

His chapters on The Exploration of the Saskatchewan, The Fur Trade and Some Great Fur Traders are pages of enthralling interest and he is not without a sense of dry humor. Of the Fur Trade he remarks: "It is odd and interesting that the more we study it, the more we confirm to the old adage that there is nothing new under the sun. Here in 1809 was a fur trader watering his liquor and making a handsome profit out of it. A century and a half later vendors of liquor in Saskatchewan are doing likewise and we twit them with doing something original. Truly the waters of the great Saskatchewan have been put to many uses."

There is some fine descriptive writing in this chapter and the chapter on "Fort Edmonton" is really informative. If Alberta lacks a proper history this is the one.

In an extract from the Journal of Paul Kane we live over again the fierce hardships Canada's first Western Artist over-

came in 1845. Again from the most accurate sources he records an important Admiralty dispatch for Capt. George Back—the great Naval Arctic explorer. This letter started from the Sault in January 1834 and was delivered the following May somewhere north of Great Slave Lake, "2,500 miles in the dead of winter".

The history of the missionaries and the North West Rebellion is fairly and concisely recorded and he concludes by telling of the hardships suffered by the pioneers of only 50 years ago. The author's remarks about the Mounted Police are highly complimentary; he says "they were, and still are the finest police force in the world" and gives the Force full credit for the difficult part it played in the North West Rebellion.

*Blankets and Beads* is a worthy and successful effort to increase our knowledge and preserve the Western heritage.

C. D. LAUAUZE

## Obituary

Reg. No. 1055 ex-Cst. William Payne, 84, died Oct. 13, 1949, at Mountain View, Alta. Mr. Payne came from England and joined the NWMP at Winnipeg on July 12, 1884. When his time expired five years later, he took his discharge from the Force and settled in the Porcupine Hills.

Reg. No. 11731 ex-Sgt. William Henry Stubbs, 62, died in Kamloops, B.C., on Jan. 24, 1950. Before joining the RCMP on May 1, 1932, Mr. Stubbs was employed in the Preventive Service. He served in Winnipeg, Man., and Halifax, N.S., and was discharged to pension on Nov. 20, 1938.

Reg. No. 328 ex-S/Sgt. Orrin Wells Evans, 95, died at Keremeos, B.C., on Dec. 15, 1949. Mr. Evans joined the NWMP June 9, 1879, and purchased his discharge June 3, 1882. On Apr. 24, 1893 he rejoined the Force and was discharged to pension on June 30, 1919. Subsequently he served another short term, from Oct. 21, 1919 to Nov. 13, 1919, when he again retired to pension. During his service the deceased spent many years in the North, at Whitehorse, Dawson, Granville and Carcross. For a time he was Sergeant Major of "B" Division, but later reverted to the permanent

rank of staff sergeant. (See Old-timers' Column.)

Spl. Cst. Mrs. Jonas (Kate) Laight, 64, died Nov. 1, 1949, at Regina, after a lengthy illness. Mrs. Laight was taken on the strength of the Force in July 1946, for duty as a matron. She was the widow of Reg. No. 10428 Cpl. Jonas Laight who died Jan. 1, 1932 at Regina. Like her husband, Mrs. Laight was buried in the RCMP Cemetery at Regina.

Reg. No. 14082 ex-Cst. George Alfred Stroud, 35, died suddenly at his home at Steep Rock Lake, Ont., on Nov. 15, 1949. Mr. Stroud joined the Force at Toronto, May 5, 1941, and took his discharge when his time expired on May 4, 1942. He trained at Rockcliffe, Ont., and then was stationed at Brandon and Gladstone, Man.

Reg. No. 2367 ex-Cst. (Brigadier-General) Edward Morton, CBE, 81, died Dec. 21, 1949 in London, England. Ex-Constable Morton joined the NWMP Oct. 17, 1889 and purchased his discharge Feb. 2, 1894. For many years he had been an active member of the Legion of Frontiersmen, and at the time of his death was Commandant-General of that organization.