

found that whenever I succeeded in holding the revolver on the mark, when pulling the trigger I hit the target, the great trouble is the great number of miss fires which had to be allowed for, showing very careless loading and which would be fatal in an emergency, otherwise the ammunition is more suited to the pistol, the English being so strong that it causes kicking, and generally shoots too high, unless great allowance is made. We used American Winchester ammunition entirely this year, as the Canadian we have on hand has been proved defective, and as most of it cannot be inserted into the barrel without considerable force being applied, even if good, it would be too dangerous to use.

BARRACKS.

The buildings at Regina not painted last year were painted this year, a large proportion of the work being done by tramps who were undergoing imprisonment.

A great many improvements were made at very small expense by our own men, the old burned out canteen being converted into a very neat chapel, lately opened, and the recreation room, lecture hall and canteen were greatly improved.

The north barrack building was raised 2' 6" and placed on a good stone foundation, and new sills urgently required, placed under it, at a cost of some \$4,000. The south block should be done within two years as the building is settling slowly.

The old portable buildings are just hanging together, but continue to look very well. A great deal of coal is wasted heating these old shacks, and in the long run it would pay to burn them and build modern quarters. The headquarter office is the very worst in the force, is draughty in cold, and unhealthily close in damp weather, and is most depressing to work in, and there is no protection whatever afforded for the records of the force.

The stables and stores are in good order.

Only ordinary repairs, outside the stone foundation under the south block, will be required next year.

At Maple Creek the buildings have been covered with tarpaper and sided outside, and the foundations replaced, all by our own men, and considerable painting has also been done. Next year if the barracks are lined inside and varnished, they will be in good order and will stand for years.

At Lethbridge most of the buildings have been tarpapered and sided outside, and as they were already lined and varnished inside, they are now in good shape.

With the remainder of the buildings re-sided next year, the post will be in good order. Considerable painting was done this year, and it will be finished next. With our greatly reduced strength everything has to be given up to allow us to attend to police duties, and the decrease of the force will greatly add to our outside expenditure for painting, repairs, &c., and when a large number of men are really required, they will not be forthcoming for duty as formerly.

At Macleod the whole post has been painted by our men, and several buildings have been tarpapered and re-sided, and the square boulevarded. The post is now in remarkably good order, and will do very well with ordinary repairs. Quarters for the doctor, who now lives in town, are urgently required, and I hope will be erected next year. We have now a capital magazine, and our ammunition will in future be in much better condition than formerly.

At Calgary an old stable was pulled down and rebuilt on stone foundations, making it at a cost of \$500, a \$2,500 stable, all done with police labour. No. 2 quarters was renewed at a cost of \$200, making it a capital house, and several buildings were thoroughly repaired and shingled, and the whole post painted by the men. Next year I hope to rebuild the other stables, when the post will be in good shape.

The old building used as recreation room, saddler's shop, oat house and engine house, requires to be pulled down, as the foundations are rotten, and it is not worth rebuilding, it has been shingled this year, and will do for next year.

Calgary should be headquarters as most of our work is in that portion of the North-west; an outlay of \$35,000 would make the post large enough for the purpose. At present we are too far away from the centre of our work.