Chinaman knew that Keith spoke the truth and for this he must kill him.

Keith, however, outwitted him and with his police revolver killed the Chinaman. The shot brought several more Chinamen into the room. Keith fought desperately and succeeded in making his escape. Then began the long journey to the river's end, the source of the mighty Saskatchewan river. It was there that Conniston's sister followed him and it was there that he learned that he was not the murderer of Judge Kirkstone. The blow he had struck the judge had only stunned him. It was the Judge's son who had murdered the Judge and before his death had signed a confession to that effect. As for Shan Tung everybody was glad to be rid of him. To the most of those people who knew him he was only a snake and should be exterminated.

The story holds interest and Curwood leaves us with a good impression of the Mounted Police.

THE RIVER'S END contains technical

and historical inaccuracies and yet here are some of the answers received from those who had read the book, to the question:

Q. In his story does the author picture the Mounted Police as you imagine them to be?

Answer No. 1. "Yes. He pictures them to be very brave as you would imagine. The author did not go wrong in any details.

Answer No. 2. "Yes, except it may be pictured as more thrilling than it really is.

Answer No. 3. "Yes."

Answer No. 4. "Yes, he does make them seem as I imagine them to be."

Answer No. 5. "He pictures the 'Mounties' in the Northwest as I imagine them to be. He fails to give a full picture of their work. As a novelist he sees fit to avoid mention of their routine work. He also makes little mention, or none, of the great amount of work done in plain clothes and with cars."

Answer No. 6. "No, he does not. In THE RIVER'S END Curwood represents the R. C. M. P. as adventurous man-hunters in a background of exaggerated and thrilling circumstances and pledged by the parting injunction of their Commanding Officer, 'Don't come back until you get your man, dead or alive'. Otherwise-. For example, the supposed murderer looks almost exactly like the policeman and assumes this identity when the policeman dies. The story also lacks the portrayal of the honourable characteristics of R. C. M. P. The R. C. M. P. is a fugitive from justice in England who comes to Canada and joins the service. In short, this book is a thrilling narrative about an adventurous life without attention to a truthful representation of the R. C. M. P."

Answer No. 7. "Yes, he did."

It will be seen from these answers that the conception of the Force in the minds of these readers was gained from

fiction and further proof of this is given in the answers to other leading questions. In answer No. 5, one person did complain that Curwood failed to mention the routine work of the Force and the great amount of work done in plain clothes and with cars.

This party did not take into consideration the fact that the setting of Curwood's story was in the North and around Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, at a period when automobiles were not a regular means of transportation and where very little plain clothes work was necessary.

This same party gained the impression that "Get your man" was the motto of the Force from what Curwood had the Inspector say to Conniston before the latter had set out on the trail of Keith, the outlaw, "Don't come back until you get your man, dead or alive."

A High School pupil makes the declaration that in THE RIVER'S END Curwood did not go wrong in any details yet she,

too, says the motto of the Force is,
"Get your man."

This notion is prevalent in the
minds of many. One hundred and thirty
believed the motto to be "Get your man."

Twenty-two answered, "Be prepared."

Eleven suggested, "Salus Populi
suprema est lex."

Seventy-four stated, "Maintiens le
droit."

Many more did not attempt the answer.
To this question, then, the popular
answer is "Get your man."

Non-fiction writers have not always
been careful to quote the motto of the
Force and "get your man" has lingered in
the minds of the public generally.

Some few have confused the motto
of the Force with that of the Boy Scouts
"Be prepared." Others again have merely
guessed at it and have given the motto
of Missouri "Salus populi suprema est lex"
or translated, "The welfare of the people
is the supreme law."

Mr. Hann, Departmental Secretary for the Force, made an intensive search into the history of the crest and motto of the Force and his article on the subject can be found on Pages 41 to 50 inclusive of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Quarterly for July, 1939.

Due to a fire which occurred in the West Block at Ottawa on February 11, 1897, many valuable records were destroyed which otherwise could have provided some information on the subject.

Mr. Hann's search extended over a wide area and included books and publications dealing with the history of the Force, REGULATIONS AND ORDERS OF THE NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE dated 1889, Order-in-Council dated 1890, General Orders of the Force, documents of the Privy Council, Secretary of State, the Public Archives, National Defence and the Parliamentary Library, the R. C. M. Police Museum, Regina, Saskatchewan, reminiscences of members

of the Force of the early days, inquiries from the College of Arms, London, England, and old photographs.

As a result of his search Mr. Hann found that the crest and motto dated back to 1877, at least, but by whom it was chosen and exactly why this particular motto was chosen he was unable to ascertain. Certain it is that for several years subsequent to the founding of the Force the motto was spelled incorrectly, "Maintien le droit" instead of "Maintiens le droit." It was not until 1912 that the inaccuracy in spelling was corrected on the police cap and collar badges which bore the full crest.

In his report to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa, Commissioner French wrote from Winnipeg in January, 1875, to the effect that while in Ottawa between February and April, 1874, he attended to many matters, " -- then arrangements had to be made for the supply of arms, ammunition and stores of every description, uniform to be designed and supplied."

There is nothing to indicate that the motto was chosen when the uniform was being designed but a French-speaking member, Mr. Dorion, was the Minister of Justice at that time.

To the question, "What is the most common means of lighting Royal Canadian Mounted Police quarters in the Arctic?" the popular answer is "Seal-oil."

Curwood gives this impression when he states that " a seal-oil lamp was burning on the table of the little cabin where Conniston and the outlaw were staying."

Conniston's wanderings took him as far north as Coronation Gulf. He returned by way of "Fullerton Point", or more correctly, Fullerton Bay.

From the rather vague description given in the book the two men were camped very close to Chesterfield Inlet, close enough to the Bay to hear the roar of ice coming down through Roes Welcome. They were eight hundred miles from

civilization which to Keith meant Prince Albert.

Curwood, like Daniel Defoe, had the art of presenting fiction in a realistic manner as when he represents Keith as saying, "John Keith is dead - dead. I buried him back there under the cabin built by Sergeant Trossy and his patrol in nineteen hundred and eight."

To name the patrol and the year in which it was made creates an impression of truthfulness. There was no Sergeant Trossy in the Force but (1) Inspector Pelletier with three N. C. O's and Constables, left Athabasca Landing on June 6, 1908, to proceed to Great Slave Lake, and crossed eastward through the Barren lands to Hudson's Bay. This was the only overland trip made to Hudson's Bay during that year. Two others were made by boat: one by Sergeant R. M. L. Donaldson, Churchill to Fullerton and

(1) Report of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, 1908.

the other by Sergeant D. McArthur, Fullerton to Wager Bay. In none of the reports submitted by these men was mention made of a cabin being built. By 1908, however, a detachment had been established at Fullerton and buildings had been erected. It is more probable that the cabin referred to by Curwood was a prospector's cabin or one belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company of which there were a few scattered throughout the Barren Lands.

At that period in the history of the North seal-oil was a common means of lighting, heating and cooking. Among the Eskimos it is even yet the most popular method. Steatite, commonly known as soapstone, concave in shape, is used for holding the oil. A hollow is scooped out of this soft rock, scarcely the depth of an ordinary wash-basin but somewhat larger. A wick of cotton, or a strip of moss, is soaked in the oil, and when lighted provides both light and heat. For cooking,

an utensil is placed over the hollowed rock.

Members of the Force commonly used seal-oil when on patrols, but when at home in their detachment quarters they more frequently used coal-oil, a primus stove being used for the purpose of cooking, a kerosene lamp for lighting. Later, gasoline lamps were substituted and to-day many detachments are modernly equipped with electric lighting plants.

Coal is the common method of heating and recently, fuel-oil stoves and heaters are being introduced as part of the general equipment.

Curwood mentions Cumberland House quite frequently and some of his readers were a trifle confused on the question, "What posts were established by the Mounted Police on their first journey to the West?" They answered, "Cumberland House." This detachment was not opened until about 1891, years after the Force was organized.

What is the regulation sidearms worn
by members of the Force when in uniform?

The correct answer to this question
is: " A Colt's Revolver .45."

Five of the seven pupils who had read
THE RIVER'S END replied, " A Colt's Auto-
matic Pistol .45."

Curwood stated that Keith "in his bed-
room strapped his Service Automatic under
his coat."

The revolver originally carried by
the Force was of the "Adams" pattern which
had an impressive long barrel. These
arrived from England the first week of
July, 1874, They had chambers of the
revolving type. The best description
of this revolver is given by Surgeon
Jukes in his report dated December 16,
1886, on Sergeant Paterson who has sus-
tained a dangerous bullet-wound in the
left thigh close to the groin caused by
the accidental discharge of his pistol,
a self-cocking Deane & Adams .45 calibre,
throwing a heavy projectile, the ball,

a conical one, shattering the thigh-bone, a fracture of this nature being extremely dangerous when fired from a rifled weapon at close range.

In 1884, a new type of revolver was introduced and to quote from the Annual Report of that year, "The new revolvers, Enfields, are very serviceable weapons and I would recommend that the Force be completely equipped therewith."

(1) The next year Commissioner L. W. Herchmer reported that "all the force have now been supplied with Enfield revolvers - all have Winchester carbines."

IN 1891, mention is made of the Smith & Wesson revolver, a smaller type than the Enfield. The Smith & Wesson revolver .38 is still in use in the Force but the Colt's revolver .45, which was in general use by 1905, is recognized as the regulation side arms for the Force.

(1) Annual Report Northwest Mounted Police, 1886-1890, Page 10, Vol.11.

Out of the seven who had read THE RIVER'S END there was only one dissenting voice. He did not consider the book gave a truthful representation. Out of 66 questions attempted he answered 49 correctly. This compares favourably with those who put their trust in Curwood and averaged 23 correct answers to 66 questions attempted.

SILVER CHIEF, DOG OF THE NORTH. By Jack O'Brien. The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1933.

READERS of pure fiction usually read for pleasure and not for information. The interest lies in the story and the author caters to the public taste. Fiction on the Police is no exception and the reader gains from it a general impression of a Mounted Policeman glamourized as the hero who makes a noble sacrifice or doggedly pursues the criminal until he catches him and then, possibly because of his love for a woman, or of mankind generally, is torn with an internal conflict between duty and human passions and the reader's interest is centred on the psychological analysis of a human being.

An example of this can be found in SILVER CHIEF, DOG OF THE NORTH.

Sgt. Thorne sets out on the trail of a half-breed wanted for murder. With the aid of Silver Chief, a wild dog, part wolf, which he has tamed and trained, he catches the outlaw and starts with him

for the post. Wounded by a rifle shot in the thigh fired by Laval, the half-breed, Sgt. Thorne endures untold agony as he makes the trip back. Only for Silver Chief all would have perished in the bleak and frozen North. Sixty miles from the post with half of the dogs dead, the other half exhausted, Laval suffering from dog bites and Thorne unable to move because of his wound, the little party halted. A wolf pack was closing in on them and only for the timely arrival of Inspector McLeod and Thorne's closest friend, Milburn, all would have been over.

Thorne's almost superhuman endurance and Silver Chief's devotion to his master is a touching story and Laval's treachery keeps the reader in suspense.

The whole story is spoiled by the internal conflict at the end. It is an unnecessary anti-climax and reveals the author's ignorance of the Force at a time when even the most severe critic is ready

to lay down the book with the conclusion that the author has produced a wonderful story of animal life and a creditable representation of the Mounted Police in the North Country.

This internal conflict takes place after Thorne has recovered from his wound. The Inspector calls him in and tells him that he, the Inspector, is being moved to the big copper district and that his job is Thorne's if he wants it.

Thorne is delighted but argues that Milburn has more service and should receive the promotion. The Inspector tells him to think it over. Thorne seeks out Milburn and urges him to take the promotion. Both men are now busy with their own thoughts. They have been companions, endured hardships and dangers together and their love is as the love of brothers.

Thorne, although ambitious, could not accept the honour. If he did he could never escape from his conscience. Milburn should have the promotion to Inspector

and he "made up his mind to step aside in favour of Milburn."

This is all very touching and brings out Thorne's moral qualities. His physical endurance and courage had been proved. The author must now prove Thorne to possess extraordinary ethics.

This whole episode can only appear ridiculous to those who know how promotions to a Commissioned rank are made.

Our Number 17 question asks: Which of the following is a non-commissioned rank: (1) Constable (2) Sergeant (3) Inspector.

Only 82 out of 225 knew the answer to this question. To the majority of readers, therefore, O'Brien's anti-climax may appear tolerable even though unnecessary.

It is not the policy of an officer to discuss promotion with his subordinates nor to give them the opportunity of accepting or rejecting the honour but for the sake of illustration let us grant that he does so under certain circumstances.

It is quite true that a constable may refuse the opportunity of being promoted to a non-commissioned rank such as Corporal or Sergeant. Let us concede that he does so although this would be rare in the annals of the Force. Supposing that we do make these concessions, O'Brien is labouring still under a false conception. The promotion with which he concerns himself is from the non-commissioned rank of Sergeant to the Commissioned rank of Inspector and therein lies the difference.

The Commissioner can promote a constable to a non-commissioned officer, usually on the recommendation of a senior officer, but he cannot authorize the promotion of a non-commissioned officer to the rank of a commissioned officer. Only the Privy Council can do this and they act on the recommendation of the Minister of the Department in control of the R. C. M. Police, now the Minister of Justice.

O'Brien's fictitious Inspector Mc-

Leod could have recommended Sgt. Thorne to the Commissioner who, in turn, could have recommended him to the Minister. Thorne himself did not have the authority to decide which one would be made Inspector nor did Inspector McLeod.

It is true that McLeod could have recommended Milburn instead of Thorne but as the Commissioner would be well acquainted with the work done by both men and would be acquainted with all the details of the man-hunt and the trial of Laval it is not likely that he would consider Milburn ahead of Thorne. Moreover, it would be more than probable that an Inspector would be sent up to relieve McLeod and should it be decided that either Thorne or Milburn warranted a promotion the man chosen would return from the Post and would be assigned to duty elsewhere.

In the majority of fiction stories on the police little attention is paid to details which may obscure the plot

but O'Brien's tale could be reproduced on the screen without giving the technical adviser much trouble. Usually, the hero of police fiction is a vague character in a still more vague uniform but O'Brien takes the trouble to describe Thorne's uniform and does so correctly. His readers have noted this fact if we can judge by their answers to the questionnaire. O'Brien has avoided the mistake of many authors of fiction who have the Policeman ploughing through knee-deep snowbanks in long boots and spurs and battling blizzards while still wearing Stetson hat and scarlet serge. He dresses his hero correctly in moccasins, rough woolens and parka. As the title indicates the setting of the story is in the Northland, some miles inland from the western coast of Hudson's Bay, the time, - subsequent to World War 1.

As an introduction O'Brien says, "The world knows the saying, 'The Mounted always get the man.' This is truth - a great truth. It may take years or it

may cost the lives of many brave men,
but always in the end, they bring in
their man."

Is it any wonder that the readers
of fiction have the impression that "Get
your man" is the motto of the Force!

O'Brien truly represents the Police
as travelling by horse, canoe, aeroplane
and dog team and his readers were rather
confused in their answers to the following:

Members of the Force during the Fiscal
Year 1933-34, travelled collectively a dis-
tance of 13,506,632 miles, or on a per cap-
ita basis of 5,402 miles for each member.
The greater of this mileage was by: (1) Rail-
way and Steamboat (2) Outboard motors (3)
Automobiles (4) Aircraft (5) Dog Team (6)
Horse.

The answer to this, as compiled by
the Head Auditor, Audit Section of the
Treasury Branch is found on Page 35 of
the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Quarterly
for January, 1935, and reads as follows:

By Railway and Steamboat	6,278,997
Police owned motors	5,380,580
Privately owned motors	1,317,055
Coast water transport	300,000 (approx.)

Inland Water transport	10,000(approx.)
Marine Section Aircraft	120,000(approx.)
Hired Aeroplanes	50,000(approx.)
Dog Team	50,000(approx.)

The automobile had the highest mileage, the total travelled by Police-owned and privately-owned being collectively 6,697,635. Railway and steamboat came next, followed by coastal water transport and aircraft. More mileage was made by dog team than by outboard motors and that covered by saddle-horses was so small that it was not taken into account.

A good novel should weave things that happen one after the other in point of time and relation in order to make a continuous picture as all the events that occur are intimately akin and should have a singleness of purpose which imprints its meaning firmly on the memory. A novelist, therefore, in constructing his plot must of necessity concentrate the events of a lifetime into a short space of time.

O'Brien must be given credit for making an interesting story out of the man-hunt. In real life a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police could be stationed in the Hudson's Bay District and make innumerable patrols year after year without experiencing the thrill of a man-hunt or, indeed, anything more exciting than being lost in a blizzard. On the other hand, he might on one trip experience a great deal of hardship and during the course of his service in the North bring in a murderer with no attendant difficulties. O'Brien has combined a whole series of events in one patrol, - catching and taming a wild dog, arresting a suspected murderer, starving and freezing on the return trip, fighting off a wolf-pack and finally, being rescued when all seemed lost.

The hardships suffered by Thorne and the experiences of dogs and master are not exaggerated judging from reports submitted by Constable MacGregor and

Corporal McInnes in 1924: Corporal McInnes was investigating the Home Bay murders on the eastern coast of Baffin island, a territory much farther north than the scene of O'Brien's story. By way of preparation Constable MacGregor was despatched to the head of the fiord entering Cumberland Gulf from the north to make a cache of provisions. His description of the fiord resembles that given by O'Brien of the rocky gorge and the method of travel over its surface was not unlike Thorne's tortuous progress. McInnes says, "The axe was lashed to the runner to act as a scratcher, thereby steadying the sled's course, but this did not alleviate matters. Next, several pieces of seal line were joined together and I proceeded to lower the sledge from rock to rock by instalments, taking up another vantage ground whilst Oo-nee-ak-sah-gah held the sled. It was quite dark at this time, and the gale and drifting sand increased in velocity,

the temperature rose rapidly, becoming quite mild, but it was out of the question to think of building an igloo, or shelter, owing to the wind. In fact, on more than one occasion the sledge was turned completely over, and at times the sand was so dense we could not see the dogs and they, poor creatures, having their ears plugged, with the drifting sand could not hear the words of command, and would often lie down being tired of dragging the sledge with steel shoeing across the bare rocks."

Corporal McInnes writes in part,
" -- Here with the combined efforts of men and dogs we were unable to move the sleds, and pieces of wood had to be placed under the runners to facilitate movement." And, again, "We came to another falls of about the same height as the first, but of a much steeper gradient. All the dogs were hitched to one sledge, and by chopping footholds, and levering the sledge, with everybody shoving, (the dogs refused to pull as they had

no foothold, being thereby rendered useless, and as a dog would fall and roll down, he was immediately pounced upon by the remainder of the team; then and there a battle royal would ensue the result of which was a hopeless tangling of traces, as each dog in Eskimo fashion is driven with a single long trace) the sledge was moved gradually, (a foot or so at a time) up the falls. - - several fox tracks were seen, and with the caribou seen to-day appears to be the only game in this vicinity, with the exception of the wolves. "

This is a realistic picture. To make it read like fiction one could add a murderer and a wild dog. The wolves instead of being evident by their tracks only, could appear in the flesh and surround the small party of men and dogs.

SUSANNAH: LITTLE GIRL WITH THE MOUNTIES.

By Muriel Dennison. Dodd, Mead & Company,
New York, 1936.

THIS book is another favourite and is not as exaggerated as some of the fiction produced. The setting is definitely placed in the Regina Police Barracks and the time is 1896 to 1897.

The author's father was David James Goggin, first Superintendent of Education in the Northwest Territories and the author was no stranger to the customs and life of the Force at that period..

The book, as the title indicates, is for juveniles but the author succeeds in familiarizing the reader with details of barrack life and of arousing a pride in the Force, and in its traditions, more deeply than any other fiction writer has done.

In historical accuracy the author has erred but little and gives a true representation of scenes which are now past history but which were important events at the time.

As may be expected in a book of fiction the names are fictitious. L. W. Herchmer, not Walsh, was the Commissioner of the Force in 1897.

The picture which Mrs. Denison paints of the barrack square is quite authentic and although modern buildings have now replaced the old and others have been added since 1897 the site remains the same to-day. The headquarters of the Force in 1897 was at the Regina Barracks and it was here that the Commissioner had his office and his residence..

(1) Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in 1897 and thirty-two members of the Force with twenty-seven horses participated in the procession in London. The training for this event is one of the features upon which Mrs. Denison dwells at considerable length as it proved to be of vital importance to her little heroine.

(1) A Brief Outline of the Activities of the Force 1873-1940. Reprinted from CANADA, King's Printer, Ottawa, 1941.

A complete return of horses purchased during the year 1896 is given in the Annual Report for that year and makes no mention of any having been purchased from the Indians although Mrs. Denison's description of the whole ceremony is quite convincing.

She deals with the shooting of Sergeant Colebrooke by "Almighty Voice" more accurately.

(1) The Sergeant was shot fatally on October 29, 1895. (2) A party of Northwest Mounted Police was sent out immediately with no results but the next spring another party left from Prince Albert and Philip Gardipi, an experienced hunter and one of those who had found the horse which Almighty Voice had taken from the Reserve, was sent with it, one hundred dollars having been promised as a reward should the murderer be captured. It was not until April 26 of the same year that the party was recalled, the snow having disappeared rendering further tracking of

the criminal impossible. Another party was sent in the autumn but were unsuccessful in locating the murderer. (3) On May 28, 1897,

(1) File G.516-4

(2) Annual Report, N.W.M.P. 1896. Page 123.

(3) Annual Report, N.W.M.P. 1897.

news reached Regina that a party under Inspector Allan had located "Almighty Voice." In following the Indian, Inspector Allan had his right arm badly shattered by a bullet and Sergeant Raven was wounded in the thigh. Almighty Voice was not alone and he and his companions had gone into hiding in the bluff. Corporal Hockin led his party to the bluff and attempted to rush it but with disastrous results. Constable Kerr and a civilian were killed and Hockin died later from a wound which he received in the encounter.

The Indians had dug a deep pit in the thickest part of the bluff and were shooting from all sides of it. Superintendent Gagnon arrived on the scene with reinforcements and prevented the Indians from escaping during the night. Further reinforcements came from Regina; a 9-pounder gun, the gun team, a few saddle horses, 24 N. C. O's and men led by Inspector Macdonnell and Asst.-Commissioner McIllree.

The night was dark and cold. Shots

were exchanged and in the morning the guns were wheeled into position. A few shells were fired into the bluff and when no sound was heard in return the party rushed it. Almighty Voice and another Indian were dead, a third was found further down the bluff.

Although for the most part historically correct SUSANNAH: LITTLE GIRL WITH THE MOUNTIES contains a few technical inaccuracies which are reflected in the answers to the questionnaires returned by those who had read the book, as for example, in the questions:

1. Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables must address an Officer by : (1) his surname (2) his rank (3) Sir.
2. Commissioned Officers of the Force have honorary military titles equivalent to their Police ranks, as for example, an Inspector has the equivalent honorary rank of Captain, a Superintendent that of Major. True or False.

To the first question none of the

readers volunteered "his surname" but opinion was equally divided between (2) and (3). This impression was gained from the fact that the author, although in many instances showing a preference for "Sir" gave the officers their military titles of Major, Captain and Lieutenant.

To the second question all but one answered "true" and this answer would have been correct a few years ago.

It is a tribute to the author's clarity of detail that her readers knew that before addressing an officer, non-commissioned officers and constables saluted, leaving their hats on, and while addressing him stood at attention.

In 1897, the time of Muriel Denison's story, it was the custom for both officers and men to wear beards and readers of this story took it for granted that members of the Force still followed that custom. Traditional as it may be the Force is flexible and it adapts itself to the times. It is not now the general custom

to wear either beard or sideburns and members of the Force follow the custom and content themselves with wearing moustaches or appear with none of these hirsute adornments. The Force insists that members be cleanly shaven and hair trimmed neatly. Moustaches, of course, are permissible.

Mrs. Denison emphasizes the strict discipline exercised in the Force and illustrated the horror of the drill sergeant at discovering one unpolished button on the recruit's tunic. Lest she may create a wrong impression of this roaring, infuriated disciplinarian she proceeds to illustrate by an example how tender was the heart beating beneath the rough exterior of the Sergeant when that worthy militarist was off parade.

In 1896, examinations were given on the following subjects:

- Permanent, general and local orders.
- Regulations and orders of the Force.
- Drill, dismounted and mounted.
- Duties on guard.

The Constable's Manual.

Duties in Barracks.

The Ordinances of the North-west Territories

The Indian Act.

The Criminal Code.

General Orders listed all transfers, promotions, engagements, discharges and matters affecting pay, opening and closing of detachments, fines imposed and matters of general interest to the Force. This official gazette is still posted every week and is referred to popularly as "G.O's".

The Constable's Manual, referred to by Curwood as a Service Manual and by Muriel Denison as the Recruit's Manual, is a book containing the rules by which the members are governed in matters of police procedure.

Those who read SUSANNAH: LITTLE GIRL WITH THE MOUNTIES are well aware that members of the Force are obliged to undergo military training and they should have known that the present uniform is not the same to-day as it was in 1896 as the author

makes frequent reference to the pill-boxes and helmets worn as headgear at that time.

No active steps were taken for the organization of the Force until September, 1873, in spite of the fact that it had been authorized by Act of Parliament the previous May. One hundred and fifty men were recruited hastily and left from Collingwood over the so-called Dawson Route from the head of Lake Superior. Late in October they arrived at the Stone Fort or Lower Fort Garry (20 miles down the river from Winnipeg) where they remained for the winter, "much inconvenience and discomfort being caused by the fact of a great portion of their uniform and winter clothing being frozen in on the Dawson route." (1)

(1) Commissioner French in his Annual Report, 1874.

This is sufficient to indicate that this little party of 150 men were dressed in uniform and is not contradictory to the statement previously quoted in which Commissioner French in his report said that while in Ottawa between February and April 1874 he attended to the designing of the uniform.

A series of questions deal with the dress regulations of the Force and although the present day uniform can be seen by the Canadian public at first-hand, either in coloured pictures shown in the magazines or on the members of the Force as they carry out their daily duties, from the answers received it is obvious that the public in general have paid very little attention to details. For such information they have relied on books which they have read, many of which have been very misleading or are too vague in the description of the dress. It is a subtle art of fiction writers on the Force to avoid any detailed description of the uniform. In

THE RIVER'S END there is not the slightest hint of what the uniform was like and from the confused answers to the questionnaires none of the books read provided any information on the subject.

Captain C. E. Denny, author of THE LAW MARCHES WEST published by the Herald Company of Calgary, 1905, was one of the old originals. On page 18 of his book he says that the uniform of the Force worn by the first and original members was scarlet tunic, ordinary cavalry riding breeches with scarlet stripes, afterwards changed to yellow, cavalry boots and spurs.

(1) The uniform of the Canadian Infantry in 1873 was scarlet tunic with blue pantaloons having scarlet stripes; the cavalry full dress was blue tunic, blue trousers with lace stripes, and busby; undress was blue frock, double white stripes on trousers. The Cobourg cavalry differed
(1) Canada Gazette, March 4, 1876.

from this inasmuch as it had scarlet cloth tunic, blue trousers with white stripes, gilt brass helmet and white leather gauntlets.

The Cobourg cavalry uniform was not adopted wholly. As the Force was to be mounted, however, the pattern of dress would follow, naturally, that of a cavalry regiment. It was natural, too, that the cavalry regiments of Canada would be modelled in British style. Canada had become a Dominion, self-governing, but colonial days were not very far in the distance and there were British troops still in Canada. Many of the members of the Canadian militia were ex-British regulars; furthermore, the most of the uniforms were purchased in Britain.

The Dragoon regiments in England wore metal helmets and scarlet tunics while Hussar regiments had busbies and blue tunics. The uniform of the Force followed very closely that of the Dragoons. That Colonel French in designing

the uniform of the Force had in mind the dress of the Dragoons can scarcely be doubted as the original issue was white(1) helmets with gold spike, scarlet tunic, white gauntlets, grey pantaloons of bed-ford cord, jack-boots and spurs.

