

of the stigma of their nationality have applied for naturalization since the war began and the Dominion Police have been required to make numerous and exhaustive inquiries into the characters and records of these persons before their applications were taken up by the naturalization courts.

Mails, cables and land telegraphs have been under censorship since the outbreak of the war and from these sources have arisen hundreds,—perhaps thousands,—of cases of great difficulty for investigation by the police.

Wireless telegraphy was a new problem of this war. The Government of Canada decided to close all but a few stations and to take those under its own operation or control. Many minor government stations were closed and private stations were rigidly suppressed. These private stations were numerous, unregistered and hard to locate, and it was the duty of the Dominion Police to find them and put them out of business.

Government buildings, grain elevators, important railway bridges, tunnels and culverts, canal locks and dams, active wireless stations and numerous other properties have been carefully guarded from harm, and while the military and private guards have done a great deal of such work the whole guard system has been the responsibility of the Dominion Police.

In connection with every one of these services, the police have been deluged with complaints, suspicions, reports and demands for action. Letters, telegrams, telephone and verbal messages by the thousand have been received. Many were well founded, many were sheer nonsense, not a few were anonymous,—but the police had to look into every one that seemed to have any foundation of fact, for any one might hold a clue of importance. Suspicious citizens have denounced secret service men as spies and loyal and innocent persons have been secretly complained against for purposes of spite. The problems of the police

have been bewildering in their number and complexity and would have driven to distraction any but a thoroughly trained and organized force.

The whole responsibility of this enormous work for the protection of Canada rests upon one man,—Colonel, Sir Percy Sherwood, Chief Commissioner of Police. Only those immediately associated with him in his days and nights of unremitting labor have any comprehension of what this official has accomplished during the more than two years that has elapsed since the war began. And yet, when a visitor enters his office, Sir Percy greets him with a smile and listens to what he has to say with courtesy and close attention.

One man there is, outside the police staff, who knows what Sir Percy has done,—and that man is H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught. It was when he was retiring from the position of Governor General that the honor of knighthood was conferred upon Sir Percy, and it was well understood to be merely the token of His Royal Highness' appreciation and approval. At the same time a medal for meritorious public service was conferred upon Inspector Parkinson, who has immediate charge of the secret service branch of Dominion Police work.

The foregoing is merely an index to the work of the Dominion Police during the war. The full story will never be written. As years pass on the public will learn a little,—just a little,—more about it. Some amazing records lie snug in the steel vaults in the East Block in Ottawa, but other facts are recorded only in the memories of the men of the force,—never to be told nor ever written.

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