

its formation with a big reunion at Vancouver, B.C., which will afford opportunity for ex-members of the Force and some members now serving to commingle and compare notes. Dominion President Julien Nash (4762), let it be known beforehand that he would fly from Calgary, Alta., to join in on the occasion.

At the annual headquarters meeting of the association held February 23 at the Calgary residence of Col. (ex-Supt.) G. E. Sanders, C.M.G., D.S.O., who acted by proxy for "C" Division, Ottawa, Ont., Mr. Nash was re-elected to his 12th term as Dominion president. Others selected at that time for 1948 were: Ex-Supt. J. O. Fripps, Vancouver, vice-president; G. E. Blake (4016), Calgary, former warden of the Lethbridge provincial gaol, secretary treasurer; executive, E. B. D. Mitchell (7346), Calgary; A. C. Bury, K.C., (4098), Calgary, president of "E" Division, and Ft.-Lt. H. A. Stewart (6461), Vancouver, president of "A" Division.

All divisions of the association are getting stronger as time goes on, with "box-car" regimental numbers of "young" recruits becoming more prevalent: "A" Division, Vancouver—200, all but 37 over 50 years of age and J. "Jimmie" W. F. Weeks (789) being the veteran of the veterans at age 85; "C" Division in Ottawa is just over the 100 mark while "B" Division in Victoria, B.C., is fast approaching it, and finally Dominion headquarters and "E" Division in Calgary nearing 50.

The youngest member we are told is a babe in arms of 29, but all from the oldest member down to him are young in spirit if not in years and imbued with the binding traditions they absorbed from the parent body.

"Ironed Out"

Sirs: In your column *This Funny Life* (January) someone tells a very amusing story that I hate to criticize, but it reflects on the training received by all members of the famous force now known as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and then known as the Royal North West Mounted Police.

No member of the Force would ever make such a gross blunder as to lay a charge before a justice of the peace of "piracy" for the theft of a row-boat from a pond. In fact, few justices of the peace would accept such a charge. It is true that

many of these justices had to rely upon the Mounted Police to interpret the law, and I never knew of any case where the policeman misled them, even if it hurt his own case.

I remember reading of this case, which I believe occurred around 1912 at Biggar, Sask. But the story improves every time it is told. The Mounted Policeman was away on duty and the town policeman handled the case; the charge of piracy was laid and the accused found guilty. Fortunately, the Mounted Policeman returned to town, the justice referred the case to him and every-thing was ironed out.

It might be of interest to know that all recruits in the Force undergo a very rigid course of six months at Regina or Rockcliffe. After passing his recruit course . . . when he is considered fit, he is sent out under some old-timer who completes his education. Then . . . he gets his own detachment and is on his own—a big toad in a small puddle.

—JULIEN NASH, *Dominion President*,
Royal North West Mounted Police,
Veterans' Association,
Calgary, Alta.

From Our Own Mail Bag

Sir:

Every issue of *The Quarterly* is an improvement on its predecessor and all the articles are well-written and interesting. As an ex-member I appreciate the space given to the veterans' affairs. It is also interesting to know what the Force is doing and how they go about it.

Certainly methods have changed since my day; as Sherlock Holmes would have told Dr. Watson they were "elementary". There were no laboratories, no trained dogs, no autos or airplanes owned by the Force then. To travel we had the choice of foot, horse, dog team or train. On one occasion my horse was lame and I had a trip of 50 miles ahead of me for which I borrowed a bicycle. I had good reason to remember that trip for days afterwards.

Best wishes to the officers of *The Quarterly* for the coming year from the officers of the Dominion Headquarters of the R.N.W.M.P. Veterans' Association.

JULIEN NASH,
Dominion President.