There were certain improvisations as supplies were difficult to obtain and the conditions in the West necessitated a few changes such as making coats from buffalo hides and fur caps and mittens from seized robes with red flannel lining.

The Force was military in origin as is evident by a copy of a report of a Committee of the Honourable, the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council on April 13, 1870, reading in part as follows:

"On a memorandum dated 12th April, 1870, from the Honourable, the Minister of Justice reporting with reference to the Order-in-Council of the 6th instant

(1) RIDERS OF THE PLAINS by A. L. Haydon, Page 18.

on the subject of the organizing of a Police Force for service in the North-West Territories as follows:

1. As the Force suggested in his memorandum will in the first instance partake more of the nature and character of a military rather than a police Force and as the same will be under the control of the Officer Commanding the Military Expedition he recommends that he be authorized to make requisition on the Militia Department for such supply of clothing and various articles thereof and of Spencer Repeating Carbines ---"

This was in 1870 but the recommendations held good and in the minutes of the North-West Council under the date of March 10, 1873, was the following:

"That in the opinion of the council it is necessary that for the maintenance of peace and order in the Northwest Territories a sufficient force of military and police, the latter under military discipline, and either wholly or in part

mounted, should without delay be stationed in the territories."

When the recommendation for "mounted rifles" was placed before Sir John A. MacDonald he struck out "rifles" and put "police" as he feared a military force would arouse American resentment.

That the Force did purchase supplies from the Militia is quite evident from the account rendered against the Department of Justice, October 17, 1873, by the Department of Militia and Defence. The account is signed for the latter department by Lieutenant-Colonel Wiley, Director of Stores, and is documented in the Dominion Archives as Manitoba, No. 8770.

This account was for "clothing and other stores supplied from the Militia Stores for the service of the North West Police Force, recently enrolled and dispatched to Manitoba."

The account is dated October 17;

the clothing was supplied in September,
1873, and was as follows:

"	200 Cloth Tunics @	5.25	\$1050.00
	200 Serge Tunics @	3.00	600.00
	200 prs. Cavalry		
	Cloth Trousers	5.50	1100.00
	200 Cavalry Forage		
	Caps	.55	110.00
	200 Artillery Great		
	Coats	5.50	1100.00
	200 Kitts complete	5.41	1082.00
	70 Great Coats,		
	part worn	2.00	140.00
	150 White Haversacks	.33	49.50
	150 Great Coat Straps	.30	45.00
	150 Linen Towels	.25	37.50
	20 Tents, circular,		
	linen complete		
	with bags, poles		
	and pins	24.10	482.00
	30 Flanders kettles	2.00	<u>60.00</u>
			\$5856.00
	Add departmental exps.		
	for cases, bales, cartage		
	labor		<u>60.50</u>
			\$5916.50

Store Branch

Ottawa, October 17/73

"

The Spencer Repeating Carbines were
not supplied to the Force as a change was
made between 1870 and 1873, in the Militia,
to Snyder carbines and it was these that
were issued to the Force.

Further proof that the Militia supplied

the uniform is given in an extract from a private letter written by Colonel French to Colonel Bernard, Fort Garry, December 27, 1873:

"Fur caps, mitts and mocassins sent by Militia Department by rail six weeks ago. Have not yet arrived."

This dependence on the militia for articles of clothing, coupled with the fact that Colonel French himself was an Inspector of Artillery in the School of Gunnery, Kingston, Ontario, would tend to model the newly-formed police force after the manner of the militia.

We have seen that although many cavalry units wore blue tunics those of the Force were scarlet. Although patterned after the Dragoons there were other reasons why the scarlet tunic was chosen for the Force.

The Indians had been accustomed to the red tunics of the British soldiers and regarded them as friends. A scarlet tunic, therefore, would make a good

impression in contrast with the blue of the American soldiers whom they regarded with some distrust.

Captain Chambers, the author of THE ROYAL NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE, served in the Rebellion of 1885 and saw the North-West Mounted Police at first-hand. His book was published in 1906, so that his material was gathered at close range to the Force and at a period when they were still the North-West Mounted Police. His book is out of print do-day but what editions have been preserved in libraries serve as a reminder of what was necessary for an author to undergo at that time. There are many pages of advertisements and a substantial list of advance subscribers appended to the pages of his history.

(1) He says that Colonel P. Robertson-Ross was despatched in 1872 to look over the North-West Territories and to make a report. The soldiers at Red River wore dark coats

(1) The Royal North-West Mounted Police.
By Captain Ernest J. Chambers, The
Mortimer Press, Montreal-Uttawa,
1906. P. 12.

and the Indians said to him, "Who are these soldiers at Red River wearing dark clothes? Our old brothers who formerly lived there (meaning H. M. S. 6th Regiment) wore red coats. We know that the soldiers of our great mother wore red coats and are our friends."

(1) Chambers remarks, too, that the scarlet serge was a tunic of dragoon pattern for officers. The original red coat of the rank and file as worn by the Force under Colonel French was of the loose frock or Norfolk jacket pattern with cloth belts, in vogue in the army for some years after the Crimean War. In 1875, the Officers wore a tunic of hussar pattern while the uniform of the rank and file was scarlet frock, cord breeches, long brown boots, white

(1) The Royal North-West Mounted Police.
By Captain Ernest J. Chambers, The
Mortimer Press, Montreal-Ottawa,
1906. P. 150..

helmet. A brown cotton suit served for fatigues. For undress the small round "pillbox" forage cap once universal in the mounted branches of the British service was worn. The scarlet tunic had a white cross-belt.

In 1875, forage caps were taken into general use, helmets being worn only on duty and on parade.

In 1880, the issue of uniform as taken from a schedule of free kit issue to Reg. Number 506, Thomas E. Wilson was:

- A Buffalo robe and blankets
- a waterproof sheet
- a buffalo coat
- a cloth overcoat
- a helmet, fur cap and forage cap
- a serge tunic and a stable jacket
- Breeches, cloth
- Stable trousers, long boots,
- short boots
- a scarlet cloth tunic.

For some years before 1887 a blue cavalry cloak supplied from England was worn. This was discarded for a more serviceable grey one.

About 1901, brown gauntlets and brown helmets took the place of white.

Forage caps had been in use as part of the drill order and Superintendent Cotton in 1887 recommended that they be replaced by large soft felt hats such as worn by the 5th United States Infantry stationed on Tobacco Plain, six miles from the boundary.

Superintendent McIlree, also, recommended the adoption of some pattern of felt hat for field service. "Helmets are too conspicuous and heavy for constant use and the forage caps are no protection whatever from the sun," he writes in the same year.

Superintendent Jarvis, too, urged for a broad-brimmed hat of soft felt.

By 1889, some of the members began to provide themselves with broad-brimmed hats.

It was in this manner that the uniform of the Force underwent a gradual change. Not only was the headgear to undergo a transformation but agitation commenced for a new kind of cloak. The

regulation cloak was cumbersome when wet and did not allow the wearer to move about freely. Superintendent McIlree suggested a waterproof. The first issues of "slickers", or waterproof coats, were in no way similar to the present issue and, indeed, several types have been introduced and discarded since that time.

Superintendent Steele, stationed at Kootenay, British Columbia, recommended to the Commissioner December 1, 1887, that a pea-jacket be issued in view of the growing scarcity of fur coats. He says, in part, " -- such as has been and now is frequently worn by the officers and sergeants but of the same material as that used in the manufacture of the blue cloth coats. In 1884, the men employed in the mountains were permitted to purchase and wear pea-jackets, furnished with the regulation brass button, it having been found that

the buffalo coats were too clumsy for active work either mounted or dismounted."

The scarlet serge has been threatened with extinction from time to time but has always remained even though some other tunic was adopted to replace it in some measure. The brown serge, Norfolk style, has taken its place, very sparingly at first but at the present date, almost exclusively, the scarlet being worn only on full dress parades or for special duty.

Brown breeches were recommended as far back as 1886 and actually did come into use for the motorcycle squad for a short time during the commissionership of the late General MacBrien.

When Commissioner Perry assumed control of the Force in 1900, brown fur caps for winter replaced the black bearskin, and long brown boots and brown Sam Browne equipment were worn to give a more uniform appearance.

For summer wear helmets were still in use by Officers as late as

1909. This was full dress order.

The rank and file wore felt hats for drill and service order, the forage cap on other occasions.

The review order of dress to-day for ceremonial and other special duties is felt hat, scarlet tunic, blue breeches with the broad yellow stripe down each side, high brown riding boots with straight-shanked cavalry spurs, gloves of brown leather, Sam Browne equipment, revolver and lanyard.

The service order worn on general duty and drill is the same as for Review except that the scarlet tunic is replaced by brown jacket, khaki shirt, collar, collar pin and blue tie.

The "undress" order, or dress for when on office duty or, as an alternative to service order, when on general duty, is felt hat, brown jacket, khaki shirt, collar, collar pin and blue tie, blue

trousers, ankle boots, brown leather gloves. In the summer the blue trousers are replaced by brown if desired.

"Walking-out" order is the same as for review order or the blue breeches can be substituted by blue dress trousers with the yellow stripe down each side, and black Wellington boots with box spurs can be substituted for the long boots and straight-shanked spurs.

Mrs. Denison claims sixteen bugle calls for the Force in 1897. A book entitled " Bugle Sounds for the Northwest Mounted Police" was published in 1882 and contains closer to thirty calls than to sixteen. It is quite possible, however, that the calls had been reduced to sixteen by 1897, as by 1910 only two of these calls were in use in the Force, the Regimental Call and the Retreat.(1)

As indicated by the title of the book these were bugle sounds and with
(1) File S.1405-17.

the exception of the Regimental Call were not adaptable to the trumpet which took the place of the bugle. The approved calls now in use in the Force number thirteen and are designated as follows:

Reveille

General Parade

Quarter-hour call

Orderly Room

Stables

Feed

Turnout

Mess Call

Fire Alarm

Retreat

First Post

Last Post

Lights out.

CORPORAL COREY OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED.
By Jack O'Brien. The John C. Winston
Company, Philadelphia, Penn., 1936.

THIS book is authentic according to O'Brien's readers and gives a picture of the policeman's private life as well as of the strict discipline observed by the Force.

It is not difficult for the average reader to arrive at this conclusion for O'Brien mixes fact with fiction in such a manner that even those who are well-acquainted with the Force could be deceived. The author has made a few technical and historical blunders but, on the whole, he has been correct and his readers should have answered correctly the questions given below. It will be interesting to ascertain exactly how many based their answers on the knowledge they derived from CORPORAL COREY.

These statistics are valuable only in proportion to the certainty that the answers were based on the said book and for this reason must be divided into three categories:-

1. Those which were based definitely on CORPORAL COREY and no other book.
2. Those which were based not only on CORPORAL COREY but on other books as well.
3. Those which could have been based on CORPORAL COREY as the book was available in the Public Library. There is no proof that the answers were so based as the pupils failed to state what books they had read but one copy of CORPORAL COREY in the Ottawa Library had a circulation of twelve in ten months and under this category only the answers given by Ottawa pupils are shown.

Q. 1. The guiding principle of Canada's national Police Force is contained in its motto. What is this motto? (1) Get your man. (2) Be prepared. (3) Salus populi suprema est lex (4) Maintiens le droit.

Q. 2. The Crest of the Force, on badges and buttons worn by all ranks, is the head of (1) an Indian (2) a horse (3) a beaver (4) a buffalo.

Q. 3. The regulation sidearms worn by members of the Force when in uniform is:

(1) Colts revolver .22 (2) Colt's revolver .38 (3) Colt's revolver .45 (4) Colt's Automatic Pistol .45 (5) Browning's Pistol 9m. m. (6) Smith and Wesson Pocket Pistol (Automatic) .38 (7) Smith and Wesson's Revolver .38.

Q. 4. The regulation rifle used by the Force is: (1) Enfield .303 (2) Winchester .30-30 Carbine (3) Ross Rifle .303 (4) Marlin .30-30 Carbine (5) Cooney .22 (6) Snyder Carbine.

Q. 5. Non-commissioned officers and constables must address an officer by: (1) his surname (2) his rank (3) sir.

Q. 6. While doing so they must stand: (1) at ease (2) at attention (3) easy.

Q. 7. Before addressing an officer they must (1) salute (2) take off their hats.

Q. 8. The book containing the rules by which the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are governed in matters of police procedure is called: (1) The Criminal Code (2) R. C. M. P. Rules and Regulations (3) the Statutes of Canada (4) The Constable's Manual.

Q. 9. Candidates for engagement in the Force must be: (1) tall (2) white (3) English-speaking (4) British subjects.

Q. 10. All members of the Force are good horsemen. True or False.

Q. 11. The minimum height for candidates for engagement in the Force is five feet eight inches. True or False.

Q. 12. Members of the Force are obliged to undergo military training. True or False.

Q. 13. The regulation uniform of the Force to-day is scarlet serge tunic, dark-blue riding breeches with the broad yellow stripe down the side, high brown riding boots with straight-shanked cavalry spurs attached. True or False.

Q. 14. The fatigue order of dress is brown duck slacks and brown duck tunic. True or False.

Q. 15. Every Constable on engagement in the Force is posted to the depot division at Regina, Saskatchewan, for instruction and training in his duties. True or False.

Q. 16. Detachments are established in both the Eastern and Western Arctic regions. What is your conception of a policeman's life in these regions as to: (1) his dwelling (2) his food (3) his amusements (4) his work.

Q. 17. A member of the Force wears what is known as a Sam Browne Equipment. On which side is the holster and is it "open" or "closed" type?

Those sets of answers which we have designated as being in the first category are five in number. On the first question only one was correct so prevalent is the notion that "Get your man" is the motto of the Force.

Nome obtained the correct answer to the second question although O'Brien described the crest in detail as a maple wreath surmounted by a crown and the words, "Royal Canadian Mounted Police" below; within the wreath an oval bearing the words "Maintiens le droit" encircling a buffalo head.

Only two remarked the Colt's .45

as the regulation revolver while three named the .38 calibre. Both calibres are used in the Force but the .45 is recognized as the regulation revolver.

Only one gave the Enfield .303 as the regulation rifle although O'Brien was definite on this point.

All answered the next three questions correctly due to a scene described by O'Brien in which Corporal Grey was called before an officer. In this scene the Corporal salutes, stands at attention and addresses his superior officer as "sir".

Opinion was divided between the Criminal Code and the Constable's Manual as the book most important in a recruit's life. O'Brien emphasizes the Constable's Manual.

Three agreed that candidates for engagement must be British subjects, two that they must be tall despite the fact that all knew the minimum height was five feet eight inches.

Two considered that all members of

the Force were not good horsemen nor that they were obliged to undergo military training. This is a surprising answer from those who had read CORPORAL COREY as O'Brien devotes fifty pages to an exposition of a recruit's training.

All knew the uniform of the Force although two believed that the description of the fatigue order of dress as given in the question was false.

Two did not believe that every constable upon engagement was posted to "Depot" Division, Regina, for training.

Three answered surprisingly well the essay question on a policeman's life in the Arctic, basing their knowledge entirely on O'Brien's description. Two made no attempt to describe it.

Only one said that the holster was worn on the left side. O'Brien goes to the trouble to tell why the holster is worn on the right side.

In his annual report dated December 1, 1887, Superintendent Steele says, "The manner of wearing the pistol on the

left has always been found inconvenient when mounted, as a man has to bring his arm across the body to seize and draw it. I would suggest that it be worn on the right side with the butt to the rear. At present, when the man attempts to draw while holding the reins he experiences great difficulty in reaching the pistol, unless it is hung farther forward where it would perhaps be dangerous, as the muzzle would hang over the thigh just below the groin, in which position, a premature discharge would, most likely, result in making the man a cripple for life. The men of the western plains of the United States, who are acknowledged to be the most expert pistol shots in the world, invariably wear it on the right side, with the butt to the rear, and the same custom is observed in the American army."

There are three in the second category: namely, those who had read other books in addition to CORPORAL COREY OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED. Their per-

centage of correct answers is slightly over fifty, each of the three obtaining nine out of seventeen questions. Evidently, the other fiction they had read had been more detrimental to the truth than otherwise.

Twenty-four pupils from Ottawa who did not state what books they had read but who had access to the library books, which include CORPORAL COREY answered as follows:

- Q. 1. Seventeen knew the motto.
- Q. 2. Fifteen knew the crest.
- Q. 3. Fifteen knew the regulation sidearms.
- Q.4. Eleven knew the regulation rifle.
- Q.5, 6 and 7. Fourteen knew how to address an officer.
- Q. 8. The answers to this question were varied. Seven replied, "The Criminal Code"; seven "R.C.M.P. Rules and Regulations," three "The Statutes of Canada" and seven, "The Constable's Manual."
- Q. 9. Twelve considered an annual course in musketry required while the others favoured riding.
- Q. 10, 11 and 12. Seventeen knew that one had

to be a British subject in order to be eligible for the Force.. The others considered that one must be tall and considered false the statement that the minimum Height for candidates was five feet eight inches. Sixteen believed that members were obliged to undergo military training. It is obvious that at least eight had not read CORPORAL COREY

Q. 13 and 14. Twenty-one knew the uniform of the Force but eight did not agree that the fatigue order of dress was brown duck slacks and brown duck tunic.

Q. 15. Sixteen believed that every constable on engagement is posted to "Depot" Division, Regina, Saskatchewan, for training and instruction in his duties. .

Q. 16. All made a fair attempt at the essay question on police life in the Arctic.

Q. 17. Only eight knew the correct position of the holster and that it was of the closed type.

The result of this test proves that those who read CORPORAL COREY obtained 68

per cent correct answers, those who had read CORPORAL COREY together with other fiction, obtained 50 per cent while those who had access to the book but who did not say that they had read it made 58 per cent. There seems to be no doubt that the answers were based on the fiction read and in this instance CORPORAL COREY OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED contained very few technical inaccuracies, thus accounting for the large percentage of correct answers by his readers.

We have noted that none of O'Brien's readers knew the crest of the Force. A very small percentage of the total number who submitted answers on this question did know. Out of the total, fifteen said, "An Indian head"; thirty-seven replied, "A Horse head"; eighty-five believed it "A Beaver head"; sixty replied correctly, "A Buffalo head."

Thirteen of those who thought the crest was a Beaver's head had read the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Quarterly, each issue of which carries the crest and motto

on the cover. This shows a lack of observation, furthermore, the general public in Canada have ample opportunity to see these things for themselves.

Although no evidence exists as to why the head of the buffalo was adopted as the crest of the Force, Mr. Hann, in the article referred to previously, gives a few reasons why it may have been chosen.

These animals were very numerous on the prairies in 1874 and in addition to augmenting the rations of the Force their hides provided overcoats for the members.

The history of the fur coat supplied to the Force dates back to 1873. Not only was the fur coat made of buffalo skin but robes; too, and Assistant Commissioner MacLeod's report of October 29, 1874, stated that, "I am also having caps and mitts made for the men out of the seized robes."

In 1886, the impossibility of furnishing the men, who had joined the Force that year, with buffalo overcoats

afforded the Commissioner the greatest uneasiness as no efficient substitute had been found. The scarcity of buffalo in this year provides a striking contrast to the "immense quantities estimated at seventy or eighty thousand" seen by Commissioner French in the Milk River District in 1874 as related in his diary.

In 1887, a substitute called "Montana Calf" was tried out. These were natural black skins dyed, long and split-tailed to provide protection for the men's legs when riding or driving. The dye appeared to rot them and they proved worthless.

In 1889, Commissioner Herchmer reported that the fur coats (Russian lamb) were giving satisfaction. In that year buffalo coats were no longer procurable.

Assistant Commissioner T. S. Belcher, in a letter dated October 29, 1911, addressed to the Honourable H. Guthrie, K. C., M. P., Minister of Justice, Ottawa,

(1) recalls that many years ago the Police fur coats were made from buffalo skins but due to the scarcity of these skins it was found impossible to continue their issue and that efforts had to be made to find a substitute. It was following this period that goat skins were used, a very serviceable and cheap fur. He understood that these goatskins were imported from China as they were called in the trade "Chinese Grey Goats."

In spite of the scarcity of buffalo skins, coats made from this material were in use in Regina in 1931, some which had been obtained twelve years before.

In a pamphlet entitled CANADA AND THE BUFFALO the Department of Mines and Resources explains what steps were taken for the preservation of these "monarchs of the plains." According to this pamphlet by 1900 not a single buffalo roamed the plains of Canada in a wild state. In the vicinity of Great Slave Lake was an

(1) File S.232-2, 1931.

isolated herd of a sub-species, the wood buffalo; in captivity were one or two small groups of plains buffalo. The Canadian Government, foreseeing the extinction of these animals if measures were not taken to preserve them, acted quickly.

In 1874, an Indian captured four young calves on the Milk River near the International Boundary. They were taken to the Flathead Reservation in Montana and by 1884 the original four had increased to thirteen of which ten were purchased by two ranchers, Messrs. Allard and Pablo. In 1893, they increased this herd by the purchase of twenty-six pure bred animals, mainly of wild Texas stock, from the "Buffalo" Jones herd at Omaha.

A few of the twenty-six were descendants of stock originally collected in the 1870's in Manitoba. It was from this herd that the Canadian government in 1906 purchased 716 head and placed them on a reserve. This reserve was formed at Elk Island National Park, situated a short

distance east of Edmonton. Subsequently, all the animals at Elk Island, with the exception of 48, were transferred to the newly established Buffalo National Park at Wainright.

Fenced and protected in their new home the buffalo increased at a rapid rate and the provision of winter feed became a problem.

It was necessary by 1920 to take active steps to control the situation and a systematic killing-off of surplus and undesirable animals commenced. Large shipments, totalling 6,673, were sent north to Wood Buffalo Park in the Northwest Territories and turned loose in the unfenced area. In the past thirty years 20,000 buffalo have been slaughtered at Buffalo Park. A small percentage of skins resulting from the slaughter of these animals has been given to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. These skins are tanned and made up into winter coats averaging one skin to a coat.

Some of these coats are 38" in length,

others 50" the longer ones being worn by outside guards in severe weather.

The flesh of the slaughtered buffalo is not wasted but sold to packing companies from where they are distributed to the various retailers and eventually reach the consumer in the form of juicy steaks.

The fourth question on the regulation rifle used by the Force was known to few, and not without reason, for the type of rifle used, even as the revolver, has varied. If the answers were derived from information found in fiction they would depend entirely on the period of which the author was writing.

If he were describing the period in which the Force was first organized (1) he would mention the Snyder carbine, the only rifle issued at that time. If his story centred on that period between 1880 and 1905, he would speak of the Winchester rifle, repeater, containing eight cartridges

(1) Commissioners Report. Annual Report, 1880. Page 10 under "Arms"

in the magazine and barrel, of which one hundred, improved type, were purchased in 1880 and were taken into general use by 1883. Should his story take him into the year 1905 he would introduce the reader to the Ross Rifle used for drill purposes, and the Lee-Metford carbines with which the members of "K" and "D" Divisions were armed. From 1908 onwards he would speak of the Lee-Enfield used by the Militia and loaned by them to the Police.

On page 57 of O'Brien's book he stated, through one of his characters, that the headquarters of the Force was moved east fifteen years ago. As this move occurred in 1920 the time of the story would be 1935. This is corroborated by the fact that the story opens on the scene of the Musical Ride in Madison Square Garden. This was the first time in the history of the Force that a mounted detachment (1) was sent to participate in the National (1) Annual Report, 1935.

Horse Show in Madison Square Garden, New York. The party was composed of Superintendent J. M. Tupper and thirty-three other ranks leaving Ottawa on November 4, 1934, and returning on November 16, 1934. One of the largest American (1) magazine companies sent an artist from New York for the purpose of correctly portraying the uniform and the general appearance of a member of the Force.

O'Brien did not exaggerate in his description of the Ride as anyone who has seen this performance will agree. The horses are trained so well in this particular performance that they wind through the various patterns with little or no assistance from the riders.

A number of those who took part in the Musical Ride in New York had returned from service in the Eastern Arctic but recently, and this fact makes O'Brien's tale more plausible. In the story Jim

(1) Royal Canadian Mounted Police quarterly, January, 1935. Page 15.

Bradley, after witnessing the Ride, came to Regina to join the Force. This, too, is plausible, as one of the results of the performance, according to Superintendent Kemp, Adjutant of the Force in 1955, was the arrival at Headquarters of a great number of applications, for engagement in the R. C. M. Police, from young men residing in and around New York. These had to be informed politely that only British subjects resident in Canada could be considered for enlistment.

From the Madison Square Garden the scene shifts to the North where we find "Corporal Corey", who had commanded the Musical Ride, travelling by dog team over the frozen trails. Next, we find him in Regina and there, too, is Jim Bradley undergoing his recruit's training.

Bradley's resentment towards his instructors is portrayed by O'Brien in such a manner that one would be ready to believe that the author had had actual experience as a recruit. The feeling is

not an unusual one as the majority of recruits will testify, and, particularly, those who are naturally sensitive. For the most part, drill instructors are typical "Sergeant Burkes", aggressive and unimaginative, but it is this quality in them which accomplishes the desired result in the recruit who, because of the discipline and subordination demanded by the Force, cannot challenge them. He is compelled, therefore, to a firm determination to show that he can "take it" or otherwise be stamped as a "quitter." Those who can "take it" have the satisfaction afterwards of feeling that they have really mastered themselves and will admit that discipline is necessary if the organization is to be a success.

(1) In the year 1935, the syllabus of training for recruits, based on a six months' course was as follows:

(1) Annual Report, year ending March 31, 1935. Page 8.

SUBJECT	PARADES	HOURS
Equitation	85	170
Foot and arms drill	88	88
Musketry	30	30
Lectures	164	164
Typewriting	33	33
Physical Training and Juijitsu	63	63
Practical mechanical transport	11	11
Boxing	10	10
Ballistic and gas demonstration	10	10
Finger Print (practical)	4	4

Lectures were given on rules and regulations, history of the force, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, First Aid, Constable's Manual and physical training, Federal Statutes, Provincial Statutes, the Criminal Code, court duty, including attendance at court and mock trials.

To a man with as much imagination as had O'Brien, life in barracks was becoming tedious and he introduced a fictitious miners' strike into the story. He had a basis of truth for his fiction as during the year 1935 there was considerable unrest in several industrial centres, distributed over a wide area, ranging from dissatisfaction of the unemployed in relief camps to the strike of metal miners, the most import-

ant of these latter being in Pictou county, Stellarton, N. S., Glace Bay, N. S., and Noranda, Quebec. In the strike at Stellarton, N. S., two policemen were injured.

O'Brien goes into detail and gives full vent to his admiration of the Police in his narration of the strike which took place, supposedly, near Fort Smith, Northwest Territories.

The immaculately-dressed men of the Mounted Police proved that the "musical comedy cops", as they were called contemptuously by the miners, could be formidable antagonists and with hats gone, tunics torn and blood-spattered, they flayed the miners with fists and riding crops. It was during this scene that the author's reaction to the fifty pages of monotonous routine to which he had devoted himself became evident and he took this opportunity to glamourize the hero of his story, Corporal Corey.

In his chapter on "Riot Formation" O'Brien describes the method in which the

V-shaped lines were formed. One would be led to believe that this was the acknowledged riot formation, however, tactics vary to meet the situation as the author would have realized had he been present at the strike in Regina on July 1, 1935, when approximately 2000 relief camp strikers assembled in protest against (1) camp conditions and conditions generally. Three hundred of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, assisted by a number of City Police, were sent out to disperse the mob and to arrest the leaders. Although outnumbered six to one, the police, with the aid of batons and gas grenades, were successful in arresting thirty-three of the chief offenders and scattering the remainder. It was only when an attempt was made by the strikers to release the thirty-three prisoners that revolver shots were fired and this was done by an N. C. O. who fired six shots over the heads of the assailants.

