

of Napoleon's Guard, and it is noteworthy that the lance pennons of the British Army have always been of the Polish national colours, red and white.

Corroboration of this authority that the source of the red and white pennon was the Poles is to be found in a brief description of an oil painting in His Majesty's collection at Windsor Castle, titled "Sergeant Read, 9th or Queen's Royal Lancers, 1832". The light Dragoon regiments converted to lancers in 1816 were the 9th, 12th, 16th and 17th. The 16th was the first to be equipped as lancers and to go into action thus armed. That regiment enjoyed the distinction of having its lance pennons "crimped"—an innovation dating from the British defeat of the Sikhs at Aliwal (N.W. India) on Jan. 28, 1846, when its pennons got crumpled and blood-stained.

The lance used by knights of the Middle Ages in tilting tournaments was heavier and longer than the bamboo pole we know, and a hand guard prevented it from slipping when an object was struck with force. Its weight and length made it awkward and unwieldy, and in time, as certain lancer units were designated, the handier and lighter weapon was devised.

The men wound rags round the shaft at the base of the steel point just before battle to guard against blood running down and rendering it slippery to the grip. When the action ended, so the legend goes, this cloth invariably was red and white half way through with the red part at the top. However, according to *Lloyd's Encyclopaedic Dictionary*, the lance's "point has a small pennon, intended to frighten the enemy's horses".

By act of Parliament the assignment of colours is a royal prerogative, and a royal proclamation dated Nov. 21, 1921, assigned red and white to Canada as her national colours. So the Mounted Policeman in red serge and Stetson, as he straddles his horse on ceremonial occasions, could hold no more appropriate colours aloft on the lance pennon.

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Other pages in this issue feature the horse and its place in the Force, tell how it has aided Canadian law enforcement since 1873. *The Quarterly* is pleased to exhibit this portrayal of what "old faithful" has been to the Mounted Police and of why he must remain with us, and the story is bound we think to strike a responsive chord in the hearts not only of members of the Force but of all other horse lovers among our readers. The quickened tempo of our way of life has compelled the R.C.M.P. to resort more and more to technological improvements and new methods, and as a consequence it has seemed to many that the police horse was doomed. The suspension of equitation and of general recruit training, during the recent war, doubtless contributed to this impression.

However as *L'Esprit Cavalier* makes convincingly apparent the horse continues to fill a very useful purpose in Mounted Police activities, and it is most unlikely that this sturdy symbol of law and order will ever disappear entirely from the police scene. At the moment, intensive training is in progress to prepare riders and horses of the Mounted Section for the R.C.M.P. Musical Ride, and about the time this is published that popular demonstration of horsemanship will again be available to the public.

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Apropos of the clause in the Criminal Justice Bill to abolish the death penalty, that proved so unpopular with the British public, it is of interest to recall now this verdict which was recorded in 1818: William Bell, alias John Brown, aged 30, late **Comment** Alvingham, laborer—charged with burglariously breaking into the shop of Wm. Goy of Alvingham and stealing 1 pair of shoes, 1 half boot and 1 half boot top. Guilty—Death.

The criminal law has come a long way since then.