Quite a number of the police suffered

(1) File G. 504-43, Vol. 1.

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injuries caused by clubs and rocks hurled by the mob who would not have hesitated to take lives when the battle was at its peak. The police are to be commended for their forbearance and not a little of the credit goes to the Officer Commanding at Regina during this strike, the present Commissioner S. T. Wood.

It is a standing order in the police that the use of firearms is only justified when the mob is armed with firearms and threaten to use them; when the police are in grave danger; or to prevent the burning of a building or an attack on a police station.

These orders should dissipate the all-too prevalent false conception held by the public, particularly school boys, would-be gangsters, and fiction writers like O'Brien, that the police are not allowed to draw a gun upon a criminal until the criminal has drawn first. In many cases, this would be too late for the policeman. A well-trained policeman has been taught that a revolver is a dangerous

weapon and that he must show discretion in its use. If his action in drawing a firearm on a criminal is not justified he knows he can be charged with murder, or manslaughter, in the same manner as could any civilian.

O'Brien falls into a technical error on Page 124 of his book when he has a constable salute the corporal. This is all the more surprising after his chapter on the training of a recruit.

THE VALLEY OF SILENT MEN.

By James Oliver Curwood. The Copp Clark Company, Ltd., Toronto, 1923.

THE VALLEY OF SILENT MEN depicts a member of the Mounted Police on his supposed death-bed. He confesses to a murder for which another man has been arrested. The latter is freed and Kent, the Mounted Policeman, recovers. He is arrested following his recovery and closely confined to a cell which he himself helped to erect. By the aid of an old friend and a girl who has grown to love him he makes his escape and flees, with the girl, to the Valley of Silent Men, miles north of Athabasca Landing in the Mackenzie district close to the Yukon border. Perfectly safe, as he thinks, from the long arm of the law he learns that his old comrade in the Force, O'Connor, had preceded him to the Valley of Silent Men by some weeks and had solved the mystery of the murder of which Kent accused himself. The murderer was not Kent but a brother of the man who had

been arrested and whom Kent's confession had freed. The murderer, after telling his story, became ill and died but Kent was now exonerated and in no danger of arrest.

On Page 14 of THE VALLEY OF SILENT MEN , Curwood states that it was Inspector Kedsty who commanded "N" Division, the biggest and wildest Division in the Northland, and on Page 15 he says that "N" Division covered an area of six hundred and twenty thousand square miles of wildest North America, extending more than two thousand miles north of the 70th parallel of latitude, with its farthest limit three and one-half degrees within the Arctic Circle.

For the benefit of the public who are in no position to dispute, or confirm, Curwood's remarks be it remarked that Curwood did know enough about the Force to know that it is and has been since its inception divided into Divisions. The earliest Annual Reports confirm this

and in recounting the overland trip of the original troops they tell of the Force being recruited to a strength of 300 men who left by train on June 6, 1874, from Toronto, via Sarnia, Detroit, Chicago, St. Paul's, Fargo, 1300 miles from Toronto. From there they travelled in carts drawn by horses. This party consisted of "D", "E" and "F" Divisions and they arrived in Dufferin, June 19, 1874. At Dufferin, the Commissioner met them with "A", "B" and "C" Divisions. At this time the word "Division" seemed to be interchangeable with "Troop" as both terms are used. Once established in the West these Divisions were posted in the following manner:

"A" Division at Fort, Saskatchewan.

"B" Division at Fort Walsh.

"C" Division at Fort Macleod.

"D" Division at Shoal Lake and at Prince Albert.

"E" at Battleford and Carleton.

"F" at Fort Walsh.

By 1885, further shifting had been done.

A "Depot" Division had been established at Regina, "A" Division was at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, "C" Division at Fort Macleod, Alberta, "D" at Battleford, Saskatchewan, "E" at Calgary, "F" at Prince Albert, "G" at Edmonton, "H" at Fort Macleod, and "K" at Battleford.

In 1908, an Inspector, with a Corporal and three Constables, left Fort Saskatchewan (near Edmonton) on a morning in early June, headed northward to Fort Resolution on Great Slave Lake, crossed the vast unfriendly wilderness to Hudson's Bay, employed Eskimo dogs to Churchill, and eventually reached Lake Winnipeg in the following spring, having travelled a distance of 3,347 miles. (1).

This patrol set out from Fort Saskatchewan, which was the headquarters of "G" Division, nevertheless Curwood was

(1) A Brief Outline of the
Activities of the Force
1873-1940. Page 13.

correct in naming "N" Division the biggest and wildest division in the Northland, the headquarters of which was Athabasca Landing and included posts at Lesser Slave Lake, Peace River Crossing, Sturgeon Lake, Vermilion, Chipewyan and Smith's Landing. In 1916, about the time of Curwood's story, "N" Division was pushed still farther north with headquarters at Peace River and including posts at Forts Chipewyan, Fitzgerald, Macpherson, Norman, Resolution, Simpson, Vermilion and Herschel Island.

Patrols were made from this Division into the country designated by Curwood as north of the 70th parallel of latitude. One patrol in particular which received wide-spread publicity emanated from this Division.

(1) At 11.30 A. M. on July 23, 1915, Inspector C. D. La Nauze left Norman by York boat for Great Bear Lake in search of the missing priests, Reverend Fathers Rouvier and Le Roux. The party consisted

(1) Annual Report 1916 - Page 190.

of Constables Withers and Wight; Eskimo Ilavinik, his wife Mamayuk, and his daughter Nagosak; a guide, Arden, and the Inspector. The Reverend Father Frapsance accompanied the patrol as a guest. The boat was heavily loaded with personal baggage, some freight and two canoes. The dogs followed along the shore. Three days later the party arrived at the foot of the rapids below Mount Charles. They unloaded the boat and placed some of the freight in the canoes. It took several trips to bring all of the freight to the head of the rapids. On the 28th, after a hard struggle, they pulled the York boat through the rapids.

It took four days to make one mile. The channel was twisted all over the river, the edges were too shallow for the boat and the party was obliged to cross and recross, poling along the edges of the swift channel. On August 4, they reached the entrance of the river, rowed four miles across the lake in a rain storm

and pitched camp in Sir John Franklin's Little Lake opposite the site of old Fort Franklin. The York boat could not hold all the freight together with the dogs, sleighs and passengers so that two white trappers were engaged to take the freight in their small home-made schooner "White Duck" to Dease river. About two miles down the coast from Little Lake was an Indian settlement and Inspector La Nauze took statements from these Indians concerning the missing priests.

On August 12, the party started on their long voyage across Great Bear lake and anchored at a harbour near Fox Point and on the 18th arrived at another harbour in Russel Bay. The next day they started out at 3 A. M. and reached Deer Pass bay. After eight days during which they were held up by a strong northeast wind they rowed 10 miles round the extremity of the Gros Cap and found a tiny harbour. From

there they made a crossing to Cape McDonnell, a bare exposed point ten miles from the timber line. It was not until the 8th of September that they arrived at their destination on the Dease river. The base was established at Dease Bay from where Inspector La Nauze conducted his investigation.

Father Rouvier had established a mission on the shores of the lake which bears his name. The lake is four miles long and about the same width. The priests' cabin had been built in a small clump of dry spruce at the extreme end of the lake to the northeast. When Inspector La Nauze arrived there, he found everything in ruins and not a sign nor a clue to show the whereabouts of the missing priests. The party returned to their base and camped there for the winter living on a straight meat and tea diet. The Eskimo supplied the party with deer that he had killed. The moose meat which

they had so carefully cached was eaten by wolverines.

The next spring the party, composed of Inspector La Nauze, Sgt. Wight and the Eskimo Ilavinik left Great Bear Lake and arrived at the mouth of the Coppermine river on April 30, and on May 2, met Corporal Bruce 35 miles east of the Coppermine river mouth. The party joined together and Corporal Bruce guided them to an Eskimo village off Cape Lambert in the Dolphin and Union Straits where the mystery of the missing priests was revealed. Corporal Bruce had been sent from Herschel Island with a Canadian Arctic expedition headed by Mr. C. K. Chipmen whose ship was in Coronation Gulf and who was mapping out the coast line. It was intended that Corporal Bruce should connect with Inspector La Nauze. He had been handicapped, however, by not seeing nor hearing anything of Inspector La Nauze's party nor of the missing priests. He had purchased quietly

all church articles found in the possession of the Eskimos whom he had met but did not arouse their suspicions by any mention of the missing priests.

In his investigations among the Bear Lake Indians, Inspector La Nauze had learned that two brothers named "Home" and "Hebo" were to accompany the priests on their projected voyage to the coast. Corporal Bruce knew of these men, as from one named Kormik he had purchased some church articles, and although the names were slightly different, La Nauze was convinced that they were the same men of whom the Indians had told him. Hupo, the other man, had been in possession of white men's effects. One Eskimo, called by the Indians "Illooga" had been wearing a priest's cassock. This man Corporal Bruce identified as "Uluksuk". The party prepared for a trip across Coronation Gulf to Victoria Land, 70th parallel of latitude.

This trip was made as a result of the investigation conducted in the Eskimo villages. Ilavanik acted as interpreter and was extremely valuable in obtaining information from the Eskimos. From them he learned that the two priests had accompanied a party of Eskimos to the coast about November, 1913. In the party were Kormik, Hupo, Uluksuk and four others. They had stopped a few days at the mouth of the Coppermine and then had started back alone. Two nights later two of the Eskimos, Sinnisiak and Uluksuk turned back to follow them. A few nights later they returned carrying the priests' rifles. They made no secret of having murdered the priests. Father Le Roux had been stabbed in the back by Sinnisiak and Uluksuk completed the work. Father Rouvier had made a dash for the sled to get his rifle. Sinnisiak raised his rifle and fired. The priest fell dead beside the sled. The murderers fled, Sinnisiak to Victoria Land and Uluksuk east of the Coppermine.

On Victoria Land was a village of skin tents and forty Eskimos, in a state of high excitement, were at the coast to meet the policemen. The guide led them to a canvas tent and here they found Sinnisiak engaged in making a bow. He was stunned with fear and expected to be stabbed at once. He told the policeman his name whereupon Corporal Bruce formally arrested him. Hidden under the deerskins at his back was a loaded .22 automatic rifle and two large knives.

Amid a large crowd of gaping Eskimos, Sinnisiak was led from the camp. At this camp, La Nauze procured the .44 rifle belonging to Father Rouvier.

When questioned, the Eskimo made a full confession of his guilt. Leaving Corporal Bruce in charge of the prisoner, Inspector La Nauze and Constable Wight set out to find the second murderer. An Eskimo boy named "Patsy", who knew Uluksuk, accompanied them. They learned that the murderer was at present on an

island in the gulf and hither they made their way.

The Eskimos on this island saw the white men afar off and were waiting for them, their hands up. Uluksuk was arrested by Constable Wight without resistance. He had no weapons except a few bows and arrows. Both prisoners were taken to Herschel Island.

During the trial it was revealed that five Eskimos went to the house of the priests after the murder and pillaged it. Their description of the corpses is revolting, the Eskimos having mutilated the bodies. The clothing, rifles and ammunition belonging to the priests were traded several times among the Eskimos and finally came into the possession of Kormik and Uluksuk, the men whom Corporal Bruce had met.

Corporal Bruce obtained possession of a number of articles, belonging to the

two priests, from these two men. Among these articles was a crucifix, and a cassock marked "R. Pere Rouviere" on the inside of the collar in indelible pencil.

The list is given here:

- 1. breviary.
- 1 prayer book (Latin)
- 1 crucifix
- 2 tassels
- 1 plain linen surplice
- 2 linen mass aprons
- 1 linen communion cloth
- 1 linen altar cloth (cut and blood-stained)
- 1 mass server (carmine and gold)
- 1 altar cloth (carmine and gold)
- 1 mass vestment (carmine and gold)
- 1 stole (carmine and gold)

Although this case took the Royal Canadian Mounted Police into the 70th parallel of latitude, since that time they penetrated farther into this vast wasteland and have established posts within a radius of approximately six hundred miles from the North Pole.

Although historically correct, Curwood is technically inaccurate inasmuch as he refers on Page 18 of the VALLEY OF SILENT MEN to the rules of the Criminal Code which

compelled Kedsty to instruct Staff-Sergeant O'Connor to detail an officer to guard the door. Kent was a prisoner after his confession and it was the Inspector's duty to see that he was properly guarded. The Inspector did not receive his authority, however, from the Criminal Code but from Rules and Regulations wherein detailed instructions are set forth for the guidance of policemen responsible for the care of prisoners.

Curwood, in other of his books, has made the same mistake. Apparently he did not know that the Criminal Code was a code of laws governing indictable offences. These are the criminal laws of the country and do not go into details of police procedure. They are laws under which a criminal may be charged and convicted for having violated them.

GOD'S COUNTRY AND THE WOMAN.

By James Oliver Curwood. Doubleday, Page and Company, Garden City, N. Y., 1926.

THIS novel is "too romantic to be real" according to one individual whose knowledge of the Force was limited judging by the number of correct answers to the questions.

This is easily understood as GOD'S COUNTRY AND THE WOMAN gives no information on the Force. Philip Weyman is the hero and Curwood at no time says that he is a member of the Force. He is represented as an agent of the Canadian Government sent to the Arctic to take a census of the Eskimos. Weyman carried a revolver in a closed holster as do the Royal Canadian Mounted Police but the revolver was an automatic. The .45 Colt's revolver carried by the Police is a six-cylinder, is not automatic, and has to be cocked before each shot.

Page 339 of GOD'S COUNTRY AND THE WOMAN contains the statement that Weyman's

automatic was level with his waistline.

"From that position he had trained himself to fire with the deadly precision that is a part of the training of the men of the Royal Northwest Mounted."

The automatic carried by Weyman was a Savage. As has been explained previously, the Savage was never the Service revolver of the Force; moreover, the Colt's Pistol exercise set out in Appendix 11, Page 198, of Rules and Regulations, Royal Northwest Mounted Police, 1909, is as follows:

"Raise the revolver until the breech is in line with the right eye.-----."

THE HOMESTEADERS.

By Robert Stead. The Musson Book Company, Ltd., Toronto, 1916.

On Page 170 of this book the following conversation is quoted:

The Policeman said to the gunman from Montana, "I'll arrest you."

"You? I could eat you in three bites. I can lick you with one hand."

"How many like me do you think you could lick?" asked the policeman, with imperturbable composure.

"About six."

"All right", said Sergeant Grey, "Then my chief would send seven."

Again, "I could eat that kid in three bites."

"Yes," said the bartender, "but you couldn't digest the whole British Empire."

There is not a great deal about the Mounted Police in this story but that little does not glamourize. Sergeant Grey does nothing spectacular but shows great courage and a devotion to his duty at all

times.

The Montana gunman who only followed the practice of his country in carrying a revolver realized in a very short time that on the Canadian prairies possessing, or carrying, any offensive weapon for any purpose, dangerous to the public peace, was and is an indictable offence, punishable by five years' imprisonment,

Robert Stead placed in the mouth of the bartender a very concise and logical statement. It is one explanation for the Royal Northwest Mounted Police being respected and feared in the West.

Superintendent Cotton, in his report of 1891 to the Commissioner, says:
 "Historic sentiment made the red coat to some extent a necessity when the police force was first organized - this to perpetuate among the aboriginal population the respect and confidence which has always existed for the British uniform -
 A Mounted Policeman in the discharge of

his multifarious duties can now enforce
the laws of the Dominion -- and this
without loss of prestige -- in any uniform
be it a buckskin suit or a homespun
garment."

MAGAZINES.

THOSE who had confined their reading to magazines were very poorly informed on the details of the Force but expressed very definite opinions in general. One party considered the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was like a highly skilled detective organization, not unlike the F. B. I. of the United States, or of Scotland Yard. They engage in scientific investigation and use modern methods of crime detection. The authors of fiction wishing to add dramatic interest confine their stories to adventure in the Northwest Territories and revert to obsolete methods of criminal investigation.

This "summing up" of the Force is decidedly interesting and entirely true. The Crime Detection Laboratory at Regina with a subsidiary branch at Rockcliffe bears out this statement. Both are well equipped with modern appliances for crime detection and are of practical

value in the collection of evidence.

This can be illustrated best by an example.

(1) One dark and rainy night the Sarnia Police received a telephone call to the effect that two suspicious characters were seen near the Brewers Warehouse on Maxwell Street. Two patrolmen answered the call in time to see the two men walking away from the building. Recognizing the patrol car, one of the men threw a bottle of wine in the roadway. The police, observing that the men were somewhat intoxicated, ordered them to go home; then they made a check of the warehouse.

They found that a small window, wire-enforced, was cracked and also that another window on the opposite side of the building was broken. This window was situated below a catch which when released permitted a section of the frame to open thus affording an

(1) Annual Report
ending March 31, 1945.

opportunity for a person to enter. The police overtook the two men, who had not gone far, and charged them with attempted breaking and entering. The two policemen turned the case over to a detective for collection of evidence.

The detective had results. He photographed a footprint still visible in the damp soil beneath the cracked window; he collected the broken glass which had fallen on the ledge inside the building and some sand and soil adhering to the glass; he gathered some foreign matter resembling blood which clung to the ledge; he took the glass bearing fingerprints which still remained in the frame of the window and then returned to the suspects.

One of these suspects had a criminal record; the other was, to all appearances, a novice in crime. The detective searched the sweater worn by the latter and found two fragments of

glass. He noted, also, that the wearer had cut his left little finger. He took the sweater together with the muddy boots worn by the two men. These with the two fragments of glass, the glass from the window, the sand and soil from around the warehouse, and the glass bearing the fingerprints were sent to The Crime Detection Laboratory at Rockcliffe, Ontario, for analysis. The glass bearing the fingerprints was turned over to the R. C. M. Police Fingerprint Section at Ottawa. These were compared with the fingerprints of the two suspects. One fingerprint impression was developed on the glass and positively identified as the right forefinger of the novice in crime and also that the fingerprint was on the inside of the glass.

Using their microscopic instruments, the laboratory workers found that the glass found on the sweater was similiar to the glass taken from the window of

the warehouse. A member of the National Research Council proved that the soil on the boots and the soil collected at the warehouse were similar.

The left boot of the amateur criminal fitted the impression taken of the footprint. On all this evidence submitted at the trial the accused was found guilty. The other man, because there was no direct fingerprint evidence against him, was acquitted.

Although during the year 1945, the Crime Detection Laboratory at Regina handled 476 cases and the laboratory at Rockcliffe examined over 31,000 documents, they do not work alone in the field of crime. Other aids in the detection and apprehension of criminals are found in the Modus Operandi Section, The Ticket-of-Leave, the Firearms Section, the R. C. M. Police Gazette and the Police service dogs.

The Modus Operandi Section has registered approximately 6,000 criminals.

These are identified by means of recorded data of the methods they employ. The Modus Operandi, the Gazette, and the Finger Print Section are co-ordinative in the identification of a criminal, as for instance in the case of one calling himself Ralph Warren who had stolen the sum of \$80.

This man invited another man to a party and during the progress of the event visited the latter's house and committed the theft. The Police Department of the city in which the theft was committed issued a circular for the wanted man, and a copy of his photo. Both were published in the R. C. M. P. Gazette, a magazine published by the R. C. M. Police and containing photographs with descriptions of wanted persons. As this magazine has a large circulation, among the various police departments, the picture was recognized by the Kingsville City Police who wanted

the same man for the theft of a platinum ring.

Modus Operandi records were searched and from these was picked up a card giving the description of one. David Garret, which tallied with the description given by the City Police of Ralph Warren. The Kingsville police forwarded to the R. C. M. Police Finger Print Section a liquor bottle found at the scene of the theft on which fingerprints tallying closely enough to those of David Garret to establish identification. The Modus Operandi records showed that the National Registration Certificate of a Ralph Warren had been stolen from a boarding house at Prescott some time previous to the theft of the eighty dollars. There was no doubt that David Garret was using Ralph Warren's registration certificate and the police arrested him at Owen Sound for "Breach of the National Registration Regulations." He was convicted on all three charges and

sentenced to one year on each charge, sentences to run concurrently. In other words, he would serve a total of one year in prison.

Ticket-of-Leave is the name given to parole of criminals who have not served the full time of imprisonment but who are released under special circumstances and must report to the Police periodically. Should they fail to do this or should they become delinquent they forfeit the parole. When a crime takes place, parole records are scanned and sometimes provide an aid to obtaining the criminal.

The registration of firearms assist in solving crime as when a man's dead body was found in Vancouver and in his right hand a Colt Automatic .32. The weapon was identified by the firearms section as belonging to a resident of Edmonton, Alberta, who had moved to Oak Bay, British Columbia. This man had

sold the revolver to another man in Edmonton and from this "lead" the police were able to identify the body, that of a discharged paymaster of the Canadian Army who was in illegal possession of the weapon at the time of his death.

The Police Service dogs, trained by instructors with a thorough knowledge of dogs, have proved very valuable to the Force. One dog, in particular, rendered assistance 79 times in twelve months. In addition to tracing missing persons, this dog located distillers and thieves. After a series of thefts at Port Hood, Nova Scotia, "Prince", as this Doberman-Pinscher dog is named, was put on the trail. Taking the scent from a clump of bushes where a stolen bicycle was hidden, Prince led the police through a trail in the woods to a camp where all the stolen goods were discovered. He picked up the scent from some blankets at this point and after trailing for three-quarters

of a mile he was released. Immediately he bounded ahead and when the Police came on the scene he was holding fast to the trouser leg of a man. The Police arrested the man who subsequently was convicted. From this camp-site the Police obtained a pair of soiled socks claimed to be the property of the arrested man's partner. Prince took the scent from these and, after making a number of false starts, settled down to work. In the meantime, fresh robberies were reported on the theft of some bread and bacon from a railway field kitchen car at a nearby station. Prince was taken to the car and picking up the scent started across a swamp and over some hilly country. Here he was baffled but finally picked up the right trail which led him to a small barn. He commenced to bark loudly and the police entered the barn to find their man buried in some hay and sleeping soundly. He, too, was arrested and convicted.

REVIEW OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED. By L. Y. Erskine. D. Appleton Century Company Incorporated, New York, 1922.

THIS book is in popular favour.

It is a series of anecdotes, some of which would not require a Mounted Policeman as the hero as the same adventures could befall a naturalist, a trapper, or indeed, any individual.

Erskine is a colorful writer and loves to paint word-pictures. A story with the central figure that of a Mounted Policeman wearing a scarlet coat is more colorful and completes a picture which has for its background a lost valley surrounded by naked cliffs and steep chasms.

From reading this book one could derive very little information about the Force. A reader would gain the impression that a member must be tall, that is, about six feet and, also, that he must be dressed in uniform in order to identify himself as a member of the Force, both impressions being false.

The minimum height for candidates

for engagement in the Force is five feet eight inches and a member in plain clothes can always and immediately identify himself as a duly appointed Constable by producing his Warrant of Appointment. That some of Erskine's readers absorbed these false impressions and that they learned little from his books can be proved by referring to the completed questionnaires.

In one anecdote a man commits a murder in the Northwest Territories and flees to Manitoba where the Mounted Police at that time had no jurisdiction in Criminal Law. In such an event the legal procedure would be to take the warrant to a J. P. in Manitoba, where the accused was suspected of being, and have it endorsed. The Constable would be sworn by the Justice, and his evidence taken that the name of the Justice subscribed to the warrant was the handwriting of the said Justice.

In Erskine's story, the policeman

approached the local sheriff of the town where it was suspected the accused was in hiding. The sheriff was doubtful of the policeman's identity as the latter was in plain clothes. MacKenzie, the policeman, presented his proofs and warrants. Apparently the sheriff was not convinced, or if he were, no mention is made that he endorsed the warrant. MacKenzie, in spite of this lack of co-operation, set out to arrest his man, an unlikely procedure in reality. Then MacKenzie changed his clothes, donning the scarlet tunic " which he would have to wear in making the arrest."

It was not the intention of Erskine to make MacKenzie appear ridiculous, on the contrary, he was trying to illustrate his bravery, yet it is doubtful if any member of the Force with the years of service which MacKenzie had would be so ignorant of the laws of procedure. He would be looking ahead to the time when he had the criminal in a court of law and his case must be sound, not only in

the evidence but in the technicalities of the law. (1)

Only once does Erskine commit himself to a definite date for his anecdotes and that one deals with the tragic patrol of Sergeant Fitzherbert which is not recorded in the Police annals under that name.

The origin of this story, however, is found in the McTherson-Dawson patrol-Winter 1910-11 - and the death of Inspector Francis J. Fitzgerald and all members of his patrol.

It is difficult to imagine why Erskine used fictitious names and changed the geographical location of the patrol as the story itself follows in almost exact detail the true narration. For the benefit of those who have read REINFRE..
OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED I shall recount Erskine's version of the Fitzgerald

(1) Constable's Manual, 1907. King's Printer, Page 231.

patrol as told by Renfrew, not in Renfrew's words but closely enough so as not to change the meaning of the context, and to point out, finally, those parts which differ from the official records of the event.

Renfrew is quoted as saying it was the most tragic thing which ever befell in the records of the Mounted Police and he attributes it to a childish weakness on the part of a brave man, Sergeant Fitzherbert, who held from his post at Fort Minto the peace of the land among the Esquimaux and Indians of the Arctic.

Sergeant Deming was in charge of Fort Resolution detachment, a northern frontier post on Great Slave Lake, whose annual duty it was to send a patrol to Fort Minto to keep in touch with the settlement there and with Sergeant Fitzherbert. It was a journey of five hundred miles on a trail over the mountains which only the Police and Indians,

occasionally, used, a hard trail over glacier and frozen river bed, nevertheless the straightest route. Sergeant Deming always supplied this patrol with ample provisions, shotguns and ammunition and each time on their arrival at Fort Minto, Fitzherbert would jest good-humouredly on their preparedness and suggested hot-water bottles, foot warmers and base-burning stoves.

Fitzherbert was no tenderfoot to the North and had endured many hardships. The trip from Fort Minto to Fort Resolution, to him, was a mere jaunt.

It was the winter of 1912 and that spring instructions had come from Regina to reverse the patrol. Fitzherbert would go to Resolution from Minto so that the Commissioner at Regina could get in touch with him by wire. He would arrive at Resolution about February 1, 1913.

February came and was nearly gone when the Indian, Jacob, arrived at Resolution with the news that he had seen

Fitzherbert at Portage Creek on the other side of the divide from where the latter had hired them to guide them over to the Little Thunder river. Jacob said that Fitzherbert had worn small snowshoes; that there were four policemen in the party and three dog teams; and that they should now be at Resolution as he, the Indian, had been away some time hunting on the Elk river.

On hearing this news, Deming, accompanied by Fifield and Wheeler, an Indian and three teams of five dogs each set out to look for the missing patrol.

Renfrew describes the trail from Fort Resolution to Fort Minto as being a series of river beds filled with snow-covered ice with rugged banks bearing black evergreens. It led from the northern shore of Great Slave Lake up the Limestone river almost touching the Elk at one point, over which one must portage to reach the Elk. From

there another portage took one over the divide, a peak of land on the other side of which the water flowed north, then down the northern slope to Wilderness Creek to where it joined the Little Thunder river, down the Little Thunder to its junction with the Thunder. Here the Rain River joined the Thunder and the two icy pathways were confusing. If the wrong trail was chosen at this point it meant running short of provisions for it led away from rather than to the destination for which the men were bound. The right trail was to follow the winding course of the Thunder River to the Pool which tumbled into Great Bear Lake at Fort Minto.

From the Indian, De ling learned that Fitzherbert, with the Indian as his guide, had reached the Little Thunder river by way of a short cut down Portage Creek from Thunder River. From there he conjectured he must have travelled up Wilderness Creek and crossed the Divide.

It must have been near the end of February when Deming started out; the temperature was zero and the trail was good. The river was badly flooded and slush lay on its icy surface. All members of the party had wet feet and on the upgrade, which was a floor of shining ice into which they were compelled to cut footholds, Wheeler froze his foot.

Although they changed their moccasins and stockings Wheeler suffered bitterly. The journey up the Divide was an event to be remembered. They pulled the burdened toboggans up the side of the glacier, cut footholds in the ice and carried the dogs. There were ten days of this and sometimes when the snow was deep in the gorges they hitched all fifteen dogs to one toboggan and pulled it up, returning each time until all three toboggans were landed safely. One day the temperature went down to 62 degrees, the next to 50, and on these two days in

a thick fog they found themselves quite often ankle deep in icy slush and water. In addition to this, they faced a gale.

When they reached the glacier on the other side of the divide they crossed thin ice which sank beneath their combined weights and plunged through water thick with ice. A north gale was blowing making their journey yet more miserable.

About the middle of March they experienced a day of thick fog, bitter cold and unabating gale. They had arrived at the upper reaches of Little Thunder River and patches of water on the ice forced them to the banks. Zigzagging back and forth from river bank to river they came upon an old trail which they followed eagerly. The trail ran into water and disappeared. The party split so as to cover both banks and again they found the trail only to lose it again in the ice and finding it later on the bars in the river. Then they saw the imprint of a snowshoe, a small one, and they knew

they were on Fitzherbert's trail. Fitzherbert, then, had not crossed the Divide. The party went on until they reached the junction of the Little Thunder with the Thunder and Rain River. Here they lost the trail.

Fifield found the remains of an old camp and discovered a piece of flour sack bearing the drawing of an arrow with the legend "R.N.W.M. Police, Fort Minto"; some old tins lay about the fireplace.

The next day they set out again over the drifted snow on which had formed a crust. This crust cut the dogs' feet and tripped the men on their snowshoes. They kept going and found another camp, four miles from the first. Two days later they found three more camps all within fifteen miles.

The fog lifted, the gale blew the ice clear of snow and on the river's edge revealed a hard-packed trail with the imprint of snowshoes pointing north to Minto.

Five miles farther on at Peak Creek they found another camp. They went on. Six miles up the winding sheet of ice they came upon a cabin in which was cached a toboggan, seven sets of dog harness and bones, the bones of a dog. There was, also, a small quantity of dried fish. It was evident that Fitzherbert and his party had decided to turn back to Linto.

The zig-zag trail was more clear now following Peak Creek until it touched the river again. Three more days over rough foothills and they arrived at "Campbell's Cabin". Here they found a mail bag stamped with the royal arms and (G.N.) and a despatch bag marked "R. N. N. N. I."

They journeyed on and came to a little lake, frozen and windswept. In the centre of this lake was a pile of tent poles, some duffel and a cooking stove.

They proceeded down the Tool river to a point where there was a deep cut and

and the banks high. A number of willow trees overhung the stream where the banks were more sloping. Under the willow trees was a toboggan and several sets of dog harness. A handkerchief was tied to the branch of a tree and a trail led up the slope through the snow. At the top was another camp. A kettle was reposing on the cold ashes. Lying about was an axe, a frying pan and some boxes of matches. Close to the ashes a mass of blankets, sleeping robes and furs was piled high. In the kettle were pieces of moose skin boiled. Under the blankets were two dead men, Sheehan and Cartwright, both constables. Sheehan's feet were swollen from frost-bites. With the corpses were various papers, among them Fitzherbert's diary. Fitzherbert was nowhere in sight and the party started out on the trail once more.

Ten miles away they found a pair of broken snowshoes, the remains of a fire and the body of a man outstretched

on the snow, his arms folded across his breast, his face covered with a cloth. Then they found the body of Fitzherbert. He was on his back with one hand on his heart, his right arm flung wide of the body. In his belt was a paper on which had been scrawled with charred wood, a message:

"All money in despatch bag and bank, clothes, etc., I leave to my dearly beloved mother. God bless all."

The four living men covered the bodies of the two dead men and proceeded on their way to the Fort. Two dog teams brought in the bodies the following day and the men made coffins. An ordained minister conducted the funeral service.

Deering and his party returned to Resolute through a snowstorm following treacherous icy river trails. Fifield was afflicted by snow blindness for a day and both he and the Indian fell through the ice twice. The soft snow

froze on their snowshoes but they reached the post - a return trip of one thousand miles in forty days.

Fitzherbert's diary revealed that he had planned to travel lightly and carried provisions for thirty days only. He expected the trip to take thirty-five days and wild game would supplement their provisions. He refused the services of an Indian guide and trusted to Cartwright who had made the trip from Resolution but not from Minto. On December 21, he set out with the idea that he would show Deming how quickly the trip could be made when one travelled lightly. He might have accomplished his object had not Cartwright failed him.

Under the latter's guidance they made their way up the Pool, over the portage to the Thunder into the Little Thunder. This river ran fifty-five miles before reaching Wilderness Creek up which the party should have turned

to the Divide. It was here that Cartwright failed them. He could not find Wilderness Creek and the party turned back. This was a fatal move. They travelled back five miles and turned up another creek following it for four miles. Realizing that it was not Wilderness Creek they returned to the river. After a week of futile search for Wilderness Creek, Cartwright and Sheehan went off to follow a river going south by east but returned when they found it ran up the mountain. Cartwright was completely bewildered not knowing one river from another.

At this time the party had remaining only ten pounds of flour, eight pounds of bacon and some dried fish. It was decided to kill some of the dogs. Fitzherbert confessed that he should not have trusted to Cartwright. At this point Kenfrew dwelt on the brave man's vanity and saw in this a punishment for his conceit.

Two hundred and sixty miles from

Minto and about two hundred from Resolution the party halted. The dogs refused to eat the dog killed for their benefit and the men had to eat it giving the fish which they had saved for themselves to the dogs.

From that day the men travelled two hundred and thirty miles. Sheehan and Fitzherbert went through the ice resulting in a frozen foot for the former. All the men sickened from eating dog meat and daily became more feeble. They lashed themselves together to prevent being lost in the blinding snowstorm. Their flesh turned blackish-red; their skin peeled from their faces; their feet cracked but they kept on until Sheehan was on his knees in the snow.

Fitzherbert made camp and left Sheehan and Cartwright there promising to bring aid from Fort Minto in another day. He left his diary with them and set out with Calvert with one day's rations and on foot. All the dogs had been killed.

The food did not last long. Calvert died and Fitzherbert crossed the man's

arms on his chest and covered up his face. Then he, too, died among the ashes of their camp fire.

It is regrettable that Erskine did not tell the official version of this tragic adventure in the North, regrettable because it is so nearly the truth that those of his readers who have heard of the Fitzgerald patrol would conclude that his story was authentic. For the benefit of those readers I shall point out the errors in Erskine's story as told by his hero, Renfrew.

Commissioner Perry in his report dated May 8, 1911, Page 22, to Lt.-Col. Fred White, C.M.G., Comptroller, R. N. W. M. Police, Ottawa, Ontario, says, "----- it is the greatest tragedy which has occurred in this Force during its existence of thirty-seven years."

There is nothing in the official records to corroborate Erskine's opinion that it was a childish weakness that prompted Fitzgerald to travel "light".

The patrol did not occur in the district mentioned by Erskine but farther to the north and west, from McPherson to Dawson. An annual patrol was made for the purpose of carrying mail from Dawson to McPherson and Herschel Island and to return with mail for Dawson from the "Edmonton Packet" which arrived at Fort McPherson.

Corporal Dempster, the Sergeant Deming of Erskine's story, had often made the return trip from Dawson to McPherson and it is true that the Commissioner had issued instructions from Regina on May, 1910, to Inspector Fitzgerald to patrol from Fort McPherson to Dawson the following winter so that he could get into direct communication with him by telegraph. He expected that he would reach Dawson about February 1, 1911. This was two years previous to the date given by Erskine.

It was February 20, 1911, that a party of Indians arrived in Dawson from the Peel River District, one of whom,

Esau, not Jacob, by name, had been with the police patrol for some days. The name of the creek from which the Indian had left the party was Mountain Creek, not Portage. In Fitzgerald's party were two constables, Kinney and Taylor, an ex-constable Carter and three dog trains of five dogs each.

On hearing the news the Officer Commanding at Dawson instructed Corporal Dempster as follows:

(1) "You will leave to-morrow morning for a patrol over the McPherson trail to locate the whereabouts of Inspector Fitzgerald's party. Indians from McPherson reported him on New Year's Day at Mountain Creek. Fair travelling from Mountain Creek about twenty days from Dawson. I understand that at Hart River Divide, no matter what route he took, he would have to cross this divide. I think it would be advisable to make for this point and take up his trail from there. I cannot give you any specific instructions; you will have to be guided by circumstances and your own judgment, bearing in mind that nothing is to stand in your way until you have got in touch with this party. Keep me posted, when opportunity occurs, of your movements, even to the extent of sending a courier in when one is procurable, that is, provided you have anything of importance to report."

On February 28, 1911, Corporal Dempster, accompanied by Constable Fyfe, ex-constable Turner and Indian Charles Stewart with three dog teams of five dogs each left Dawson to search for the missing patrol.

The trail did not lead from the northern shore of Great Slave Lake but rather from Dawson up Twelve Mile Creek, Blackstone river, Hart River, across Hart River Divide into Forrest Creek, then down the Little Wind river and on to its junction with the Wind river.

The topography of the route as described by Erskine is correct but he uses fictitious names which can be identified easily with the real ones.

The members of the party can be identified in the same manner, Wheeler being Turner, Fifield being Fyfe and Deming being Dempster.

Instead of being ankle deep in water they were actually in water a foot deep. They reached the Little Wind river on the tenth of March and on the twelfth came

upon an old trail which they lost from time to time finally picking it up on the bars toward the mouth of the river.

Finding the flour sack is true but the legend read "R. N. W. M. Police, Fort McPherson." They found the toboggan, the seven sets of dog harness, the paws of a dog cut off at the knee joint, and a little dried fish.

The trail was not clear but drifted full of snow and the party went up the Caribou river, down Trail river and camped five miles from Peel River. It was Colin's Cabin, not "Campbell's Cabin" which they found and it was here that they found the two bags. They proceeded down the Peel river, not Pool river. At the camp they found the bodies of Constables Kinney and Taylor.

Dempster and his party set out after the burial service and arrived in Dawson April 17, having been 49 days on the trail.

It is quite evident that Erskine based the account of the patrol on Dempster's

diary even as he based that of the missing patrol on Fitzgerald's.

Erskine is privileged to draw his own conclusions and make definite statements whilst he passes the tale as fiction. At the same time he is narrating a true incident disguising it only by fictitious names and therefore, should be subject to correction when he states his own opinions as facts. It is true that the party went off short-provisioned for the sake of travelling light but there is nothing in the official report to indicate that Fitzgerald refused the services of an Indian guide. He knew the way from Fort McPherson to the junction of the Little Wind and the Wind River; from that point to Dawson he was relying upon ex-constable Carter to act as guide as Carter had been over the trail in 1907 when he accompanied Constable Forrest, in charge of the patrol, on

transfer to Fort McPherson.

On December 27, six days out on the trail, the Inspector and his party had camped at an Indian encampment and while there had hired one of the Indians, Esau, with his dog team, to help them across an eighty-mile portage, paying him \$3 a day. On January 1, he paid the Indian and discharged him because the portage had been accomplished.

That Fitzgerald set out to show how quickly the trip could be made when one travelled lightly is pure surmise. That the explanation of the limited amount of rations taken by this party is that they expected to make a very quick trip is reasonable. They did not want to load themselves too heavily and confidently looked forward to securing food from the Indians along the route to Dawson. Had they succeeded in crossing the Hart river divide, it is altogether probable they would have encountered some Indians as big game was much more plentiful on

the west side than on the east. Unfortunately, disaster overtook the party because they lost the trail from Little Wind river; had they had an efficient guide, they would have reached Dawson in safety.

According to Fitzgerald's diary, after following the wrong creek for four miles and realizing that it was not Forrest Creek they came down two miles farther and Carter was sent out to look for Forrest Creek. Two days later they followed up the east branch of Little Wind river " at what is supposed to be the mouth of Forrest Creek." Another two days of futile search and the Inspector sent out both Carter and Kinney to follow a river going south by a little east. They returned in the afternoon reporting that the river ran up in the mountains. Fitzgerald says in his diary, "Carter is completely lost and does not know one river from another."

At the time that the party turned back they were about 264 miles from Fort McPherson, the Fort Minto of Erskine's story, and 211 from Dawson, Resolution in the story.

It was Taylor and Carter who went through the ice but it is possible that Kinney also had this experience, and Fitzgerald most certainly did. The feet of both were much swollen, Kinney's almost twice their natural size.

Erskine is slightly confused in the identification of the bodies. Throughout the story Cartwright represented Carter but at the end Sheehan and Cartwright are found first, then Calvert and Sergeant Fitzherbert. In actual fact, it was Taylor and Kinney who were found first, then Carter and Fitzgerald.

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED. By Zane Grey.

NOT a few derived all their information from the comic strips - KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED.

Those who attempt to form their opinions of the Force by such a picture are on a parallel with those who form their conceptions of the Navy by reading "Popeye".

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED is about as stupid a representation of Canada's Police Force as it would be possible to conceive. King, the hero, follows blindly every clue leading to the mystery. He dashes madly off on horseback wherever and whenever he hears of 'fresh "shootings." The most simple-minded schemes to throw him "off the track" are successfully carried out. He never suspects that a seemingly innocent man could be guilty. His methods of detection are anything but subtle. A child of six would anticipate correctly the next move. He arrives on the scene of the crime immediately

after it has been committed. He never attempts to piece the evidence together. All is blind chance and dogged perseverance but no intelligence.

One avid reader of these comics is at least critical. She says, "The mounties are types (heroic individuals of the same stamp, mighty logicians, deeply virtuous and highly chivalrous) but then, I suppose we would not read the tales if the R. C. M. Police were lifelike."

ARCTIC PATROLS. By Captain William Campbell.
The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, Wis.
1936.

AS the title implies this book deals with only one important phase of the multifarious duties of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

As this book is classed as non-fiction by many librarians one would expect its readers to gain accurate information of patrols in the Northland.

Eleven students claimed to have read ARCTIC PATROLS, seven of these from Sunalta Junior High School in Alberta and ranging in age from 14 to 16 years; two sixteen-year olds from South Turner Valley High School in Alberta and two, over 18, from St. Patrick's College, Ottawa, Ontario.

Only two out of the eleven knew the correct winter dress of the Force.

All thought either seal oil or coal oil was the common method of lighting in the Arctic.

Only three knew that the "St. Roch" was a ship, the others thinking it was

either a horse or a dog. One ventured to guess it was an aeroplane.

Eight thought that service in the North was compulsory.

The most advanced permanent outpost of the Force in 1894 was Cumberland House, in 1902, Forty Mile, Yukon Territory, and in 1921, Ellesmere Island, eight hundred miles from the North Pole. Six believed this statement to be false.

The answers to the questions pertaining to the North are sufficiently interesting to quote.

Q. 1. Detachments are established in both the Eastern and Western Arctic regions. What is your conception of a policeman's life in these regions as to (1) his dwelling, (2) his food, (3) his amusements, (4) his work.

Q. 7. What is a patrol?

Q. 9. Was there ever an "N" Division in the Northland?

Q. 10. Where are prisoners in the Western Arctic taken for trial?

Q. 11. If convicted of murder where are they hanged?

Q. 12. "But deepest and most thrilling of all the stories they tell are the stories of the long arm of the Law - that arm which reaches for two thousand miles from Athabasca Landing to the Polar sea, the arm of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police."

Are the true stories told of the long arm of the law in the Arctic Region as thrilling as Curwood would have us believe? Can you name any instances?

The two students from St. Patrick's College did not venture an answer to these questions; one boy from Turner Valley volunteered a brief "No" to Q. 9; the other did not answer this question but gave his views on the first. The policeman's dwelling is a cabin; his food is some canned provisions and what he could get for himself; his amusements were "himself", his work "fatiguing." A patrol, in his opinion, was a small group of policemen, and murderers

in the Arctic served their sentence at Regina.

The students from Sunalta Junior High School, Calgary, Alberta, made a brave attempt. Prisoners, according to them, were brought to Dawson or to Edmonton for trial; policemen derived their amusement from their work; a patrol was a number of men who inspected and searched; there was never an "N" Division in the Northland; ARCTIC PATROLS told of true events as thrilling as any of Curwood's tales. Food consisted of beans and coffee.

At first glance it would appear that the readers of ARCTIC PATROLS gained very little from this book to correct their false conceptions of the Force. In analyzing the book we shall ascertain if the fault lies with the author.

In spite of the fact that the author opens his story with the motto of the Force, "Maintiens le droit" only four out of the eleven pupils knew that this

was the motto. The remaining seven insisted on "Get your man."

This impression was gained from the fact that the author himself stressed the importance of "Get your man" equally with that of "Maintiens le droit."

He also gives the impression that service in the North is compulsory. When he was called before the Adjutant, he was assigned to duty at Herschel Island. He did not make it clear that he had volunteered for this service only a month before and gives the impression that it was a surprise to him.

As a matter of fact, the whole book ARCTIC PATROLS, although listed in some of the Canadian libraries as non-fiction, is a strange mixture of truth and fiction.

It is quite true that the author, William Archibald Campbell, was a member of the Royal North West Mounted Police. He enlisted on March 25, 1919, but took leave of absence in 1920 and failed to return to the Force whereupon he was

listed as a deserter. He had a knowledge of engineering gained from his experience in the Naval Reserve Force of the United States and he was in the Canadian Engineers from June 13, 1918, until the end of the First Great War. He trained at Regina in the Force and in May of 1919 was sent North to take charge of the Arctic motor boat. During his brief service in the Force he was sick a greater part of the time and must have dreamed the experiences of which he writes as the only cases on official record are those of other members of the Force and of whose experiences he has either heard or read. He did meet Sergeant Dempster, the N. C. O. who found the Fitzgerald patrol and he travelled over the same route on his way to Dawson from Fort McPherson. He accompanied Constable Brooker, who became insane, from White Horse to Edmonton, and on his return to Regina left for the United States where he was born, never to return to the Force. He died in 1941.

His knowledge of the North, the true stories heard from the lips of his companions and his own imagination are blended together in ARCTIC PATROLS but as there is as much fiction as there is truth in this book it should take its place on the library shelves with the fiction of Jack O'Brien and James Oliver Curwood.

This may not be complimentary to James Oliver Curwood for in literary merit Curwood far surpasses Campbell.

De Quincey in his ESSAY ON POPE divides literature into two classes, first, the literature of knowledge, and, secondly, the literature of power. These have widely separated functions, the first to teach, the second to move. Curwood writes to move. He makes no pretence to teach. His novels are pure fiction intended to move, or excite, the imagination of the reader. Campbell, on the other hand, ostensibly writes of his experiences and attempts to lead

the reader into believing that what he writes is true. Growing weary of relating monotonous routine tasks he allows his imagination to run riot and presents the reader with what could be possible but highly improbable. His chapter on the arrest of the cold-blooded murderer King is the product of a highly-fevered mind as is, also, his narrative on the arrest of the five fur-trading thieves whom he captured single-handed.

Curwood usually writes from a moving point of view. He selects his hero and follows him through all his adventures; Campbell's is the personal point of view and the hero is himself. His accounts of the Fitzgerald patrol, and the murder of Corporal Doak, and the search for the missing priests are told as they were told to him. He uses no authentic documents for his information, nevertheless, he does relate these events as they actually occurred. It is only when he tells of his own adventures that

he flirts dangerously with the truth and it is in these narrations that he arouses the suspicion of anyone familiar with the Police. To an unsuspecting public his tales would go unquestioned.

Curwood, like most novelists, is a good descriptive writer. This is one method of holding the reader in suspense but it is also a literary art. In a paragraph taken at random from one of Curwood's books he gives the impression of cheerfulness and he carefully selects the words to give this impression, "Buoyancy of heart", "laughed and sang", "his heart bubbled over with cheer", "talked frankly", "discussed the beauties of nature."

Campbell never rises to this height in his literary endeavours. His whole book, however, has unity of impression inasmuch as he is constantly trying to show what a hero he is under an ill-assumed cloak of modesty. What a different impression one gets of the Force

from reading the accounts of the real heroes written by Steele and Fetherstonhaugh.

Curwood's ideas are well-organized, arranged so that the reader can follow clearly from one to the other. Campbell's ideas are confused, the result of an untrained mind. He halts in his narrative to digress on some adventure of which he has heard, as for instance, he is giving an account of his experience while operating the Arctic patrol boat. The boat becomes locked in the rapidly-forming ice. He gives orders to the crew to abandon the ship and make their way across the ice to the mainland. Upon reaching the mainland he becomes remorseful and despaired of getting his party back to some safe place where no harm would come to any of them. He must be resourceful but how could his plan be achieved. The story came to him then of how one brave man overcame all obstacles and delivered

his companions safely at headquarters. He devotes six pages to this account before getting back to his own difficulties. This is typical of the whole book and as these digressions are true tales of the Force it is possible they are interspersed in this manner in order to lend the colour of truth to the story of his own adventures.

The tale he tells in this instance is that of the Bathurst Inlet Patrol, 1917-1918, which is contained in a pamphlet bearing that title and consists of 43 pages of closely-set type. He describes the meeting of the police with the Eskimos on an island in the mouth of Bathurst Inlet - " a large party of Eskimos, all armed with rifles, who threatened the little police patrol." (1)

Inspector French led the party and his version of this meeting conflicts with that of Campbell's. On page 10 of this little pamphlet we read his

(1) ARCTIC PATROLS By William Campbell. Page 118.

report: "These natives were Killin-o-muits, and we were received in a very friendly manner, although we had to go through the formula of showing friendly intentions by extending the arms above the head upon approaching the camp, and our natives were soon engaged in conversation with them."

This referred to the native women but "the men all ran from the seal holes and gathered around an elderly native (apparently a headman) and then advanced towards us at a double in extended order, each carrying a seal spear or snow knife at the trail, but seeing that our attitude was friendly everything was all right and our natives understood them pretty well when talking."

STEELE OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED. By James Oliver Curwood. Copyright 1911 by Cosmopolitan Book Corporation. Pocket Book Edition published 1946. Pocket Books of Canada, Ltd., Montreal.

STEELE OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED pictures the Force as "hard-working and not too glorious." The Police are "daring, intelligent, good detectives and always get their man."

As usual, Curwood uses his imagination, launching forth into a story which is not so much as based on fact, slides glibly into technical inaccuracies and trusts that the interest in the story will divert the reader's attention from these blunders.

In fairness to Curwood, who, by all the standards of novel-writing, is a good novelist, it may be said that there are two schools of thought on the subject of historical fiction.

The modern novel must have a love story, a definite plot or scheme, a central connecting thought, idea or purpose and a definite ending. If the

novel is meant to be realistic rather than romantic it must be true to experience even though it consists of the 'interesting' select episodes of life. On this point Curwood hovers on the border-line between romance and realism.

Shakespeare's historical plays have been the subject of many heated discussions among university students and even among the professors of history and of literature.

One school of thought argues that a play, novel, or story which introduces a historical subject should be historically accurate even though a certain margin is allowed for filling in the gaps with imagined conversation or episodes not recorded in history; the other maintains that it is a mark of artistic genius for the writer to select two or more historical characters and places and from his own imagination create scenes and episodes which never existed in fact.

Evidently, Curwood leans to the latter opinion. He selects an imaginary character from a police Force which exists in fact and with his creative genius weaves a plot around his selected character who passes through the most fantastic adventures, such as being nailed in a coffin and transported to the North country. This sort of fiction is thrilling to read but certainly not informative.

It is unfortunate that so many readers are unable to distinguish fact from fiction. That they are unable to do so can be proven by the fact that they consider Curwood represents the Royal Northwest Mounted Police as they were in fact. From some of the applications received by those who wish to join the Force it is evident that they have been reading either Curwood's books or similar stories. .

It was left to members of the Force and those very familiar with it to create tales of fiction with a realistic background and it is to these authors I now

turn who, although their characters and plots are fictitious, provide information on the Force which the majority of writers of fiction either do not bother, or do not wish to do.

NIGHTHAWK OF THE NORTHWEST. BY Samuel Alexander White. Phoenix Press, New York, N. Y., 1938.

The plot in this story is rather weak and the style amateurish. Alex Nash, buffalo hunter and scout for the Police, falls in love with Louise Belcourt, daughter of a plainsman. Jean Bruxelles, half-breed and leader of the Metis is also in love with her. The rivalry between the two men develops into an intense hatred but whereas Nash meets with success in his lovemaking and has the law on his side, Bruxelles falls into disfavour both with the girl and with the Police. He is caught red-handed in the act of smuggling whiskey from across the border but manages to elude the police and to stir up trouble among the Indians. In the end he is caught and taken to the Police barracks for trial.

In the first paragraph the author refers to Sergeant Hume of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police and yet the

story opens in 1873. He commences by saying that the Mounted Police had just arrived in the west, over the Dawson Road in the preceding year, 1873.

(1) A very interesting letter is on file from Mr. J. A. Martin to Mr. A. A. McLean, Financial Comptroller of the Force, dated at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, June 16, 1926. Mr. Martin was then 83 years of age and his letter deals with the early days of the Force of which he was a member.

"The Force was organized the first week of October, 1873," he says, "Took steamer from Collingwood to Prince Arthur's Landing, head of the Lakes, from there to the Dawson route, thirteen small lakes with portages to the north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods. At the border of Manitoba struck snow and cold weather, marched across the prairies to Red River. Crossed Red River on ice

(1) File G.516-4(1930) History of the Force-General.

to Winnipeg. Took teams from there to Stone Fort 21 miles below. Stopped at Stone Fort for the winter. Drilled there until last of May -----."

White is guilty of a historical error when he refers to the Force as the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. (1) It was not until 1904 that the prefix "Royal" was bestowed by King Edward VII to mark the brilliant and steadfast services rendered by Canada's police. The Earl of Minto became the first Honorary Commissioner.

There are few books of fiction which deal with the Force in its earliest days and for this reason White's book is of unusual interest as it gives one a fairly good picture of the police force in its infancy. (2) "Three more Mounted Police Divisions are due from Toronto. The Dawson Road's bad, so they're coming by rail through the United States" calls

- (1) A Brief Outline of the Activities Of the Force 1873-1940. King's Printer Ottawa. Page 12.
- (2) NIGHTHAWK OF THE NORTHWEST by Samuel Alexander White, Phoenix Press, N. Y., 1938. Pages 11-12.

to mind the reference made in police annals (1) to the inconvenience and discomfort of the men who had travelled over the Dawson route and whose uniform and winter clothing had been frozen in.

The strength of the Force had been authorized at 300. Only 150 had left Collingwood in the fall of 1873. In the spring of the next year the Force was brought up to full strength by the addition of another 150 men and these left Toronto June 6, 1874, travelling via Sarnia, Detroit, Chicago, St. Paul's, Fargo(1300 miles from Toronto) by train. From Fargo they travelled by carts and horses, arriving at Dufferin June 19, 1874.

At Dufferin, near Pembina, the Commissioner, Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. French, met the Assistant Commissioner with "A", "B" and "C" Divisions. The three divisions which had arrived were "D", "E" and "F".
(1) Annual Report, 1874.

On July 8, 1874, the entire Force of six troops struck westward, their objective being the forks of the Bow and Belly rivers in the land of the Blackfeet. Each troop had two teams to carry baggage. There were 80 ox-carts, a constable driving each ox-cart.

White pauses, in his story, at Dufferin and speaks of the Sioux chief who recognized the police horse by its distinguishing marks. He had in mind, no doubt, the police brand MP and the number of the horse stamped on its hoof.

The Sioux were American Indians and not to be trusted. By the time the Force left Dufferin thirty-one men were absent without leave, the Sioux murders at St. Ives, 30 miles west, having the effect of quickening their movements. Fortunately, the Force did not suffer as 20 spare men had been brought along for just such an emergency.

The familiarity between the Commissioner

and Sergeant Hume introduces a false note in White's story. The Commissioner had been an officer in the School of Gunnery at Kingston, an Inspector of Artillery. He was a soldier and knew the value of discipline.

White shows a tendency to exaggerate, particularly when speaking of horses. Plains Burner, a horse, had gone over one hundred miles in twenty-four hours and "hardly ruffled the hide." Forty to fifty miles would be a good day's journey for a horse and the mileage limit for police horses was set at forty with a speed limit of seven miles an hour, except on matters of urgency.

The description of the procession is accurate. The line of march was in the order described by the author, first the dark bays of "A" Division, then the dark browns of "B", the chestnuts of "C" and grays of "D", the blacks of "E", and the light bays of "F". These were followed by ox-carts, wagons, cattle, mowing-machines and other equipment.

Commissioner "Cramer" is Commissioner French and the one man left behind at Fort Ellice alone while the divisions moved forward to establish headquarters at Fort McLeod and Edmonton was Inspector Jarvis, not Sergeant Hume. Commissioner French's diary for Monday, July 29, 1874, reads, "Finished with the stores, paraded all the horses, and told off 55 of the weakest for Fort Ellice under Inspector Jarvis, took the horses of "A" troop and divided them up amongst the others." Inspector Jarvis had been in command of "A" troop.

On page 136 of NIGHTHAWK OF THE NORTHWEST White quotes Sergeant Hume as saying that he was commandeering some pemmican from the half-breed Jean Bruxelles who was intending to use it as barter for whiskey across the border. He stated that the column had been nearly two months on the trail out of Fort Ellice and that rations were short, the men being on their "last legs" and that they must have food to make Fort Carlton.

This misrepresentation must have been prompted by false propaganda read by the author and written by those who had attempted to discourage the small body of men on their way to enforce law and order.

According to the Commissioner's report of 1874, Page 26, the detachment of the Force stationed at Fort Ellice searched over one thousand carts during the summer of that year but at no time were spirituous liquors discovered except in instances where individuals had permits.

Again, on page 23, "I suppose in a report of this nature, it would not be advisable to pass over without notice the absurd reports that had gone abroad, relative to starvation, want of food, etc. " The whole force had their three meals a day as regularly as if they were in barracks -- were seldom without prairie chickens, ducks, geese, antelope, hares and buffalo meat."

Buffalo was not scarce, as testified

by Commissioner French, who wrote that he had seen immense quantities of buffalo, estimated at 70 or 80 thousand in the Milk River District.

It is true that robes and furs were seized and if any pemmican were seized it was not because the troops needed it for food. Assistant Commissioner MacLeod says in his report dated October 29, 1874, "I gave Mr. Crozier written instructions to guide him, amongst others to seize all robes and furs of any kind which he suspected had been traded for liquor and, in addition, a sufficient amount of goods and chattels to satisfy the fine which in each case might be imposed. -- I see no other way in this country to secure the fine except by seizing property enough at the time the seizure is made and not to wait for a distress warrant after the fine is imposed."

Assistant Commissioner MacLeod with five inspectors tried cases and imposed fines.

Inspector Jarvis when setting out from Fort Ellice did experience a water scarcity but did not complain of a food shortage.

Assistant Commissioner MacLeod, with three troops, spent the first winter in Southern Alberta and their camp was named after him. It is now the site of the town of MacLeod. The men lived in log cabins with mud roofs and floors. They had buffalo meat for their Christmas dinner.

It is not strange that White mentions the "Redcoat jail". It has always been the policy of the Force to have their own cells and guardrooms, in some instances, particularly at isolated points, the police guardroom serves as a common gaol, some prisoners serving their full sentence in these gaols providing the sentences are not for long periods, the average being from 30 days to nine months.

BENTON OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED. By Ralph S. Kendall. Copyright 1918 by John Lane Company. Grosset and Dunlap, New York, with other stories under the title of Northern Trails Omnibus.

THIS is fiction written by a former member of the Police who bases his story on his own observations and experiences while in the Police. With this background it is definitely more accurate, technically and historically, than other books of fiction on the subject of the Police, nevertheless, it is classed as fiction and must be judged by the standards set for this class of literature. Kendall's plot and characterization are both weak and faulty. The unity of the plot is scarcely visible, the connecting link being a rather flimsy love-affair. His women do not charm as does Curwood's and his men have "feet of clay."

Kendall pictures Benton as a well-bred, well-educated Englishman whose life on the prairies and his association with cowboys, ranchers and military men has made him so extremely careless in speech that it is worse than the vern-

acular of the lowliest cowboy. This falling to such a low state seems slightly exaggerated as may be testified by a great many people who, from their own observations, will tell you that a well-bred, well-educated Englishman, though he may degenerate morally and physically, will be careful, nevertheless, of both his pronunciation and his grammar. Either Benton was not as well-educated as Kendall would have us believe or else he must have some hidden motive for making him talk the way he did.

On the other hand, he portrays Benton as taking everything in his stride which is a more truthful representation of the average Mounted Policeman on detachment than the scarlet-coated hero, as represented by many fiction writers, who covers only one case in the whole volume and then does not arrest his man because that individual either meets a sudden death or dies quite conveniently after having made a confession of his guilt, or left some other obvious evidence. Benton was

responsible for quite a number of criminals being meted out prison terms of five to ten years or longer.

It is in this book that mention is made of a "come-along". "With an oath he drew from his pocket a small steel article known in police circles as a "come-along" and clipping it on one of his prisoner's wrists he twisted viciously."

In THE LUCK OF THE MOUNTED, in the same volume, Ralph Kendall from his experience gained in the Force gives a much more accurate picture of police discipline than does Curwood. The latter's fictional Mounted Policeman steps unescorted into the office of the Officer Commanding and addresses that gentleman by his surname. Kendall's LUCK OF THE MOUNTED, page 34, describes it this way: "He received a curt summons from the Sergeant-Major to attend the Orderly Room. To the brisk word of command, he was 'quick-marched', 'left-wheeled'

and 'halted' at 'attention' before the desk of the Officer Commanding "L" Division."

In THE LUCK OF THE MOUNTED Kendall holds interest by a particularly baffling murder case.

A local cowboy had been shot through the head and had been found with his horse on the prairie on a winter's day. Clues to the murder led to the livery stable at Cow Run where it was found that a horse had been taken out of the stable during the night and returned about eleven o'clock. The livery keeper, who also acted as town constable, had been drinking at the local hotel and knew nothing of the matter but a hobo who had found refuge in the loft of the stable had seen the man returning the horse to his stall. He had admitted this to the liveryman's wife but did not identify the man. Previously, when he had been interrogated by the Police he had denied having seen the man at all. The hobo was arrested on a charge of vagrancy but at the magistrate's request

the police did not press the charge. The magistrate, who was a local rancher, needed help and he agreed to hire the hobo to work on his ranch.

The Police, however, kept the hobo in mind, and at a later date, adducing additional evidence, decided to go to the magistrate's ranch and question the hobo further. To their disappointment they found him gone and the magistrate in a terrible rage as the hobo, according to the magistrate's story, had absconded with a hundred dollars of the rancher's money. Although a search was made no trace of the hobo could be found. Winter passed and summer came and the murder had passed into the annals of memory as far as the residents of Cow Run were concerned.

One day, while two of the policemen were fishing in a deep creek on the magistrate's ranch they brought to the surface the body of the tramp, shot through the head, but easily identified

from two missing fingers and some gold teeth. At the trial it was proved that the magistrate had committed both murders.

The murderer, in this instance, before being caught, locked himself in his house and defied the police to come and get him. He told them they could not arrest without a warrant but they replied that they were covered by Section 30 of the Criminal Code.

This section reads as follows:

" Every peace officer who, on reasonable and probable grounds, believes that an offence for which the offender may be arrested without warrant has been committed, whether it has been committed or not, and who, on reasonable and probable grounds, believes that any person has committed that offence, is justified in arresting such person without warrant, whether such person is guilty or not."

In the fourteen books of fiction under review there is revealed ten historical errors and seventeen technical inaccuracies. On the surface, this number appears comparatively small but the misconception is not formed in the minds of the readers so much from the actual number of errors on the part of the respective authors as it is from the number of times the same errors are repeated. A melody heard once does not impress itself on the popular mind but, if repeated over and over again on the radio, stage, or screen, is soon on everybody's lips and may become a national or even a world favourite. So many authors of fiction, either by direct statement, or by implication, have expressed the motto of the Force as being, "Get your man" that the public, for the most part, believe it to be true.

Questionnaires reveal that a large percentage of readers believe what they

have read in fiction about the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and, as a consequence, have a wrong conception of the duties performed by the Force, their mode of life and their dress, their methods of investigation, their training and their qualifications. Historical inaccuracies have added to the confusion and, in certain instances, have given the wrong impression. Curwood and O'Brien are inclined to glamourize the Police and their realistic presentation of historical data, usually incorrect, lend to their fiction the colour of truth; on the other hand, other writers, such as Erskine and White, are inclined to advance false motives for heroic deeds and to create false surroundings for historical events meriting more careful treatment.

P A R T T H R E E

THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
IN FACT

Showing that members of the Force and conscientious authors have attempted, by their writings to correct these false impressions.

POLICING THE ARCTIC. By Harwood Steele, The Ryerson Press, Toronto, Ont., 1935:

THERE have been almost as many non-fiction books written on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as there have been of fiction. It is not the intention to review all these books but rather a certain few, including those mentioned by the students who submitted answers to the questionnaires.

POLICING THE ARCTIC gives a more accurate account of duty in the North than do the fiction books. "For every crowded hour of glorious life on some exciting quest there had been days of laborious monotony. All that 'aid to other departments' - to crown timber, lands and the Department of Mines, as agents, recorders, royalty-collectors and issuers of licenses; as postmasters and mail carriers; as customs collectors; as assistants to the Government Telegraph service, the sheriff, the courts and Yukon council; as tax collectors, census-takers and bank guards -----"

Major Steele writes from the view-

point of a historian, as indeed he is. He was the historian of the Canadian Government Arctic Expedition of 1925. From this viewpoint he can exercise a broad vision in the matter of order, definiteness and number of details, general outline and in the quality of the impressions received.

He uses the chronological order, beginning at the gold rush to the Yukon in 1898 and ending with the trip made by the younger Shackleton to the northernmost parts of Ellesmere Island in 1935.

He is definite because he has gone to the original sources for his information and has given the details as they were and not as he would have imagined them.

He pauses in his narration periodically to sum up the progress made by the Force in the Arctic and these summaries are tinged with his personal outlook on the Force, past, present and future. His impressions are not entirely unprejudiced as he is a son of Major-General Sir Samuel Steele who was an officer in the North West Mounted Police.

He has the honour of being a "son of the Force."

Confining his narrative to only one phase of activity in the history of the Force serves the purpose of gaining unity of impression and following the chronological order of events has the effect of progressiveness.

Major Steele's close association with the Force during his earliest days, his conversations with those members of the Force who had actually participated in the events of which he writes and his own personal associations with the Northland give him a sympathy and an understanding of the meaning of the experiences of which he writes and introduces the element of fact so badly lacking in the fiction stories which we have had under review.

Whereas the fiction writers for the most part have based their writings about the Police on vivid imaginings, Major Steele has based his book on a definite knowledge of his subject and carries the reader through 358 pages of interesting facts.

The informative value of POLICING THE ARCTIC lies chiefly in its true representation of life in the North, the actual work done by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and its true versions of famous patrols which have been much distorted by fiction writers in their efforts to glamourize the constable and to create plots which had no basis in fact.

Those students who stumbled over the answer to the question, "What is a patrol?" would do well to read POLICING THE ARCTIC by Harwood Steele who, on Page 26, gives a brief but accurate definition of districts, divisions, subdivisions, detachments and patrols.

The Commissioner commands the Force, but, as is evident to the most casually interested, the Commissioner cannot command in person a police force which covers an area of 3,684,723 square miles. He, therefore, divides this area into districts, or divisions, corresponding, not precisely, but as closely as possible, to the provinces, while the Territories are divided into three

districts but one division. The Yukon Territory is one district; the Northwest Territories are divided into two districts, the Eastern Arctic and the Western Arctic, all under "G" Division. These Divisions, according to their size and to their importance, are commanded by Assistant Commissioners or Superintendents. These officers re-allot them to Inspectors commanding sub-divisions; who, in turn, dot them with detachments - groups of two or three men under a N. C. O. or senior constable."

The detachments are located at towns or villages but the area of a detachment may include several villages and surrounding territory. The members of the detachments make periodical journeys, or patrols, throughout their respective districts to maintain order and to report on the requirements of needy families or to investigate special matters requiring police supervision.

The conception gained of the Force and their work in the far North as depict-

ed in fiction would vary with the individual reader in proportion to his temperament and to his experience.

A youth endowed with a keen imagination and a flare for adventure would be inclined, after reading one of Curwood's novels, to join the Force and volunteer for Northern service. Here would be romance and adventure, glamorous, thrilling and glorious.

Before taking such a step, however, should he read POLICING THE ARCTIC his wild thoughts would be sobered and as he read on and on and learned of the terrible sacrifices made by these men of the North in devotion to their duty with no monetary remuneration beyond their regular pay, and no lasting glory except a brief report in the Annual Blue Book of the Police, he would reconsider his decision and ponder on whether or not he would be fitted to undertake such hardships and, more important yet, if he would be willing to plunge into icy waters, sleep in frozen clothes and go half-starved for days merely for the satisfaction of aiding destitute Indians or Eskimos, or for the purpose of making

certain that the inhabitants of some far-flung outpost received their mail regularly, or that the game laws were being enforced properly. These and other questions would come racing through his brain and instead of seeing himself dressed in scarlet serge, stetson hat and yellow-striped breeches, the gallant defender of some helpless beauty with whom he would fall desperately in love and rescue from the cruel clutches of an unscrupulous villain, he would get a glimpse of the true picture - himself clad in the native garb of the Eskimo, anything but a romantic-looking hero, pulling himself and his dog team over steep ledges of ice, falling knee-deep into chilling waters, eating sparingly of "hard-tack" and chocolate, and blazing the way for civilization.

There are more pleasant sides to the picture at times but Harwood Steele, in his authentic account of POLICING THE ARCTIC relates what actually has happened to the members of the Force on their routine patrols which they accept as part of the day's work

and all in the line of their regular duty.

The Mounted Police performing their duties in the North are heroic forerunners of a future civilization but a true conception of their work cannot be gained from fiction, and Harwood Steele, because of his father's association with the Force, and his own sympathy with it has been careful to portray the actual facts as gained from authentic documents. He neither exaggerates nor minimizes the dangers and the duties of policing the Arctic. He has attempted to give to his readers a sincere and honest portrayal of the facts.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE. By R. C. Fetherstonhaugh. Carrick and Evans, Inc., New York. 1938.

IT is quite possible that the reader of this book will be disappointed if he expects to learn the details of organization and administration of the Force but he will enjoy the stories of the adventures of both officers and men. The author had the approval of the Commissioner to write the book and also the privilege of having it read by him. He has endeavoured to represent the scenes as they occurred in reality, and, too, to write from the viewpoint of the Force - - something which the majority of fiction writers make no effort to do.

Any student who wishes to improve his English and, at the same time, to learn of the achievements of the Force, will do well to read THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE. Fetherstonhaugh is no novice in the art of writing and, in addition to being interesting, sets an example of good literary usage of the English language. His sentences, for the most part, are long. The second paragraph of the first chapter of the book

occupies one third of the page and consists of only two sentences, the second sentence containing several phrases. The use of these long sentences, skilfully phrased, tends to make smooth reading and overcomes the tendency to abruptness which occasionally mars the work of Major Steele in POLICING THE ARCTIC.

Although one may not learn the technical details of dress, discipline and organization from THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNT-
ED POLICE he will receive a general impression of the Force which will allow him to grasp the significance of its achievements.

The author, like Steele, writes from the viewpoint of the historian and relates events in chronological order. These events are not put down as hard cold facts. Under the pen of Fetherstonhaugh they become fascinating narratives at the same time omitting no facts which the reader requires to know in order to form a coherent mental picture of the situation.

Those who are interested in the subject

of the Force would wish to know, naturally enough, why it came into being. Briefly stated, Manitoba had just experienced the first Riel Rebellion; the Hudson's Bay Company were friendly with the Cree Indians but had no law enforcement. Many murders and outrages went unpunished; in what is now Southern Alberta the brave and warlike Blackfeet were perpetually at war with the Crees; whisky traders from the Western States were selling liquor to the Blackfeet.

Fetherstonhaugh writes about all this with a knowledge of his subject and yet he uses this knowledge wisely, discriminating between what is of no importance and that which is of special significance. By following this procedure he avoids the pitfall of many historians who overload their chronology with details which are of no interest to the general reader. He has the advantage of having written well on many subjects and he has studied his audience; consequently he has been successful in his process of selection, limiting his subject to suit the general public, placing emphasis

on the important things and excluding those of minor value.

In the first chapter, after stating the reasons for the organization of the Force he mentions how the small body of 150 men and a number of officers were hastily assembled by the Government in September, 1873, and sent over the Dawson route to Lower Fort Garry where they were sworn in by Lieutenant-Colonel Osborne Smith, Officer Commanding the Winnipeg Military District and who acted as Commissioner until the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel George A. French to the post on December 17, of the same year. .

The objective point of this small body of men was the junction of the Bow and Belly Rivers, the scene of the trouble and the home of the Blackfeet. It was intended, too, that a section of the troops would march to Edmonton and a third section would return and establish a headquarters.

Commissioner French summed up the

situation while at Fort Garry and returned to Ottawa for an additional 150 men. It was not until June 6, 1874, that these men left Toronto to join the advance force at Dufferin.

The second chapter describes the march to the mountains and the author, with characteristic clearness, outlines the routes taken by the different divisions and the difficulties encountered by the way.

After leaving Dufferin behind 270 miles and arriving at Roche Percee the party divided. Inspector Jarvis with "A" Division was to go to Edmonton via Fort Ellice and Fort Carleton. This was a distance of 900 miles over unbroken country when bridges had to be built over creeks and fast-running streams. The journey consumed eighty-eight days.

The main body set out for the forks of the Bow and Belly Rivers where the activities of the whisky traders were the most lively. The route of this party led past the Missouri Coteau, Cripple Camp, the Cypress Hills, past what is

now Medicine Hat and from thence within sight of the Sweet Grass Hills of Montana. It was when they reached Southern Alberta that they saw immense herds of buffalo.

Having reached Sweet Grass Hills where grass, fuel and water were abundant the Commissioner ordered "D" and "E" Divisions back over the prairies to set up a headquarters for the Force at Swan River, Manitoba. He joined them later after having made arrangements for supplies for the troops which were to be left behind.

Lieutenant-Colonel MacLeod was left in command and, upon further orders, marched to the Belly River District led by the noted guide and interpreter, Jerry Dotts, who played an active part in this capacity for the Force until his death in 1896. Twenty miles along the Old Man River from where it joined the Belly, winter quarters were established on the site of what is known to-day as MacLeod.

On the American side of the border

the hostile Sioux were still intent on waging war against their old enemies, the Crows, and the United States Cavalry which they referred to as the "Long Knives." They invited the Blackfeet to join them, promising them horses, mules and white women and, eventually, they would join the Blackfeet in wiping out the Mounted Police. If they refused they, the Sioux, would wipe out the Blackfeet. The latter tribe, due to MacLeod's diplomacy, was friendly with the Police and asked them if they would support them should the Sioux attack. This request the Police promptly granted.

Sitting Bull, chief of the Sioux, defeated the American General, Custer, on June 25, 1876, but the American cavalry retaliated with a vengeance and five hundred warriors, twice as many women and over a thousand children fled to Canada.

These refugees presented another problem to the Mounted Police as there was danger of the old warrior, Sitting Bull, stirring up trouble among the

Blackfeet and other tribes. No trouble occurred but the presence of the Sioux on Canadian soil was a constant menace and a source of anxiety to the Police. In 1881, Sitting Bull finally surrendered to the American authorities and with the Sioux gone the Police breathed more easily.

Law and order administered by the Police continued and crime was punished swiftly. Inspector Walsh increased the prestige of the Force among the Indians when with fifteen men he marched into an Indian camp of 200 Salteaux and Assiniboians who were plotting rebellion, and arrested thirteen braves, leaders of the plot.

In 1880, Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Irvine succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Macleod as Commissioner of the Force and the year, 1882, witnessed the increase of the strength of the Force to nineteen officers and 455 other ranks to cope with the problems attendant upon the construction of the Canadian Pacific

Railway over the prairies. In the same year, too, the headquarters of the Force was moved from Fort Walsh to Regina.

The year 1885 brought the Northwest Rebellion, and Fetherstonhaugh with his usual explicitness relates the causes and the events that followed.

As now, so in 1885, the Mounted Police were in advance of impending trouble. They reported to the Canadian Government that the half-breeds were growing restless because their grievances had not been redressed, and that Louis Riel, leader of the Red River Rebellion of 1870, had returned from exile and was holding meetings. As usual, the Government was slow to act in any matter affecting the West. Finally, the Commissioner was ordered to march all available men from Regina to Superintendent Crozier's assistance at Battleford. His march was blocked at Batoche by half-breeds but he proceeded to Carlton by way of Prince Albert where he organized a body of volunteers. In the meantime,

Crozier had rushed to Duck Lake where his small force was defeated by Indians and half-breeds. He managed to retreat to Fort Carlton leaving his dead on the field of battle.

The Commissioner ordered his own force and that of Crozier's to fall back on Prince Albert, which, together with other neighbouring garrisons, they defended. Frog Lake was left undefended as Mr. Quinn, the Indian Agent, protested against the presence of the Police, who, he said, would only arouse antagonism. He paid for his obstinacy in death but, unfortunately, so did the other white inhabitants who were massacred unmercilessly.

Inspector Dickens, son of the famous novelist, commanded Fort Pitt but, knowing that to stay in the face of grave dangers was hopeless, evacuated his men to Battleford.

The Militia, meanwhile, under Major-General Middleton, was approaching. His first victory was the stronghold of Ba-

toche, the second the capture of Louis Riel although, in actual fact, two of the three captors were members of the Police.

Lawrence W. Herchmer was appointed Commissioner on April, 1886. In 1895, the call came to police the Yukon.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE is a history of the Force and with the increasing duties, increased strength and the increased area to be policed it must cover a wide scope. Strict chronological order necessitates breaking up the chapters to deal with the various phases of the Force's activities and five chapters deal with law enforcement in the North, all of which is covered in detail by Harwood Steele in his POLICING THE ARCTIC.

While law and order advanced in the North defiant Indians on the plains were giving the Police trouble - Almighty Voice from 1895 to 1897, and Charcoal in 1896.

In 1900, the South African War thinned out the small police constabulary still further. A total of 245 officers and men enlisted, many in the 2nd Canadian Mounted

Rifles and a small number in the Lord Strathcona's Horse. In 1900, too, Perry assumed the Commissionership of the Force.

An increase in immigration brought a proportionate increase in crime. In 1900, arrests made numbered 1,351; in 1901, 1,746; in 1902, 2,017; in 1903, 3,315. These figures reflect the pioneer days when compared with those for 1945 which show a grand total of 123,330 cases handled. (1)

Fetherstonhaugh devotes a chapter to the humanitarian efforts of the Force, a phase of its activities which seldom come before the public eye but which, nevertheless, is performed by the Police in the course of their duties without the blare of a trumpet or with the expectation of reward. The author mentions a few such cases. First, that of Sub-Constable Sheppard who, in the days of

(1) Annual Report, 1945. Page 27.

Sitting Bull, rescued three Sioux children from a prairie fire; next, that of Constable Holmes who, in the absence of a doctor, vaccinated a large number of Indians and white settlers against smallpox when the epidemic was raging in the Qu'Appelle district many years ago; similarly, Corporal D. B. Smith who attended the sick and buried the dead when an epidemic of scarlet fever and diphtheria broke out at Norway House; and Constable Conradi who rescued a settler and his family from a prairie fire.

In addition to these isolated cases were the numerous ones of lunatic patrols, that is, bringing in lunatics under the greatest difficulties, and of bringing in dead bodies, frozen "stiffs" of the North, and of searching for missing persons at the request of relatives and friends.

Fetherstonhaugh does not forget to mention the Doukhobors, the refugees from Russia, who settled in Saskatchewan and caused the Police untold anxiety with their fanatical nude parades and hunger strikes.

The history now gains speed and each year records some event of national importance affecting the Force in particular and the Dominion in general.

1911.- The coronation of King George V at which the Force is represented by Commissioner Perry, Superintendent J.O. Wilson, and eighty other officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

1912.- Immigration doubles in prairie provinces. The Force has 13,391 criminal cases for the year and 11,435 convictions to its credit.

1913.- Two explorers, Radford and Street, are murdered within the Arctic Circle. Police sent to investigate.

1914.- War is declared and the Police are needed to prevent 175,000 Germans and Austrians in Alberta and Saskatchewan from assembling or performing acts of sabotage.

1915.- Inspector C. D. LaNauze journeys north with a party to investigate the murder of the two missionary priests,

Fathers Rouvier and Le Roux.

1916.- Murderers of the priests arrested and awaiting trial.

1917.- Force relieved of ordinary provincial police duties in the three prairie provinces. Murderers of priests sentenced to death but sentence commuted to life imprisonment at Fort Resolution.

1918.-¹ Finally the Mounted Police are allowed to enlist as a cavalry squadron and attached to the Canadian Light Horse. Another squadron enlists for service in Siberia. The Royal Northwest Mounted Police are on the point of dissolution, the strength in Canada dropping to 303.

1919.- Force re-organized with a strength of 2,500 officers and men.

As after the second World War so after the first, strikes followed peace, among the most notable being the Winnipeg strike when thirty thousand men of various trades stopped work simultaneously. For six weeks the Royal Northwest Mounted Police stood by, then acting on orders from the Minister of Justice they moved silently

but effectively to arrest the strike leaders. This brought the strike to a climax and a riot ensued. Fifty-four mounted men under Inspectors Proby and Mead, and thirty-six men in motor trucks commanded by Sergeant-Major Griffin rode into the seething mob. Several policemen were injured and one rioter was killed, one fatally injured and several wounded before the battle ended but the strike was over and the revolutionary leaders in Canada realized defeat at the hands of the Mounted Police just as did the rebellious Indians many years before.

For the next few years murders among the most northerly Eskimos claimed the attention of the Police but in the meantime the Force had come East and in 1920 was re-named the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. All Canada was now under the jurisdiction of a police force which had started in 1873 with 150 men in an area limited to the prairies.

Headquarters was moved from Regina to Ottawa and although Fetherstonhaugh mentions the organization of the four principal branches of the Force - the Criminal Investigation, Financial, Supply, and Adjutant's - he does not tell of the work handled by these branches.

As the Administration has expanded vastly since 1920 and is now accommodated in a building costing \$1,250,000 to erect in 1937, for the benefit of those interested I shall enlarge upon Fetherstonhaugh's few remarks and quoting the figures as they were in 1937, show what work is carried on in the Headquarters of the Force. The volume of work doubled and trebled during the War years and has not yet returned to a normal condition. The Administration as it was in 1937, therefore, will give a truer picture of the peacetime activities.

A great number of speeches have been made and many articles written on the various phases of police work accomplished by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police but

no one has ever drawn the attention of the public to the Administrative Section of the Force, which like the Civil Service, carries on in silence.

At the beginning of 1937 the Headquarters of the Force, which was spread over into seven or more separate buildings was moved into one central building known as the Justice Building. The convenience of easy access to the different branches has resulted in greater economy and efficiency.

The Treasury Branch, which comes under Civil Service Regulations, acts as the Exchequer Department and audits all expenditure incurred by the R. C. M. Police and guards carefully all revenue. It is responsible to the Central Treasury Office and holds the "purse-strings" of the Force.

Although King George VI is the Honorary Commissioner of the Force the Minister of Justice is in control. The Governor-General may by commission appoint a Commissioner of Police who

shall be called the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He shall, under the Minister, have the control and management of the Force and of all matters connected therewith.

The Deputy Commissioner is appointed by the Governor-in-Council by commission and in the absence of the Commissioner may exercise all the powers which the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act confers upon the Commissioner.

A Departmental Secretary, appointed by the Civil Service, acts as adviser to the Commissioner and handles his confidential correspondence, not only within the Department itself, but also with other Departments outside the Service.

A Central Registry is established at Headquarters where all mail for the Mounted Police is received. This mail is opened by a trustworthy member of the Department who stamps the date and the number of the correspondence thereon. When it is considered that approximately one thousand pieces of corres-

pondence are received on an average daily we may have some idea of the work being done in this Department. In addition to this, all outgoing mail must be sent to the Mailing Room for "franking". This consists of stamping the envelope with the Government stamp. The number of outgoing letters is approximately four hundred a day.

All incoming mail, after being stamped, is sent to the Central Registry for classification. This correspondence is placed on the respective files and the files assorted and placed in various baskets for transmission to the branches concerned.

Each file bears a number together with the name of the subject. All personal files are kept locked and are treated confidentially. A separate department receives and classifies all criminal reports. When the different Branches have acted on the correspondence received the files are returned to the

Céntral Registry whéré they are placed in cabinets provided for that purpose.

There are over two thousand members of the Force scattered throughout various parts of Canada. These men must be clothed, fed and sheltered. For this reason a Supply Branch is established at Headquarters with branches at the various central points, such as the capital city of each province. These are called Divisional points. The Supply Branch consists of several sections, each section specializing in its own particular line of work.

Clothing to the amount of \$300,000 annually is purchased by the Purchasing Branch. These purchases are made by tender. When the contract has been awarded, the clothes manufactured and inspected by the Inspection Branch, if found to come up to the standard specified on the contract, the articles of clothing are taken on charge and placed in the Supply Stores until needed.

At Regina, Edmonton, Winnipeg, and other divisional points messes are maintained. At detachment points where it is neither practical nor economical to maintain a mess the members are given an allowance in lieu thereof.

Members of the Force are housed, wherever possible, in government-owned quarters or in private dwellings rented by the Government. The Leases and Rentals Section of the Supply Branch keeps an up-to-date record of about six hundred houses rented by the Government, all police-owned quarters including those of northern posts, and about sixty Public Buildings in which the R. C. M. Police are provided with accommodation. In addition this, an accurate record is maintained of between two and three hundred garages rented by the Police for the storage of Police cars.

About \$35,000 is spent annually on the maintenance of Police-owned buildings and all repairs are entered in a ledger against the buildings concerned.

The Supply Branch is responsible for all stores, not only for the Land Force but for the Marine and the Aviation Sections as well. Although the Marine Section now boasts of 47 boats, mostly cruisers and auxilliary schooners, the Aviation Section is still in its infancy with a fleet of four planes.

The Purchasing Branch is a civil service section of the Mounted Police and is ably handled by a Purchasing Agent, who, under the direction of the Commissioner, makes all the large purchases for the Force.

A Medical Branch is maintained at Ottawa, headed by a civilian doctor, who is paid a regular salary by the Police. Members of the Force and their families are entitled to free medical attention but hospitalization or surgery for others than the members themselves are at the expense of the individual.

The Adjutant's Branch has charge of the personnel, of the Force, and handles all matters pertaining thereto.

Dogs and horses also come under the jurisdiction of this branch. There are approximately 200 horses maintained by the Force. This is a small number when one considers that the Force consists of over 2000 men. New methods of transportation have come to take the place of the horse, however, and the Police carry a fleet of almost 500 cars. The number of sleigh dogs for northern detachments is estimated at approximately 400.

The number of applicants for engagement in the Force during 1937 was about 2000 and of this number only 70 were engaged. There are many amusing incidents connected with these applications and I am going to take the liberty of quoting a few from the R. C. M. Police Quarterly as given by Superintendent Kemp, former Adjutant of the Force.

(2) Occasionally one meets with applications

(1) Royal Canadian Mounted Police Quarterly, Vol. 4, Number 1, July, 1936. Pages 37 and 38.

which contain a certain amount of unintentional humour. One of the more delightful efforts of this nature is that of a young man who expressed his desire to enlist in the Force but naively added a postscript to the effect that he was, by the same mail, applying for the position of hangman! A psychologist might possibly explain the mental process by which this applicant reasoned out his choice of vocations but it is beyond me.

" The efficacy of the finger print system has been supported by the identification of a certain number of applicants who possess criminal records. An applicant coming within this category had stated on his application form that he had never been convicted of any offence. On proof being produced, as a result of his finger prints being examined, to show that he had served a term of imprisonment for assault, he stated, in extenuation, that in view of the assault having been perpetrated on his wife, such a conviction should

not warrant serious consideration as it could hardly be regarded as an offence!

" Another applicant, on attempting to join the Force, requested that he be engaged as a Sergeant-Major, stating that he had been informed that Senior Non-Commissioned Officers were not required to groom horses, an outrageous libel on the 'back-bone of the Force.'

" A further humorous interlude on the routine of receiving applications was the case of the young hopeful who, to test his literary capabilities, was given the task of writing an essay on his favorite sport. He commenced in the following strain: ' The milk of the cow is sweet and fresh', and then subsided, giving the essay up as a bad job. It has fallen to the lot of many of us in the Force, in the course of our duties, to extract milk from contented or even discontented cows, but to discover an individual who apparently regarded an occupation of

this nature as his favorite sport certainly placed him in a class by himself.

" The fanaticism with which some people devour the lighter brand of detective thriller, imbues in some the unshaken faith that they are destined to go out into the world as 'master detectives'. The following letter received at Headquarters is an authentic example:

" ' I would like a job detective work or police. But I am calling myself a detective. I have plans that are my own in the line of detective plans. I am twenty-three, wait 167 pounds but my prove is what conts. I couldent tell you just how I will work but if I cant give you sadisfashion I dont want any money from you. All I want is my expences to go ahead. I am hoping you will sadicefy my wants and I will give you a few lines on it next time. I have some plans that has never been none before. I can pick the gelty one every time no foolin, believe it or not. Dont think Im beleevin think that are not write. Well I guess I wont tell you any more today.'

" The following answers were submitted by one applicant to some of the routine questions set to test his general knowledge:

Q.- What is your reason for desiring to join the Force?

A.- I like to travel around the country from place to place.

Q.- Who is the President of the Canadian ~~the~~ Railway?

A.- Mr. ~~the~~ was the only big shot I ever heard of.

Q.- Who is the Chief Justice of Canada?

A.- Don't know him, never had the opportunity of being in Court.

Q.- Who is the Chairman of the Radio Commission?

A.- Never heard that man's name either.

Q.- What is the date of Remembrance Day?

A.- When I last noticed it it was May 10, I think.

Q.- What is the difference between prorogation and dissolution of Parliament?

A.- It's all the same to me, don't know anything about it.

" It appears hardly necessary to add that of the illustrations given in this article of the various applications made, none of the originators have, so far, been successful in commencing their probationary careers as members of our organization!"

It will be seen by the foregoing that the Adjutant's Branch has its

troubles. Let us now turn to the Criminal Investigation Branch. During the year ending March 31, 1937, the total number of cases handled, and this includes Federal Statutes, Criminal Code and Provincial Statutes, was 60,237. The number of convictions obtained was about one third of this figure. The remainder included about 15,000 cases of unfounded complaints, about 4,900 pending or abandoned and the remainder either acquitted, withdrawn, or handed over to the Department concerned.

The Finger Print Branch during the twelve months ending March 31, 1937, received 45,424 sets of criminal finger prints and about 24,000 photographs. Identifications made totalled approximately 8,000.

The Ticket of Leave Section handled a total of about seven hundred released from penitentiaries, prisons and reformatories.

The Criminal Investigation Branch

is, undoubtedly, the most interesting branch of the service and the reports on crimes handled by this department would furnish material for numerous Detective story magazines.

A new Department called the Crime Index or Modus Operandi has been established at Ottawa. By this system files are established at Headquarters in which criminals are classified according to the manner in which they conduct offences. This system is described in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Quarterly for April, 1938, page 238, as follows:

"The establishment of files at Headquarters in which criminals are classified according to the manner in which they conduct offences are already proving of value. Such records are known as 'modus operandi' files and when compiled in connection with an offence such as breaking, entering and theft, disclose the method by which entry was effected to the building.

Should the criminal, to gain access to the premises, cut out a piece of glass to lift the nightlatch, or force a rear window, or enter with a skeleton key, or force the lock with the use of a triangular piece of celluloid so frequently found in possession of persons guilty of this offence, details would be recorded on the file. Notations are also being made of the goods or merchandise stolen. One criminal may specialize in the theft of watches or other jewellery, others the theft of cash or valuable securities. Methods employed in gaining entry to safes will also be tabulated. Some criminals make a practice of knocking off the dial before attacking the tumblers of the safe; others gain entry by blowing the safe with nitro-glycerine, after the edges of the closing jamb have been carefully caulked with laundry soap."

Current opinion in Canada at the present time is that there should be only one Police Force in Canada, a

Federal unit which would deal with all crime. When one considers the reduction there would be in the cost of administration and the unity which would necessarily follow in having one Force we are inclined to agree that this would be a good thing for Canada. Should this opinion prevail a still greater future lies ahead for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Changes in the Force from 1928 onwards as mentioned by Fetherstonhaugh include the taking over of provincial police duties in the Province of Saskatchewan in that year; development of wireless and radio in the Arctic; the building of the "St. Roch", two hundred ton schooner to carry supplies to the Northern detachments and to patrol in Arctic waters, later to become famous with its skipper, Inspector H. A. Larsen, in traversing the Northern Passage.

Time passes on. On August 1, 1931, Commissioner Starnes retired to pension and Major-General James Howden MacBrien,

C. B., C. M. G., D. S. O., assumed command of the Force.

In 1932, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Alberta followed the example of Saskatchewan and handed over the enforcement of provincial laws to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Preventive Service of the Department of National Revenue was absorbed by the Force and as this meant that the Police enforced laws on sea as well as on land a Marine Section was formed with thirty-two boats at its command.

Fetherstonhaugh's figures for the mechanization of the Force in 1934 appeared to him progressive but compare these with the figures for 1945, as shown on Page 22 of the Annual Report for that year:

<u>Motor Transport</u>	<u>1934</u>	<u>1945</u>
Passenger Cars	385	794
Motorcycles	30	38
Motor Trucks	19	30
Railway Gas Cars	3	3
	<u>437</u>	<u>865</u>
 <u>Horses</u>		
Saddle	265	138
Team	26	3
	<u>291</u>	<u>141</u>

Having read this remarkable 'history of Royal Canadian Mounted Police by Fetherstonhaugh in which every chapter depicts some phase of the Force which is every whit as interesting as a detective "thriller" let us turn to the questionnaires. We find that only one student has read this book but we find from his answers that he has profited in knowledge from his reading. His knowledge of the Force is creditable although he does err on several questions which he should have answered correctly as they are to be found in Fetherstonhaugh's history.

"Get your man" was the student's answer for the motto of the Force; the "St. Roch" a famous Mounted Police horse; the Northwest Mounted Police organized in 1876, prefixed "Royal" in 1886 and Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1890. Neither did he know the name of the first Commissioner. All these Fetherstonhaugh makes clear in his book, nevertheless, this student's answers were much better than the average

received and may be offered as a proof that authentic writers on the subject of the Force have accomplished some measure of success in educating the Canadian public on the subject.

THE SILENT FORCE. By T. Morris Longstreth.
D. Appleton-Century Company Incorporated,
New York, 1927.

Mr. Longstreth writes a history of the Force but he treats his subject dynamically. It is not a dead history of facts and figures but a lively narrative in which he pictures the Force as living, growing, developing. It is true that he has obtained a great deal of his information from old documents but he has not confined himself to a mouldy basement filled with dusty reports and spoken as a voice from the dead past.

On the contrary, although he made the headquarters of the Force his base of operations while collecting material for his book he mingled with the living members of the Force, also, visited their homes and their barracks and absorbed the atmosphere so necessary to make his history a living thing. He talked with many of the men of whom he writes and learned from them of their experiences.

One would suppose that this mode

of collecting facts would bias the spectator in favour of his subject and lead him to display his own feelings. Longstreth recognizes this possibility and in his foreword he says, " A becoming brevity.... no compliments.....the facts!" An admirable programme for any historian!

He says, further, that the facts were not impossible to come at and that to the best of his belief, impartially set down.

The unifying element in Mr. Longstreth's narrative is the growth of the Force, from the first chapter, wherein he states that "reveille had just wakened the Mounted Police, as a corps, for the first time in history," until the end of his book. There is no climax as in a novel. He closes by saying that new doors have been opened to the Mounted Police. Let other historians continue on from there!

THE SILENT FORCE commences with conversation, a barrack-room scene at reveille with the men grumbling and

swearing. This is an unusual way to start a history. It is evident that Longstreth does not mean his narrative to be mistaken for history in the strict sense of the word. He wishes to show history in the making, history with a human interest, the familiar personal anecdotes from which history is made and the nature of the people who made it.

He uses the chronological order but varies from the usual method. He divides his book into six parts, each part representing the period of time that each Commissioner commands the Force, thus Part I covers the period from 1873-1876, during Commissioner French's administration. Part II, 1876-1880, during the regime of Commissioner J. F. MacLeod, Part III, A. G. Irvine's term of office, 1880-1886, Part IV, Commissioner L. W. Herchner, 1886-1900, Part V, A. B. Perry's long term of stewardship, 1900-1922, and Part VI, Commissioner

Commissioner Starnes from 1922-. To-day he could have added: 1931-1938, Commissioner MacBrien, 1938- Commissioner S. T. Wood.

These parts are subdivided into chapters. Longstreth discriminately selected the material for his chapters, choosing that which to him seemed the most important. It may be of interest to know exactly what the author considered the most significant events which took place under the regime of each Commissioner.

First is the reason for the formation of the Force. Longstreth is more daring than other historians and gives the reasons as purely political. Sir John A. MacDonald in pleading for confederation had promised a railway linking east with west as far as British Columbia. Five years had passed and he had not fulfilled his promise. The obstacles appeared almost insurmountable: five hundred miles of rocky mountains to cross over, vast plains occupied by Indians who had no taste for white man's

civilization. He called his advisers together. The Treasury of the Dominion had little money, consequently a great deal could not be spared for protection while the building of the railroad was in progress.

A small force of mounted riflemen could be maintained for a half million dollars a year. These figures would appeal to the people; moreover American traders were moving into the Western prairies from the United States. If allowed to do as they liked they would soon move in and take over the country. What avail confederation then?

Orders were given for the formation of three hundred "Mounted Rifles". Militia to defend the border! The Americans protested. This looked like mobilization. Sir John changed the name to "Mounted Police" and allayed suspicion.

Nothing more was done. The Mackenzie administration succeeded MacDonald's. Mackenzie was not entirely in favour of rushing the railroad through. It could be done gradually. Then came

news of Indian massacres on the plains. Hastily, 150 men were recruited and sent over the Dawson route from Lake Superior to Stone Fort, below Fort Garry, (Winnipeg) and there they wintered in the Old Hudson's Bay Fort until joined the next year by 150 more men sent from Toronto via the United States. The Force was on the move -- their objective the land of the Indians and of the whisky-traders - several thousand Indians and about five hundred traders. Could three hundred armed men hope to subdue this lawless band which far outnumbered them!

The route which has been described in detail elsewhere in these pages need not now be elaborated upon. Briefly, it extended almost directly westward from Dufferin, Manitoba, crescendo in form, to the Porcupine Hills at the foot of the Rockies. Mosquitoes, grasshoppers, lack of water, prairie fires, and the breaking-down of carts helped to retard the progress of this small body of determined men.

August came and it was seen that,

encumbered as it was, the party could not reach Edmonton before winter, made it impossible to travel. It was decided to split the main body, one unit going to Edmonton under the command of Inspector Jarvis, the remainder to travel westward until they had reached Fort Whoop-up, the supposed headquarters of the whisky-traders.

Winter was approaching when the main body came in sight of the Rocky Mountains and Commissioner French decided to return to Swan River with "D" and "E" troops where a barracks was supposed to have been constructed and which would serve as winter quarters. "B", "C", and "F" troops were to continue the search for Fort Whoop-Up and dig themselves in for the winter.

Longstreth maintains, and not without good cause, that the Blackfeet Indians, from whom the Government expected the most trouble, were won over without bloodshed because the Police, and in particular MacLeod, treated them fairly, with integrity, neither using duplicity with nor

tolerating it from the Indians. Instead of robbing them the Police feasted them and gave them gifts. As a result, they made allies instead of enemies.

The most significant event of Commissioner MacLeod's regime was the signing of the treaty with the Blackfeet, the proudest and strongest tribe of the Western prairies. MacLeod had from the first made a friend of Crowfoot, the Blackfoot chief, as proud as MacLeod himself. It may have been coincidence or again, it may have been diplomacy that this important treaty was negotiated shortly after MacLeod was made Commissioner of the Force. For three years Crowfoot had known Stamixotokan MacLeod and never had the Commissioner deceived him.

Longstreth states fearlessly that it was due to Crowfoot and to MacLeod that at the impressive gathering of Blackfeet, Assiniboinés, Sarcees, Piegiáns and Bloods the small handful of white men were not massacred in a revel comparable to that of Custer. "One clash of authority, a momentary weakening of the old men's

leadership, a slightest realization of all that this handful of pale new-comers were depriving them of -----"

The Treaty with the Blackfeet, Number Seven, may be seen at the Dominion Archives or can be read at leisure in Appendix B of A. L. Haydon's THE RIDERS OF THE PLAINS.

For the benefit of those who may not have the opportunity of reading this treaty I shall quote in part:

"-----And whereas the said Commissioners have proceeded to negotiate a treaty with the said Indians; and the same has been finally agreed upon and concluded as follows, that is to say: the Blackfeet, Blood, Piegan, Sarcee, Stony, and other Indians, inhabiting the district herein-after more fully described and defined, do hereby cede, release, surrender, and yield up to the Government of Canada for Her Majesty the Queen and her successors for ever, all their rights, titles, and privileges whatsoever to the lands included within the following limits ---"

These limits were from a point on

the international boundary due south of the western extremity of the Cypress Hills, west to the central range of the Rocky Mountains and from thence to a point due west of the source of the main branch of the Red Deer River.

In return for this vast slice of land the Indians were to have the privilege of hunting in this territory subject to regulations issued from time to time by Her Majesty's government and with the exception of lands required for settlement, mining, trading or other purposes. This meant that in due course the Indians would not hunt except on their reserves which were also subject to certain restrictions.

Also, the Indians were to be granted twelve dollars each in cash and annually " -- to each Chief, twenty-five dollars, each minor Chief or Councillor (not exceeding fifteen minor Chiefs to the Blackfeet and Blood Indians, and four to the Piegan and Sarcee bands, and five Councillors to the Stony Indian Bands) fifteen dollars, and to every other Indian of whatever age, five dollars; the same

unless there be some exceptional reason, to be paid to the heads of families for those belonging thereto."

In addition, \$2,000 was to be expended each year in the purchase of ammunition for the said Indians. Certain other concessions, such as clothing, was promised to the Chiefs; teachers for the Indians were to be paid by the Government; an initial gift of cattle and tools apportioned to heads of families and to Chiefs. To this remarkable document was appended a list of names of 51 Indian Chiefs and Councillors.

It was during MacLeod's term of office, almost during his whole term, that Sitting Bull made his stay in Canada, four years of painful anxiety to the Police in which fearlessness and firmness tempered with kindness averted a catastrophe.

Commissioner Irvine's six years as head of the Force from 1880-1886 witnessed the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the establishment of the headquarters of the Force at Regina, and the Riel Rebellion.

It was during the period of L. W. Herchmer's Commissionership that the Force was called upon to police the Yukon. In 1900, the South African War broke out and Herchmer obtained six month's leave of absence to visit his own men who had volunteered. When he returned to Canada he was relieved of his command of the Force and was succeeded by Commissioner A. B. Perry, 1900-1922.

A. B. Perry has the honour of having served as head of the Force longer than any Commissioner in its whole history.

(1) In 1891, the population of Canada was 4,833,239, in 1901, 5,371,315; in 1911, 7,206,643; in 1921, 8,788,483. This population had increased by approximately four million over a period of thirty-one years. A great deal of this increase in population was due to immigration, a total of arrivals in 1901 being 49,149 of which 11,810 were British, 17,987

(1) Heaton's Handbook. The Heaton Publishing Company, Toronto, 1927. Pages 555-556.

from the United States and 19,352 from other countries. In 1908, these figures were 262,469 of which 120,182 were from the United Kingdom, 48,312 from the United States and 83,975 from other lands. In 1911, a total of 311,084 immigrants entered the country of which 120,198 settled in the prairie provinces. Of the total number 66,620 were non-British.

It was not to be expected that the non-British element would bring British sentiment with them. As Longstreth says, some of them arrived with generations of feud in their blood and the hatred of oppressive governments. A constabulary of 639 to cope with the problems of approximately 165,000 people of which one-fourth were from foreign countries scattered over an area of 500,000 square miles! Perry was equal to the task and disposed 154 detachments over the face of the prairies from which constant patrols rode back and forth.

It was Perry, too, who requested that the dignity of the Force be recognized

by the Sovereign and in 1904 his request was granted. The North West Mounted Police became the Royal North West Mounted Police with Lord Minto as its first Honorary Commissioner.

In 1905, autonomy was granted to Alberta and Saskatchewan and the life of the Force was threatened. It was now the responsibility of the Provinces to do their own policing and this information was conveyed to them gently by the Federal Government. It dawned upon the new legislators that this meant a severe drain on their funds. The taxpayers would be rudely and disagreeably surprised. A solution was found. The Mounted Police under orders from the Provincial Attorney-Generals would police the two provinces for a sum of \$75,000 each a year, payable to the Federal Government. The falling shadow lifted. The Royal North West Mounted Police would continue to patrol the plains.

During the gold rush to the Yukon

many fortune seekers, taking a look at the map, considered an overland route from Edmonton to Dawson would be preferable to going by the coast via Skagway. They were encouraged in this view by clever rogues who made their headquarters at Edmonton and sold goods to the prospectors at enormous profits. Unfortunately for the goldseekers the maps did not disclose the numerous portages, mountains, swamps and timberland that had to be crossed in the 1,250 miles from Edmonton to Dawson.

Large numbers of these poor unfortunates discovered this by experience and ended in disaster. Again, the Royal North West Mounted Police played the role of pioneers and Inspector Moodie was called upon to blaze a trail through the unknown wilderness and to submit his report. It took him and his little party one year and seven weeks and his report was unfavourable to a route in that direction.

In 1905, the matter was re-opened. This time the orders came from Perry and Superintendent Constantine was chosen for the command. This time, too, the trail was not only to be blazed. It must be wide enough for a wagon for four hundred miles of the way from Peace River Crossing to the mountains, thence for a pack train to White Horse.

Twenty-two constables, six N. C. O's, two officers and Constantine made up the party. Mills were levelled; fires were fought; floods were conquered; cuts were graded, muskegs corduroyed and rivers bridged for a distance of 357 miles. Three years had passed since the undertaking had commenced and now within sight of their goal a government decision halted the work.

When one reads of the hardships endured, the privations suffered and the indomitable energy of these men who undertook a task because they were ordered to do so, without hope of compensation beyond their daily pay and

that a mere pittance, the heart swells with pride at the achievement and one cannot but exclaim, "This is the kind of thing that made the Force famous, the indomitable courage and steadfast hearts of pioneers, the courage and endurance that caused them to blaze new trails and prepare a wilderness for the reception of those who would follow and who would reap the fruit of their toil. Such work as this dwarfs into insignificance the capture of refugees from justice, the "get your man" glories of fiction writers.

It was during Perry's career, too, that Fitzgerald made his last patrol and Dempster his memorable search for the missing party.

In closing this chapter on Perry's career as Commissioner of the Police, Longstreth pays a high tribute to the Force. Each time that the Force was threatened with extinction some new problem arose requiring its versatility, its ability to respond to any need and

it is this phoenix-like quality which has given it immortality.

Cortland Starnes, short, stocky, with black, snapping eyes and a heavy black moustache which he twirled violently when under emotional strain, became Commissioner in 1922, two years after the Force became officially known as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It was due in no small measure to the tact of this impressive little individual that the hostility of the East towards the Force was overcome.

With the invasion of the East the Royal Canadian Mounted Police met new problems to solve. The trade in narcotic drugs in Eastern Canada, and particularly in Montreal, was increasing at an alarming rate. Smuggling goods from the United States into Canada in return for liquor brought prosperity to many bootleggers.

To combat such crimes the Force underwent another change and scarlet

coats gave precedence to plain clothes.

A highly-trained detective department
was in the making.

THE RIDERS OF THE PLAINS. 1873-1910.
By A. L. Haydon, London: Andrew Melrose,
Toronto: The Copp Clark Company, Limited.
1910.

TWO pupils from Calgary read this book. It was their good fortune, as the author is the only one, as far as can be ascertained, who had the honour and the privilege of having the first Commissioner of the Force, Major-General Sir George A. French, K. C.M. G., revise the chapters concerning his own regime and place at the author's disposal valuable material respecting the earliest years of the Force.

He received assistance, also, from Colonel Fred White, C. M. G., and Comptroller of the Force for many years, a foster mother as it were, who nursed the Force through its infancy and parted with it on its maturity with a deep pang of regret.

As THE RIDERS OF THE PLAINS has been used freely as a source of material by later historians there is not much to add by way of review. As in Captain

Chamber's history the range of view is very close to the period of which the author writes; consequently more detail is to be found of events of the early days of the Force.

From a historical point of view the information given in THE RIDERS OF THE PLAINS is authentic. From a literary point of view the author has stated his subject clearly and accurately. He has gathered his material by careful thinking and reading and developed it into a serious, thorough and sustained piece of explanation. It is marked by a severity of method and careful accuracy.

The author, before beginning his history of the Force, takes the reader back into the ages of antiquity, the North-West of the past where Indians and bison roamed at large; the coming of the white man, the priest and the trader; the establishment of the two great fur companies, the Hudson's Bay and the Great North-West Fur Company;

the settlement at Red River in 1811 and 1812, the North-West Rebellion of 1869 and the formation of the Province of Manitoba.

In conformity with his severity of method Haydon selects his words carefully, using no unnecessary verbiage and using the exact word necessary to express his meaning. Thus he takes the reader step by step, from the coming of the Police to the prairies, their problems, vicissitudes and developments, to the year of 1910 when he asks the question, "How long will the Mounted Police be required in the north-west?" and gives the answer, "So long as the settlement of the western country goes on."

To-day, he could ask the question, "How long will the Mounted Police be required in Canada?" Other authors have attempted the answer, "Other doors will open....."

IN SCARLET AND PLAIN CLOTHES. By T. Morris Longstreth. The MacMillan Company, New York. 1938.

ALTHOUGH classed as fiction by some libraries this book merits a place in the authentic records¹ of the Force. In obtaining the copyright for his story Longstreth excepted the reviewer. As this is a brief review it will not be amiss to quote an extract from his foreword.

He states that for six decades the Mounted Police have made their name one of the familiar great names of the world, so familiar that most people take the Force for granted, content with knowing that it is operating but hazy of its precise duties. He goes on to say that fortunately the youth of Canada are more awake.

In view of the fact that almost a thousand questionnaires on the Force were sent out and a little over four hundred were returned with answers and out of these only two hundred fully answered I leave it to the reader to decide if Longstreth is right.

IN SCARLET AND PLAIN CLOTHES is a narrative or, more correctly speaking, a series of narratives, tales told to the author by men in the Force and checked for their accuracy by the author himself with the documents at the Headquarters of the Force.

WEEKLIES, MOVING PICTURES, MAGAZINES,
HISTORY TEXT-BOOKS.

NOT a few have derived their knowledge of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from the TORONTO STAR WEEKLY and the MONTREAL STANDARD. Sketches appearing in these papers are necessarily brief but like the Literary Digests they are ideal for those who must run while they read. For those who have a superficial interest in the multifarious phases of the world's activities they are particularly useful. They fall far short of the serious student's ideal, however, and must be supplemented by more detailed matter on the subject. The MONTREAL STANDARD of September 1, 1945, gives a brief history of the Force in approximately 500 words, illustrated by true pictures.

The NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE, a moving picture, has been seen by many and on the whole is fairly accurate. Paramount Pictures Incorporated were really genuine in their efforts to

present the Force as it was in fact and for this purpose their representatives were sent to Regina to study pictures and photographs for accurate details of the original uniforms. A Sergeant-Major of the Force was loaned to the studios to supervise the barrack room and drill scenes while they were being prepared at Hollywood. In spite of all these precautions, however, Hollywood's imaginative side predominated. In one instance a new type of headgear was chosen and the plot itself was imaginative.

It is gratifying, too, to know that quite a number read SCARLET AND GOLD, a yearly magazine published by ex-members of the Force who have formed a Veterans Association. This magazine contains many articles relative to experiences of the old-timers themselves.

The ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE QUARTERLY is, also, a valuable source of information on the Force. It is published by the Force with editorial offices in the Justice Building, Ottawa.

The present editor, Sergeant G. S. Howard, is hard-working and conscientious and no article is printed in the quarterly before he has analyzed it in every detail for authenticity and adaptability for the magazine.

Although originally designed to impart instruction and training to members of the Force the quarterly has served a broader purpose. It has helped and is helping to educate the public on the work of the Force and it is hoped that its range will increase so that the Canadian Public will be able to answer intelligently the questions put to them by American tourists and foreign visitors who are anxious to learn at first-hand about the Force of which they have often read but have never seen. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are paid indirectly by the people of Canada and although under direct orders from the Government they are the servants of the Public and as such it behoves the

people of Canada to know something about them and the work they have done and are doing in the interest of that same Public.

The Quarterly costs only \$1.00 a year or 25¢ a copy and is easily obtainable by communicating with the Editor. It contains instructional articles such as Notes on Recent Cases, Winter Patrols in the Arctic, Police Broadcasting in Prairie Provinces, The Crime Laboratory, the Museum at Regina; articles of general interest such as Jasper National Park, Massacres in the Hills; Indians and Cariboo, Great Slave Lake District, N.W.T., articles in humorous vein and Regular Quarterly Items such as Book Review, Division Notes, Obituary and Old Timer's Column.

Literary analysis of the quarterly is well-nigh impossible as contributors to the magazine range from lowly Constables to prominent lawyers, all varying in degrees of education and of literary

ability. Generally, it can be said that the articles are informative, written in a homely style but reflective of a genuine desire to tell the story without ornamentation and verbosity. The Quarterly reflects the character of the Force, sincere, enthusiastic and genuine in its efforts to do a good job without ostentation and display. This is illustrated in an article of especial interest by Sub-Inspector H. A. Larsen written for the Quarterly of April, 1945. It is entitled, "Our Return Voyage through the North-West Passage."

As there has been a book published on this subject even now and, no doubt, there will be more, it may be as well to review the article as written by the man who commanded the expedition. Anyone knowing Sub-Inspector Larsen would not be surprised that he had accomplished that which many men failed to do. John Cabot attempted it in 1498 and reached

the Hudson Strait. Frobisher, Davis, Baffin and many others successively took part in the search for the North-West Passage. Franklin discovered it in 1847 but perished with his 129 officers and men in so doing. Roald Amundsen succeeded in 1903-6.

The 80-ton R. C. M. P. patrol vessel "St. Roch" has become famous with its master. The voyage was accomplished from west to east in twenty-eight months and from east to west in less than three months, a world-breaking record. Larsen is as proud of his ship as the old police veterans were of their horses. This is his description of the vessel:

(1) "Built in 1928 at the Burrard shipyard, North Vancouver, B. C., especially for service in the Arctic, the "St. Roch" has extra thick timbers of Douglas fir sheeted with Australian iron-bark to resist the grinding pressure of ice floes. This floating detachment of the R. C. M. P. is 104 ft. long, has a beam of 25 ft., and a draft of $12\frac{1}{2}$ ft. when loaded. Diesel-powered, she was assigned to patrol the Canadian Arctic and convey supplies to various detachments along the coast.

(1) R. C. M. P. Quarterly, Page 299, Vol.10, No. 4, April, 1945.

She cleared Vancouver on June 26, 1928, put to sea on her maiden voyage with 183 tons of cargo and arrived at Herschel Island July 31."

Larsen goes on to tell of the many voyages which he made with the boat and mentions in particular the one in 1942. In 1940, he had been detailed by the Commissioner to proceed to Halifax, Nova Scotia, by way of the North-West Passage, if there was sufficient time before the usual freeze-up late in September. The boat was then in Arctic waters.

Because of the heavy ice the boat was locked for ten months between Herschel Island and Banks Island. On July 31, 1941, the little crew reached Holman Island. From there they proceeded to Booth Island, Cambridge Bay, Simpson Rock, Lind Island, Queen Maud Gulf, Etah, Tullock Point, Booth Point, Peterson Bay and finally, became ice-locked in Fasley Bay, Boothia Peninsula. Here they remained all of that winter, the next spring and part of the summer.

On August 3, 1942, they broke loose from the ice and on September 10, weighed anchor in Davis Strait. Then came the homeward lap down Baffin Island and the Coast of Labrador arriving at Halifax October 11, the whole voyage of ten thousand miles having taken twenty-eight months to complete.

It is of the return voyage that Larsen writes in the article under review. On July 22, 1944, the St. Roch, with her crew of 11 men, left Halifax but as the vessel required a few adjustments at Sydney it was the 26th before it was really under way. Despite dirty weather they reached Curling Cove, Newfoundland, the next day.

The fog was heavy at New Ferrolle Island and at Double Island, Labrador. It lifted at Cape Chidley. Off Hall Peninsula, Baffin Island, they ran into pack ice but pushed through it to Cape St. David on the south coast of Cumberland Sound. At 9.00 p. m. on August 5, they sighted Greenland's high peaks but it was not Greenland

for which they were bound. Turning directly away from this land they headed for the police detachment at Fond Inlet where they took on board an Eskimo to aid in fishing, his wife and his mother who could do the sewing, and his five children plus seventeen dogs to aid in patrolling.

From here they sailed through Eclipse Sound and Navy Board Inlet, crossed Lancaster Sound, passed a few icebergs near Devon Island and reached Dundas Harbour on the 18th. It was a few hours travel from here that they saw the ruins of three ancient dwellings made of stones and bones and, according to the Eskimos, built by the Tunits, a people of enormous stature, now extinct.

The route followed now was through Maxwell Bay, Cape Hurd, Radstock Bay, Erebus Bay and Beech Island. On this island is erected a cenotaph in memory of those who perished in the British

Naval Expedition, 1852, under Sir Edward Belcher, and where the Franklin expedition spent their first Arctic winter.

On August 22, Larsen and his crew reached Cornwallis Island, Baker Island, Cape Cockburn, and Austin Channel where the surface ice was forming solidly. On Byam Martin Island they built a cairn for their records. On Melville Island they sighted musk-oxen. On Dealey Island they discovered a huge cache of clothing and canned food, one tin of which contained ox-cheek soup made in 1850.

Winter Harbour, Cape Providence, Prince of Wales Strait, Ramsay Island, past Walker Bay, Holman Island and the North-West Passage from East to West was almost over. Forging through ice, loose and dangerous, the party reached the harbour of Tuktoyaktuk - "a place of caribou" -.

At this point a heavy gale reached hurricane proportions and ice formed

in a solid mass. It looked as though the party would be forced to winter here but Larsen says he "decided to attempt the crossing." He gives no details of how this was done, typical of Mounted Police reports, but "we passed Pullen Island that evening." They left Herschel Island on September 2, made good speed to Barter Island, Alaska, passed through Pehring Strait, into the North Pacific and moored in Vancouver Harbour on October 16. History in the making but only a mere incident in Larsen's busy life.

History text books as a source of information on the Force are very unsatisfactory. Although the Force has made history for Canada, has made it possible for history to be made, historians make little mention of the fact. Pioneers are quickly forgotten in the rush of events which follow the blazing of any trail.

THEY GOT THEIR MAN. By Philip H. Godsell,
F. R. G. S., The Ryerson Press, Toronto,
1932.

GODSELL'S own life is narrated in
ARCTIC TRADER written by himself and
published by the MacMillan Company of
Canada, Toronto.

Godsell served as an apprentice clerk in the Hudson's Bay Company and was stationed at Norway House. He became Inspecting Officer of the Company for the whole Northwest District including the western Arctic and has travelled extensively in the North. He is the author of several books on the North and is familiar with the country of which he writes. He has known personally many of the members of the Force who are the heroes of his tales and has talked not only with them of their experiences but has, also, had the added advantage of knowing the Hudson's Bay factors who were eye-witnesses of many of the scenes. The sources of his information in THEY GOT THEIR MAN

can be found in Appendix III of his book. These are derived, mainly from conversations with the various parties who participated in the events, from old reports and various authentic documents.

His first chapter is on Skagway's Lord of Misrule, the reference being made to "Soapy Smith", the much-discussed leader of Skagway's outlaw gang.

It is essential that a writer have a clear and adequate knowledge of the subject which he discusses. The first chapter, typical of all the chapters in the book, can be used as a measuring-stick of Godsell's qualifications as a writer on the subject which he has chosen for his book. He obtained his story through J. L. Sansom, Chief Passenger Agent, White Pass and Yukon Railway, Whitehorse, Y. T., Harry Anthony, Fort Yukon, Alaska, with whom Godsell conversed while travelling across Alaska by dog-team in January, 1924, and who followed the gold rush in 1898; from Martin Itzen,

Skagway, Alaska; from a letter written by Ex-Corporal Storm Piner who had been stationed at Dawson; from THE REIGN OF SOAPY SMITH by Collier and Westrate; FORTY YEARS IN CANADA by Colonel S. B. Steele, C. B., M. V. O., and from the Annual Reports of the R. N. W. M. Police 1895-1898.

Unless one is fully acquainted with the characters of the men from whom Godesell derived his story it is impossible to judge the accuracy of their statements. Steele, who wrote FORTY YEARS IN CANADA is one of the sources of information on the subject and is a competent authority as he was in charge of the R. N. W. M. P. posts in the White and Chilkoot passes during the Klondyke Gold Rush of 1898, and was a member of the Yukon Council; Major Harwood Steele, son of Colonel, later Major-General S. B. Steele, wrote POLICING THE ARCTIC and derived his story of "Soapy" Smith from the same source as well as from THE REIGN OF SOAPY SMITH

by Collier and Westrate, plus the Annual Reports, 1895-98. It will be seen, therefore, that although Steele and Godsell used the same sources of information, Godsell had the advantage of having conversed with men who were in Alaska and the Yukon during the period of "Soapy" Smith's depredations.

Both men were agreed that there was no law enforcement in Skagway, Alaska, and taking advantage of these chaotic conditions Jefferson Randolph Smith, otherwise known as "Soapy" for his dexterity in selling cakes of soap in Denver at \$5.00 apiece around some of which he wrapped bills of large denominations, became the Lord of all this misrule. With one hundred and fifty kindred spirits he robbed the travellers directly and indirectly, by gambling, dance-halls, direct robbery and violence.

On the other side of the pass, on Canadian territory, were the Mounted Police who maintained order and collected

customs duties. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars had been collected for the Canadian Government and this had to be transported out via Skagway. Inspector Wood, later Assistant-Commissioner, was chosen for the task.

Inspector Wood closed the office at the pass over which the travellers came from Skagway and quietly let it be circulated that he was being transferred back to the plains taking with him nothing but his baggage and boatmen. On June 9, 1898, he left with a small party for Victoria via Chilcoot, Dyea and Skagway, where they were to meet the steamer "Tartar".

Although Steele tells us that a row-boat of roughnecks followed them when they embarked at Dyea to cross the bay to Skagway and that Wood told them to keep their distance or he would shoot, Godsell amplifies the tale more adequately. He says that the ruffians showed their intention of ramming the Police boat and

gave orders to "lay-to". In answer to their command Wood and his men swung their rifles over the gunwales. This kept the would-be marauders at a distance.

At the wharf at Skagway, Soapy and his gang were on hand to meet the Police. Steele is content with telling us that the "Tartar's" hurricane deck was lined with sailors armed with rifles and that in the crowd was another armed group of R. N. R. men. Godsell is more dramatic. He points out that Soapy Smith's attention was drawn to the "Tartar" by hearing the crisp orders ringing out to the sailors to level their rifles. He does not mention, however, the armed group of R. N. R. men who were moving through the crowd.

Wood and Soapy met face to face but Soapy, seeing the rifles and realizing danger, merely smiled and invited Wood to stop over at Skagway for a day or two.

Carrying 150,000 dollars in gold and notes in their kit bags the little party of policemen passed safely up the gangway to the "Tartar".

The climax to Soapy Smith's career came when Frank Reid, city engineer for Skagway, and bitter enemy of Smith drew his revolver upon being attacked by the latter. There was a misfire and Soapy's gun blazed. Reid fell, mortally wounded, but did not die instantly. He had time to raise his own revolver and shoot Smith through the heart.

Godsell tells the story with dramatic interest, how a John D. Stewart on his way out from the Klondyke with three thousand dollars worth of gold dust was led by Smith's satellites to "Jeff's Place", a saloon managed by the redoubtable Soapy, and there robbed of his "poke"; how the shrewd Scot told his story to the editor of "The Alaskan", the Skagway paper, and to several merchants unfriendly to Smith; and how the citizens were aroused to such a degree that they formed

a committee who demanded that Soapy return the stolen poke. When he refused Reid warned him to have it ready by six o'clock the same day. The committee appealed to the Judge at Dyce who came post haste to Skagway. He called Smith before him and echoed Reid's earlier injunction with the threat that if the poke were not restored he would issue warrants for the arrest of every member of the gang.

At six o'clock the crowd had gathered at "Jeff's Place." Soapy Smith came to the doorway but not with the poke. Instead he carried a rifle and invited the mob to come and get him, him and his four hundred men. The mob retired to discuss the matter. At length, six citizens were chosen as guards, among them Frank Reid, to protect the conference to be held at Juneau Wharf. Only responsible citizens were to be admitted to the conference to discuss ways and means. It was the duty of the guards

to keep away those not in this category.

Soapy Smith decided to attend the meeting. As he approached the wharf he was challenged by Frank Reid who had his revolver pointed at the outlaw. It is at this point that Godsell brings his dramatic abilities into play and pictures Soapy screaming for Reid not to shoot, at the same time swinging his own gun forward. Reid is deaf to all entreaties. He pulls the trigger and so does Soapy. What Steele claims as a misfire Godsell states was the blending of the reports of the two firearms, evidently mistaken for one shot. Reid fired again as he dropped to the ground but Soapy, too, had been hit. Frank Reid lived twelve days before he died from the bullet wound and was buried only a few yards from the man who had been Skagway's terror.

Although Godsell did not have the advantage of taking part in all of the experiences which he relates he has obtained a very definite knowledge of them

from those who did participate. In his fifth and sixth chapters he narrates another murder case which took place in 1902. He read a full report on this case written by ex-Corporal Storm Piper who had been sent with Inspector Howard to investigate the corpse stranded in a slough in one of the Yukon's backwaters.

Piper found a metal tag on a key-ring which bore a Quebec address. As Constable Burns was able to speak French he was assigned to the case. Burns, after some difficult detective work, arrested one of the murderers but there was yet another. This latter, Detective Constable Walsh apprehended in Nevada. Both confessed that murder had been done, but each accused the other.

Realizing that these conflicting confessions could defeat the ends of justice, Inspector Routledge sent Corporal Piper and Constable Woodhill to investigate the camp-site on the island where the murder, or rather, murders had taken place for before the investigation was

over two other bodies had been found. The exhibits produced by Corporal Piper at the trial convicted both the accused. He had found two discharged .44 calibre shells belonging to the revolver owned by one of the accused and a number of 45:90 shells ejected from weapon owned by the other.

Godsell at this point in his narrative fails the reader. 'The natural question is "How does this evidence convict the two men? The bullets could have been fired at caribou, wolves or bears. The mere presence of ejected shells at the camp-site proves nothing."

It had been proved that the shells were of the same calibre as the weapons owned by the two men respectively. What Godsell fails to say, Major Steele supplies in his POLICING THE ARCTIC.

At the coroner's inquest of the first body found the verdict was that "the man had been shot in the head twice with a heavy calibre rifle and in the back with a revolver."

In reading the various histories of the Force one cannot fail to observe the similarity in the selection of material by the various authors. If the authors limit their sphere to the North the story of "Soapy Smith" takes precedence, the O'Brien case follows in due course, the Bouthillette case, the traders at Herschel Island, the Charles King case, the Fitzgerald patrol, the murder of the two priests, the murder of the fur trader, Janes, the Doak murder case.

The methods used in narrating these events are as various as the authors. Godsell clothes his stories with details omitted by many of the other authors, apparently the result of having heard many of these tales verbally from the participants. In this way his narratives create the same effect upon the reader as do the modern detective thrillers. His statements are concrete, amplified by detailed particulars. He describes Herschel as a lozenge-shaped island

and gives its length as eleven miles, its width as four. Steele is content to call it a "little rock", "an Arctic Paradise - or Inferno."

Godsell's description satisfies both the imagination and the intellect and is a model of lucidity. He achieves fulness of expression without being verbose. In one paragraph he has given the reader a full and satisfying description of the island. It is lonely, unattractive, a mass of glacial ice, with a counterpane of soil capable of producing a hundred kinds of plants and wild flowers during the brief summer season but in the winter the scene of bitterly cold and howling blizzards.

His description of the island on Page 64 of the book under discussion, is given in one paragraph of two sentences, one sentence containing 56 words. One would be inclined to think that such a sentence would be confusing. In the hands of an amateur this would be so.

Godsell proves his mastery of the art of writing in this sentence. It embodies one definite and rounded conception, gives an impression of oneness and contains no particulars not immediately relevant to the main statement.

How does he achieve this result? By avoiding the common pitfall of joining his clauses by "ands" and "buts" and the consequent frequency of compound sentences. He uses the complex sentence with all the skill of a practiced writer, grouping the thoughts together in such a way that it makes a strong impression of unity. He places the important idea at the first of the sentence where it should be. The reader is told in the first sentence of the paragraph that Herschel is an island, its shape and its dimensions. In the next sentence he gains immediately the predominant impression - a lonely and unattractive mass of glacial ice. His visions of a tropical island bearing luscious fruits and glorious palms are

are dispelled immediately had he any such thoughts. The remainder of the sentence intensifies this first impression of cold and loneliness although one is given a glimpse of the sun, however brief.

In his third paragraph Godsell tells us that the importance of Herschel Island arose from the fact that behind a sandspit jutting out from its south-eastern coast was the snug little harbour of Pauline Cove, a haven of refuge for American whaling vessels. In the next, he describes the native inhabitants of the island, their mode of existence and their contentment.

At The American whalers tried to change all this by creating in the natives a desire for liquor, white men's clothing and tawdry finery and having accomplished this they were now ready to exchange these things for furs. It was a profitable business for the white man but led to wild orgies among the Eskimos and, worse yet, to

bloodshed. In time, debauchery and contamination reduced the number of two thousand natives to four hundred.

It was at this point that the Royal North-West Mounted Police decided to extend its "scarlet tentacles" and Sergeant Fitzgerald, the Inspector Fitzgerald of the tragic MacIherson-Dawson patrol several years later, was ordered to establish a detachment at Herschel Island.

Godsell does not spare the reader in his description of the debaucheries perpetrated on that lonely island nor does he minimize the danger to the lives of the two men, Fitzgerald and Constable Sutherland, who found themselves placed in the midst of lawless crews from seven whaling vessels - three hundred men to whom murder was a mere incident.

In passing, it may be as well to mention the name given to the northern tribes dwelling on the Arctic coast. Originally, they were designated as

as Esquimaux, singular Esquimau, a name given to them by the Abenaki Indians meaning "eaters of raw flesh." The popular spelling and the one used by the majority of modern authors is "Eskimo", plural "Eskimos." Both the Webster and the Oxford dictionaries list the two names but Oxford's gives the plural of "Eskimo" as "Eskimoes." Most nouns ending in -o take the plural -es but there are exceptions such as folio, folios, quarto, quartos. There seems to be no hard and fast rule, therefore, we may accept Godsell's spelling of "Eskimos" without any qualms of conscience.

Godsell tells of the Charles King case and although it is, too, a case which has been told by the majority of writers on the Mounted Police, both in fiction and in non-fiction, Godsell tells it in such logical sequence of details that a reader who is interested in detective stories would have the opportunity of using his imagination before the

mystery was solved and a jury would have no trouble in connecting the evidence. It shows, too, an ability on the part of the author for developing his topic omitting no detail of special significance.

The scene is the Mackenzie Basin, the time September, 1904. Staff-Sergeant Anderson was returning in the afternoon from a visit to the Hudson's Bay post where he had called upon the factor, who was also a Justice of the Peace, to witness the amount of money he had taken from a corpse found in Buffalo Bay, the body of an Englishman who had been drowned in these waters the previous spring.

Anderson was jogging along on his horse when he became aware of an Indian following him. The Indian was Mistoos, a Cree chief from the neighbouring Sucker Lake Reserve.

The chief told the policeman a strange tale. A short time before a tall, black-bearded man, in company

with a man called "Char-lee" had camped at the reserve. Two days later "Char-lee" had ridden off with all the horses, branded "Diamond C", but the tall man had disappeared. The chief found his cattle pawing over the ashes of the camp-fires which the pale-faces had lit.

That evening at the barracks the cook casually mentioned the departure of Charlie Ring with a goodly number of traps, in particular, a huge bear-trap.

Anderson rode over to the Indian Reserve and plied the chief with questions, eliciting valuable information. The chief's two children had visited the camp of the two white men and had received food. They watched the taller of the two sewing with a big needle a piece of leather to his gun-stock. The white man wore a fingerless glove which he used to push the needle into the leather. He wore a belt with a large silver buckle and had a collie dog. The men said they were on their way to the settlement. The

next day the tall man had disappeared and "Char-lee" left three days later with all the horses and the traps. The dog was unwilling to leave but the man led it away by means of a string.

The chief's squaw, eager to obtain some ashes for making lye, went to the deserted camping-ground. In the ashes she had found a burned cloth with a button attached.

This curious set of circumstances may have meant nothing except for the fact that the weather was warm and such a large camp-fire was not warranted. Anderson decided to push his investigation further. He sifted the ashes.

The Staff-Sergeant was not a man easily horrified but his discoveries must have made him shiver. First, he found a piece of bone, then two more, then a piece of flesh and finally a heart. His further search revealed more bones and pieces of burned cloth.

Being a policeman, not a doctor,

Anderson did not attempt a conclusion. The bones and flesh could belong to an animal but the heart was very like a human heart. He went to a near-by slough and waded in knee-deep. The Indian followed with a rake and dug up a battered old kettle which the children recognized as the one which had been used by the two white men.

Surveying the ground around the camp, the policeman discovered the imprints of moccasins, the footgear of an Indian. He cantered over to the settlement to interview Moise Gladu, a half-breed. In the half-breed's cabin hung a large number of traps which Gladu explained belonged to Charlie King who wanted to sell them as he was going out by the next steamer. At this moment King entered.

The greetings were friendly and Anderson was soon engaging the new-comer in conversation. King seemed to have nothing to conceal. He told the policeman that he had met a man called Leaman

near the Sand Hills and that together they had camped on the reserve. Two days later Leaman started off alone for Sturgeon Lake. Certainly there was nothing about King's appearance or manner, to arouse suspicion. Could the old Cree chief be protecting one of his own braves by turning suspicion on King?

Returning to the barracks Anderson despatched Constable Lowe to Sturgeon Lake. A few nights later a half-breed from Sturgeon Lake came to the barracks. He had met Constable Lowe on the way but he had nothing to report.

When the half-breed had departed on his way to the Mission, Anderson buckled on his revolver, put a pair of handcuffs in his pocket and sauntered towards the Hudson's Bay post. Arriving there he asked the factor for a warrant for the arrest of Charlie King.

This was an unpopular move in the settlement. Anderson had no evidence

and would never gain a conviction. In the meantime King had missed the boat which would take him to civilization. He was pitied by the native inhabitants who now made him a martyr.

Anderson, unperturbed, returned to sift more ashes. He found more bone, a blackened waistcoat button and a broken cobbler's needle - and from the slough a pair of top-boots and inside these a bundle containing a nugget tie-pin, a sovereign case, part of a gold watch-chain, an empty cartridge shell, a watch and a broken needle. The two pieces of needle fitted perfectly; the sovereign case pointed to an Englishman.

When Constable Lowe returned from Sturgeon Lake with no news he was detailed to escort King to Edmonton for trial. In the meantime, Anderson, after careful thought, set about to drain the slough. He was rewarded with a silver buckle from the belt of the missing white man.

His next move was to Edmonton. While there he visited a harness shop where he found the saddler sewing some leather traces. On his hand he wore a sewing-glove similar to the one described by the Indian boy as belonging to the missing man. Upon inquiry he learned that the saddler had sold just such a one to a trapper the previous summer. This helped very little, but Anderson pursued his investigations. A trader at the Hudson's Bay store had a record of sale of a bear-trap to one, Edward Hayward, August 14.

The name of King's companion was Leaman- but that was King's story. Anderson searched the hotels, scanning the registers. At last! On the Edmonton Hotel register for August 14, were two names together - Charlie King and Edward Hayward.

The proprietor remembered both men. They had left their trunks in the basement of the hotel for safe-keeping until they would return from the North. King was in possession of a ring and keys when he

was arrested. To get these and to open the trunks was a matter of a few minutes. Hayward's trunk contained, among other things, a letter from his brother George, in England. To him Inspector Strickland wrote for a description of his brother, Edward. Lowe located the man who had sold the "Diamond C" horses - to Hayward, and the women who had sold the yellow collie - to Hayward.

A few weeks later George Hayward arrived from England. He told the Inspector of a strange dream that he had had the previous September and stranger still the location of the crime in the dream coincided with the actual location. To verify his statement he produced a clipping from an English newspaper which told of the dream. The dream occurred on the night of the murder.

George Hayward was taken to the stone gaol and from a line of prisoners identified Charles King as the murderer whom he had seen in his dream. Curiously enough, at the trial it was revealed

that the Cree chief's son had heard two shots during the night and had visited the camp the next day to find that the tall man had disappeared. George Hayward had told the Inspector previously to this that two shots had been fired according to his dream.

The bones were certified by a pathologist as being part of a human skull. The moccasin footprints were those of an Indian woman who gave testimony at the trial that she had visited the camp on the night of Hayward's disappearance, with the object of selling a pair of moccasins. The hour was after midnight. As she approached she heard the voices of the two men as though in a quarrel, then two loud explosions. This established a motive for the crime and with the evidence of the broken needle, the goods sold to Hayward and found in possession of Fing, the human bones in the ashes and the exhibits found in

the slough sufficed to convince a jury and King paid the extreme penalty for his misdeed.

In telling this story Godsell has accomplished what others have failed to do. He has filled in the details so that the reader can convince himself of King's guilt. The bones found in the ashes of the camp-fire were proved to be those of a human skull. The bear-trap found in King's possession had been sold to an Edward Hayward. The needle and the fingerless glove had been used by Leaman according to eye-witnesses. These same eye-witnesses had seen the man wearing the belt with the silver buckle. They had seen, also, the unwillingness of the yellow collie to follow King and, knowing that a dog usually followed his master without hesitation, became suspicious; furthermore, Leaman was not to be found although King said he had gone to Sturgeon Lake. The evidence so far indicated that a human being had been

murdered and his body burned.

King was in possession of certain articles known to have belonged to his companion and other articles had been found either in the slough or among the ashes. To identify Leaman with Edward Hayward was the next step. This was accomplished by gaining a description of Hayward from his brother and the identification of the watch-chain, sovereign case and tie-pin; by the fact that the horses and traps had been sold to Hayward; and that Hayward had left Edmonton in company with Charles King.

The motive could have been the result of a quarrel but as King took possession of the horses and the traps it was evidently robbery. An empty cartridge shell was found. Godsell fails to account for the calibre, whether or not it corresponded to King's gun and why two shells were not found as two shots supposedly had been fired.

To-day, this would be an important consideration in any court of law.

POLICING THE TOP OF THE WORLD. By Herbert Patrick Lee. John Lane The Bodley Head Limited, London, 1928.

LEE opens the first chapter with the question, "How does it feel to be living on top of the world - "

Before answering this question the author takes the reader back to civilization where, as a veteran of World War 1, he becomes restless with civilian life and joins the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with the hope of "tasting" further adventure. His hope is realized in July of 1922 when he is selected with eight others from a large group of volunteers for service in the Eastern Arctic.

He describes briefly the trip from Quebec to the Arctic Circle in the Government patrol ship "Arctic" commanded by Captain Bernier, veteran Canadian explorer. Within the Arctic circle, and within sight of the giant glaciers of Greenland, Lee pauses in his story to answer the question, "How does it feel to be living on top of the world?"

The feeling, for him, at this point is one of exhilaration, the appreciation, which he feels unable to express in words, of the magnificent spectacle of the mid-night sun, the deep blue of the Arctic sea, the exquisite variety of colours flashing from the Greenland glaciers and the cathedral-shaped icebergs towering into the sky with their bases deep in the ocean.

The chapter ends with Captain Bernier's success in breaking through the barriers of ice in Melville Bay to clear water surrounding Baffin Land.

The next chapter begins with the arrival of the party at Pond Inlet and their meeting with Sergeant Joy who had with him the murderers of Robert Janes, fur trader.

The boat was unable to reach land on account of the ice; consequently the captain steered towards Ellesmere Land, the "top of the world" for Lee and his six companions for the next two years.

Lee describes it as one gigantic glacier which dropped its broad mouth into the sea near Cape Tennyson.

This gigantic glacier is 400 miles long and has an area of 76,000 square miles. Craig Harbour, the point on the island on which the detachment quarters were erected is less than 800 miles from the North Pole.

Gulls, ducks, geese, walrus, seals, and musk-ox comprise the animal life on the island while grass and moss represent the vegetable life and this only on the lower slopes.

It was with a feeling of unutterable loneliness that Lee and his companions watched the "Arctic" pull away from those bleak shores - the last link with civilization.

The best way to keep from being lonely was to keep busy and they found plenty to do. In need of fresh meat they went in search of musk-ox and spent their first

night in an igloo. Lee marvelled at the warmth of the snowhouse heated only by a couple of candles.

From the end of October until the middle of February the island was in almost total darkness and on certain days a black mist came inland from Paffin Bay making it necessary to use a storm lantern outside. Those days were weary ones for the little party who amused themselves as best they could.

With the coming of May the author expresses his delight with hearing noise. During the winter everything was frozen. The stillness was so intense that when May came, bringing the sound of rushing water and the screeching of gulls, noise was as music to the ears.

Snowblindness was one of the discomforts of Arctic spring and summer. When no snow glasses were available the men followed the custom of the Eskimos and wore goggles made of bone with a narrow slit cut horizontally.

The saddest event of this sojourn in the desolate island was the death of little "Bunny", five-year-old daughter of the Eskimo guide. She died of tuberculosis in early July and they buried her on the hillside at nearly one o'clock in the morning, the Eskimo, Iakto, father of the little girl, reading the service in his own language from a mission prayer-book. The tragedy was heightened by the scene itself, a barren wind-swept valley, a sea dotted with ice, and the glacier-bound coast of North Devon in the distance.

After twelve months the "Arctic" returned to Craig Harbour and one can well imagine the thrill of ecstasy with which she was welcomed. To these lonely policemen it meant mail, news from the "outside", and not least, new faces and new voices. What could be sweeter after a year of confinement in an icebound land where one saw the same faces day after day and listened to the same voices!

When the "Arctic" left for the South

she took with her the Eskimo guide and his family, Inspector Wilcox and two of the party from Ellesmere Land leaving Corporal Nicholson and Constables Lee and Anstead behind. In the meantime, other Eskimos from Greenland had been brought to Ellesmere to stay with the little party. Among these was a sixty-year-old Eskimo, Panik-pa, who had made the trip in 1911 with Dr. Cook supposedly to the North Pole. Panik-pa had a different story, however, and told Lee that in actuality Cook had crossed to Cape Sabine and travelled westwards until they reached the head of Flagler Fiord, crossed the mountain-pass over Ellesmere coast, descending into Eureka Sound. To reach the north pole they should have turned north from here along the Ellesmere coast. Instead, they turned south and crossed over to Axel Heberg Land and journeyed from there to North Devon and from there to Etah, Greenland.

All this Panik-pa told Lee one night

as they camped in an igloo some miles from Craig Harbour. Lee was able to converse in the Eskimo language and he found the old man quite entertaining. The next night, however, he spent alone in the igloo, Panik-pa having returned to Craig Harbour with a load of meat. He describes it as the "height of loneliness" and welcomed the companionship of his little yellow dog. The next day, he, too, returned to Craig Harbour, which he had left two weeks before with Panik-pa, and although Craig Harbour is about 200 miles from the North Pole it seemed like a haven of refuge and happiness by contrast with his nights spent in an igloo in company with a guide, who spoke only a few words of English. Here at Craig Harbour, seated beside a warm stove, eating from a table and conversing in English with his two companions Lee, for the time being, experienced the zenith of happiness.

Another experience which was account-

ed as a tragedy was the burning of the detachment quarters in the middle of February when the weather was cold. Even to one living in civilization the burning of one's home is a tragic experience but when this happens thousands of miles from any source of supplies the tragedy is many times worse. With true traditional courage Lee and his companions set about to improvise a new home in the blubber shed but many of their conveniences had been lost in the fire. All their reading material was gone and their best stove, together with ten tons of coal.

It was with more than happiness that the boys met the "Arctic" that year in August and the tragedy of the fire was forgotten in the joy of meeting old friends, obtaining supplies of toiletry, such as toothbrushes, razors and soap, and of sitting down to bacon and eggs and civilized fare which we in modern cities take for granted every day of our lives.

POLICING THE TOP OF THE WORLD is a very interesting book written in a familiar style exactly as the author would tell you the story in conversation. He has developed his topic well and has answered fully the question which he asks at the beginning of the first chapter, "How does it feel to be living on top of the world?"

Many authors are inclined to exaggerate when writing about their own experiences but Lee has not erred in this direction, in fact, he has given a modest recital of what must, at times, have been narrow escapes from death.

It has given me a great deal of pleasure to review Herbert Patrick Lee's POLICING THE TOP OF THE WORLD. I knew the author personally and was his room-mate in Barracks. He joined the Force at Winnipeg in 1920 after having served three years in the London Scottish Regiment and the Royal Air Force. He was employed in the Criminal

Investigation Branch at Ottawa from December, 1921, until he departed for the North in July, 1922. In his book he describes his experiences from this time until he returned from the North in 1924.

He left the Force in January of 1925 and went to the United States where he became engaged in newspaper work with the Newark Morning Ledger. Later, he transferred to the New York Daily Mirror. From 1928 to 1929 he worked in Paris on the Paris Times, and the next year returned to the United States where he joined the staff of the New York Sun.

In addition to POLICING THE TOP OF THE WORLD he wrote, THE HERITAGE OF THE NORTH, THE GIRL FROM BAFFIN LAND, BAFFIN'S GOLD and HELL'S HARBOUR. His last published work was a novel NORTH OF THE STARS which appeared serially in the Argosy Magazine from July 18 to August 8, 1936.

It was with a feeling of deep grief

that I heard his death announced over the radio in November, 1936. On the night of November 10, Lee attended a dinner given by R. H. Macey and Company, Distributors, Long Island City. The company warehouse lies beside the tracks of the Long Island Railroad which criss-crosses in various spurs to different storage and distributing buildings in the vicinity. The dinner ended after midnight and Lee with other guests left the building on their way home.

It is believed that Lee left the building on the freight side where a long freight train was stationed on the spur adjacent to the warehouse, and attempted to walk around the end of the train to reach a street car. The train started and he was knocked down, suffering a crushed leg. His cries were heard by a freight employee who summoned the police. Lee was removed to a hospital but failed to respond to blood transfusions and died from internal injuries

at 10.05 A.M.

Lee's account of his experiences in the North sets an example of modesty which could well be followed by other writers recounting their experiences. A sincere desire to relate things as they were and a complete lack of braggadocio marks his tale of the North.

Lee had the respect of all his comrades in the Force and those who served with him on that lonely detail at Ellesmere Island will vouch for the authenticity of his narrative. Some of that little party are still with the Force and they would endorse heartily my sincere desire that more authors of Police stories would imitate Lee's example and make an earnest effort to represent the Force as it really is and not as they imagine it to be.

We have seen that some have done this and in so doing have exposed the fiction writers in their misrepresentation of the Force. Steele, for instance, has shown that Arctic service is not

the glamorous life that fiction writers would have us believe; Fetherstonhaugh has pointed out the authentic cases of heroism; Longstreth has shown the development of the Force; Godsell has dramatized the truth but has not substituted fiction for it; Haydon and Chambers have provided authentic sources of information for other writers, each of these authors in his own way contributing to a better understanding by the Public of Canada's National Police Force.

P A R T I V

C O N C L U S I O N

In which it is shown what has been done and is being done by the Force to correct the false impressions left on the Public mind by fiction writers, and to create a better understanding of the Force by the Public.

In the preceding pages I have endeavoured to show that the public has derived an erroneous conception of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police through reading fiction. This false conception is general in its scope and embraces the technical, historical and objective phases of the life of the Force.

The Public in general and the Canadian Public in particular is not as well-informed in this subject as it should be, neither technically, historically nor yet on the purpose or work of the Force. Many authentic books have been written on the subject but the public prefers to be enlightened through the medium of fiction.

As a matter of convenience I have divided the thesis into four parts all of which added together prove the truth of my statement that the public has derived an erroneous conception through reading fiction.

Questionnaires answered by 400

surveys show that 36 only read authentic books on the subject of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and that out of 87 different books read on the subject only 8 were non-fiction. From seven libraries throughout Canada six librarians expressed the opinion that more fiction than non-fiction is read by the Public and this opinion is substantiated from an actual check of three libraries which showed that the amount of fiction read is double that of non-fiction.

As producers of a motion picture judge the popularity of their production by the box-office receipts so must we judge the popularity of a book by the number of copies sold. From the figures obtainable it is not unusual for a book of fiction to have a sale of a million copies whereas a book of non-fiction is seldom expected to reach a sales figure exceeding one thousand and some do not attain that goal. These figures corroborate the results obtained from

questionnaires and circulation of library books and prove that the reading public prefers fiction to non-fiction, whatever the subject, and consequently that the greater portion of literature relative to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police read by the Public is fiction.

The result of the questionnaires in the matter of preference for fiction proved that the answers received from High School and university students was a fair indication of public opinion; consequently when with but few exceptions these pupils expressed the opinion that the fiction books which they had read presented a true picture of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police it follows that fifty per cent of the general public gain their conceptions of the Force from the fiction books which they have read.

That these fiction books are misleading is quite evident. In THE RIVER'S

END Curwood weaves a fantastic tale which has no parallel in reality and contains both technical and historical inaccuracies. Apparently he had no knowledge of the history of the Force nor pride in its traditions. It is evident that he did not know the motto nor what that motto implies, otherwise, he would not have represented the policeman in the story as judging for himself what was right. It is equivalent to the case of the Canadian citizens involved in the Communist espionage exposed by Gouzenko. They felt that certain secrets should be shared by the Soviet Union and in spite of the oath of secrecy and the fact that the Canadian government did not consider it right to share their secrets with a foreign power these "loyal" citizens took it upon themselves to pass on the information. They had confused notions of what was right. A member of the Force, if true to the motto, does

not judge for himself whether a prisoner is guilty or not guilty. He leaves that decision to the courts of law established for the purpose.

Curwood went a step further than this and had his hero train the prisoner to play a false role, representing a peace officer. The talent of the author in creating an interest in the story lulls the reader into a total disregard of ethics and arouses his sympathy for the fugitive from justice. The policeman had "got his man". He had done all that was required of him from Curwood's point of view. To maintain the right would have spoiled Curwood's plot.

The Force has a proud history and although the mention of Sergeant Trossy's patrol in 1908 is of no significance in itself it does delude the average reader into believing that Curwood knew the history and, therefore, made his story more convincing and Conniston's code of ethics generally acceptable.

O'Brien when writing SILVER CHIEF was not as well-informed on the Police as he was at a later date, subsequently learning the motto of the Force as well as the methods of promotion. At the most, he erred technically but this, too, could have been avoided had he taken the trouble to make some inquiries before writing his book. Had he done so he would not have marred an otherwise excellent story.

In his CORPORAL COREY OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED he has shown the result of added knowledge of the Force gained from authentic sources and his readers have benefited from this knowledge. The answers submitted by those who had read this book prove conclusively that the public, as a whole, gain their information on the Force from what they read and accept fiction as well as fact without question. It behoves an author, therefore, to be careful of what he writes and to make certain that his statements are not misleading.

Curwood's GOD'S COUNTRY AND THE WOMAN

proves his ability as a writer but proves, also, that he used the Mounted Police merely as a background for his story.

In this novel it could have been a trapper or a fur trader without lessening interest in the plot. To represent the hero as a Mounted Policeman added a touch of glamour to the situation. Curwood's mistake in the type of revolver used shows that he was not sufficiently interested in the Force to bother about details.

Erskine's version of the Fitzgerald patrol does not lack appeal and is told in an interesting manner without digressing from the truth except in the geographical details. It is just this, however, that makes him less forgivable. Half-truths are more deceptive and misleading than total fiction. The Fitzgerald patrol is the saddest incident in the history of the Force and should not be used under the guise of fiction. A

memorial is erected in Dawson to the memory of these brave men and Fitzgerald had a record in the Force of which any man would be proud. When he was telling the story in such detail and so true to facts Erskine could have given him his right name instead of disguising him under the name of Fitzherbert. The author owed this, at least, to the public who read his books. More respect is due to Curwood who owes his fiction entirely to his own imagination. When we read fiction we give the author credit for creating his own characters and his own plots but no credit is due to Erskine who must have obtained the story from official reports and made it his own.

It is unbelievable that supposedly intelligent citizens would form their conceptions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from comic strips but.

it is unfortunately true that this is so. One might expect a child to be enthusiastic over KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED but would not credit an adult, with any knowledge whatsoever of Canada's national police force to take these pictorial adventures seriously. Running away from the Indians was not the way that the Mounted Police gained the respect and confidence of the red man.

It is difficult to forgive William Campbell for his falsehoods. A former member of the Force, and by virtue of this, credited by his public with a knowledge of the Force, he has taken advantage of this fact to present himself as a hero, modestly giving the impression that it was all in the course of his duty. Had all he said been true he could have been regarded as a brave man. Evidently, like a great number of his readers, he considered "getting his man" the greatest possible achievement and the foundation upon which the Force gained respect from

the world.

To my mind, this is one of the least important accomplishments of the Force. The prevention of crime has been a much greater triumph. The great works upon which the reputation and traditions of the Force have been founded are the achievements told by historical writers of the Force, such as the original march across the prairies, the pioneer work done in the Yukon, the building of roads through forests in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles, the Northern patrols made in freezing weather to bring lunatics to safety, to alleviate the sufferings of others and to bring mail to news-hungry men and women. These are the glories which bring pride to the hearts of the members of the Force and to a thinking and appreciative public. Tracking down fugitives from justice and solving mystery killings has its merits but the police themselves do not boast of these things. They are

the inescapable duties of a police force and are accepted as such; they are not the great achievements upon which the fame of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has been established.

It is to the ex-members of the Force who have had sufficient service to be proud of its traditions and to conscientious authors of non-fiction that we must turn for the truth, to men like Kendall, Lee, Steele, Chambers, Longstreth, Fetherstonhaugh, Haydon and Godsell.

Kendall wrote fiction but it was fiction based on fact, with no glamour - not as interesting, perhaps, but a close representation of the truth.

Harwood Steele in his preface states that he has tried to tell the tale itself of Arctic conquest by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, strictly avoiding heroics of the "two-gun, get your man" variety, which, though well meant, often tend to make the Force ridiculous. In saying this, he is well aware of the false

conception of the Force engendered in the minds of fiction readers and makes a sincere attempt to correct these false impressions. This is verified by his next statement that "lurid heroics are best avoided, first, because they do not ring true; second, because the men concerned would hate it."

The late Commissioner MacBrien vouched for the authenticity of Steele's "tale" in the foreword which he wrote for both personal and official reasons. He knew the author from the time that the latter was a child and he served under Harwood's father, Major-General Sir Samuel Steele, both in the Force and in the South African Constabulary. His official reason for writing the foreword was that any book dealing with policing the Arctic was of great interest and concern to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Harwood Steele had access to official documents and the information which his book contains is authentic.

Fetherstonhaugh, who also seeks authentic sources for his history of the Force, imparts to his readers not only a knowledge of the Force but sets an example in literary style which many historians would do well to emulate, if they wish their books to be enjoyed..

Longstreth singles out the events that are of real significance and, like Steele, avoids the heroics of the "get your man" variety. The hardships endured by the original three hundred; the signing of the peace treaty with the Indians with a few Mounted Policemen maintaining a bold front in the midst of several thousand naked savages watching their chiefs sign away their means of livelihood when one wrong move would have spelled disaster; the sacrifices made in the Riel Rebellion; the ready response for volunteers for the South African war; the diplomacy and tact used in handling the foreign population of the West; the almost insurmountable difficulties overcome in maintaining law

and order in the gold rush days of the Yukon; the building roads through almost impassable country under intolerable conditions; the tragic Fitzgerald patrol and Demster's ability as a trail-finder, - these are the deeds upon which the good name of the Force has been built.

Godsell restrains his desire to romance and uses his ability as a fiction writer to dramatize the truth without departing from the facts.

Certain weeklies, moving picture corporations and magazines have shown a genuine desire to represent the Force as it is, the Paramount Pictures Incorporated spending thousands of dollars toward this end.

Contributors to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Quarterly, including the editor and his assistants, are particularly anxious to give their readers the facts and many anxious hours are spent by the editor in checking the articles for their authenticity.

The present Commissioner, J. T. Wood,

has long realized the need of placing before the public a true picture of all phases of the work of the Force and has started a movement in that direction through the medium of moving pictures.

The Armed Services have been using this method for some time past as an aid to training and the use of film is designed to serve a twofold purpose for the Force, namely, as an aid to training and as a means of enlightening the public.

The use of lantern slides has served in the past as a medium of entertainment and information to members of the Force but this form of instruction is antedated by the evolution in moving pictures and the Force is keeping pace with the times. Members have attended showings of films in the National Research Council Theatre, Ottawa, Ontario, to study the best means of making moving picture films serve their purpose. They have made themselves familiar with the pictures produced by other police forces and they have attended

courses given by the Army on the operation of motion picture projectors.

In 1946, the National Film Board started production on a one-reel film for distribution throughout primary grade schools in Canada on the operation of almost every branch of the Ottawa Police Department, the theme being a lost child found by police and eventually restored to her parents. The Board have co-operated with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in featuring the activities of the Force.

The most successful method would be the production of moving pictures by the Force itself with an experienced scenario writer to handle the script. By this method the picture would be genuine and the services of a scenario writer would give unity to the feature and appeal to the public. The average member of the Force in attempting script too often betrays himself as a novice and particularly so when he labours to be humorous.

.. "Making Mounties" and "The Northwest Passage" have been launched by the Police and more will follow. From a small beginning, in 1939, when the Force acquired a small amateur motion picture camera,, in preparation for the Royal Visit, for taking silent pictures, the making of 16 mm sound motion pictures in colour, as has been developed by many commercial firms and by Government Departments, will become routine work in the Force and a part of its educational programme.

Motion pictures accompanied by lectures would be another way of educating the public to distinguish fact from fiction and educational clubs in Canada would do well to follow the example of the Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. Caspard Fauteux, when he asked that a talk on the Force, accompanied by films, be given to the Members of Parliament. This would prove beneficial, no doubt, even to our statesmen, and particularly to those who look upon the Police as Gestapo, sinister

and mysterious agents of the Government in power.

For the first time since the founding of the Force an official historian has been engaged to write a history of the Force. He is Mr. John T. Turner, a man who has been closely connected, unofficially, with the Force from its earliest days. He has known personally every Commissioner, including Major-General Sir George A. French, the first Commissioner of the North West Mounted Police. Mr. Turner was but a boy at that time but his memory is still unimpaired and he can recall with accuracy events that happened when the Force was in its infancy.

Mr. Turner does not rely upon his memory, however, but verifies his recollections by what is now considered as antique volumes, documents and letters.

To the student of Canadian history, particularly that of Western Canada, his library would be priceless. It is his intention to bequeath this collection of

volumes to the Force to remain in its library for the benefit of posterity.

Mr. Turner has always been a keen sportsman, as well as a writer, and he has combined these two pursuits by writing of his experiences in the world of sport and giving to the world the benefit of the lessons he has learned. He is not always known under the name of Turner having adopted an Indian name "Kushwaup" for his articles in ROD AND GUN and other sport magazines. As editor of a page on hunting and fishing he answers many questions on the subject.

It is doubtful if there is a person living to-day who is better qualified than he to write a history of Canada's police Force. His close association with the Force in its earliest days, his knowledge of the country over which the Police maintained law and order, and his ability as a journalist qualifies him for the task.

The history is not yet printed

but it is nearing completion and will afford the public an opportunity of seeing reproductions of old photographs; pictures drawn by a skilled artist to represent the scenes as the author remembers them, and a map, the first of its kind, showing the route traversed by the police on their first journey across the plains. Names of places, no longer in existence, are shown in detail and cities well-known to Canadians of to-day are marked in the map under their original names. This map has not been compiled from guess-work. Both author and the artist have delved into antique maps of various sections of the plains, have pieced them together, and tested the result by reference to old reports and authentic documents.

The historian of the Force has laboured under great difficulties and in spite of ill-health, which would have daunted a less invincible spirit,

he has brought the early days of the Force from 1873 into the open and has thrown light on many anecdotes which have been repeated from time to time and which have grown in proportion to the number of times told until the original story was distorted beyond belief. Mr. Turner has put these in their proper perspective and at no time does he place undue emphasis on the heroism displayed by the North West Mounted Police, in the pioneer days of the Force when courage and daring were essential qualities if a man wished to survive. His book is a history, a recording of facts from 1873 to 1904. Here one will find the authentic story of a police force, a force which, on the one hand, has been too much glamorized by the fiction writers and, on the other, too much underestimated in Canadian history text books.

On September of 1916 the total strength of the Force was 303. This

was due to the fact that many of its members had enlisted in the Armed Services and were serving overseas. The Government considered it desirable that the Force should be raised to its authorized strength and placed in an efficient condition as soon as possible. To do this it was necessary to launch a recruiting campaign and large posters, supported by wooden frames and legs were erected in various conspicuous places throughout the country. The poster bore a full-length coloured portrait of a Mounted Policeman in full dress uniform and the words "See Canada" in large letters, and smaller print giving the rates of pay for the respective ranks. The poster was alluring and brought many recruits into the Force. The disadvantage of such advertising was soon evident. A candidate received the impression of a glamorous career in a world famous Force. When he became enrolled in this Force, however, and

was put through hours of foot drill, equitation and fatigues he was soon disillusioned. Many who had expected to be law enforcement officers immediately upon donning the uniform suddenly found that they had developed some chronic ailment and fell in on sick parade regularly each morning. A "weeding-out" process began but not before a great deal of time and money had been spent on training.

World War II, in spite of the restrictions placed on members of the Force joining the Armed Services took its toll of members and the end of the War witnessed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with a shortage of man-power; furthermore, the number of detachments had increased, many agreements were in effect for municipal policing by the Force in various towns throughout the West and police activity in all its phases had increased.

A campaign for one thousand recruits

had to be commenced but it was desirable that only those who wished to make the Force a career should be enrolled. Higher standards of education and ability were required to cope with crime which had progressed scientifically with modern inventions and modern equipment. It was necessary that candidates for enlistment in the Force should not be disillusioned..

Advertising was necessary but the Commissioner determined on a policy that would be in keeping with the high standards of the Force.

He issued instructions for the printing of a pamphlet entitled, "Information for Prospective Recruits". This pamphlet contained information on the essentials required for engagement in the Force, the training which each recruit must undergo, the duties of a member of the Force, the benefits other than pay to which a member would be entitled and, in general, the services which would be required to render as a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted

Police. No inducements are offered, no glamorous account of adventure - merely the facts. Each applicant receives a copy of this pamphlet.

Advertising has been conducted with the same reserve and a comparatively small advertisement, three inches on two columns, has been inserted in ninety-one leading newspapers throughout Canada. This advertising, despite its modesty, has brought several thousand applications for engagement, of which only three hundred and fifty have been accepted. A large proportion of applicants are rejected because they are unable to comply with the necessary qualifications but those who are accepted enter the Force with a full knowledge of what they may or may not expect and it is the hope that because of this fact they will make a career of the work they have chosen rather than an opening for adventure and an opportunity to see Canada at the expense of the government.

In intelligently informing the public the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have not overlooked the youth of the country. The Commissioner is a member of the Big Brother movement and it is his belief that a better understanding between police and youth will be a deterrent to juvenile delinquency and will build better citizenship. With this object in view the Force has started a "Youth and the Police" programme which is meeting with great success.

Talks are prepared and delivered to school children and other youth groups throughout the nation. District Personnel Officers of the Force discuss with the Deputy Ministers of Education of each province the suggested programme and endeavour to enlist their aid. Suitable members of the Force are chosen to deliver the talks which are designed to bring about a better understanding of the functions of the police in society and help to arouse youth to a greater awareness of their individual and col-

lective responsibilities in the preservation of law and order.

To make the programme more interesting tales of adventure in the north, stories of scientific crime detection with the aid of modern police laboratories, and moving pictures, accompany the talks. The speaker is dressed in full uniform.

During the period from November, 1945, to June, 1946, 1,412 talks were given to an audience of 112,845 persons. In New Brunswick alone from July, 1946, to December 31, 1946, 533 talks were given to 40,815 persons. The reaction of educational authorities and the public generally has been very gratifying and community welfare councils have expressed a keen interest in the programme.

The reaction of the school pupils has been most favourable as indicated by members of the Force who have given the talks. One constable noticed quite a difference in the attitude of the pupils in the schools where he had given

talks the preceding year and the ones, whom he had not addressed. Those who had heard him previously gave him a "spontaneous welcome" upon his return; the others "were shy and half-afraid." This same constable expressed the belief that most good was accomplished in the isolated schools where, for the most part, the parents are poor and illiterate and the children are convinced quite readily that the policeman is their friend and look to him for the guidance which is lacking from their parents.

In addition to learning safety rules, the duties of the Public toward the Police and the methods used in searching for lost persons are pointed out and the children are becoming better acquainted with the Police and have more confidence in them. The cultivation of a better understanding between police and public will have far-reaching effects and will no doubt accomplish its two-fold object, the building of better citizenship and

the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The movement is rapidly expanding and welfare groups in all parts of the world are focussing their attention on its progress. It is only recently that a letter was received from the leader of a Malayan youth group in Singapore expressing interest in the youth and the police programme the details of which he had read in a local paper.

The Force is doing its share to correct the false impressions left on the public mind by fiction writers, and to create a better understanding of the Force by the Public.

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