

Inspector W. G. Mathews, had held a similar position in the 3rd Hussars, serving in India and West Africa. It was Kempster and Mathews who were the principals in producing the Force's first Musical Ride in 1887.

The senior drill instructor must surely be the only one the Force has ever had who had a Master of Arts degree, and was a classicist to boot. Staff Sergeant Charlie Connon, onetime head boy at Upper Canada College, had graduated from the University of Toronto with an M.A. in Latin and Greek. He was assisted by a Scotsman, Sergeant Joe White, who was a pensioner of the 12th Lancers. He had emigrated to Montreal, and when the Northwest Rebellion broke out, had gone west with a militia regiment. The commissioner happened to see him drilling militiamen in Regina, and was so impressed he persuaded White to

join the Force.

In addition to men, the government doubled the annual expenditure on the Force to over one million dollars. Most of this was spent on new buildings and other physical facilities. The days of portable huts and log detachments put up by the men themselves were coming to an end. In 1885 the responsibility for the erection and repair of Force buildings was transferred to the Department of Public Works. Depot was one of the main beneficiaries of the post-rebellion construction programme.

Buildings

The most important structure as far as training was concerned was the completion of the huge indoor riding school in the spring of 1886. Sixty-eight metres by 37, it was the largest structure in Regina and contained a gallery and a band room. At last, foot and mounted drill could continue throughout the winter months. It was here that the first musical rides were

Church Parade, Regina, about 1890: twice around the square led by the band and then into the "little chapel." "B" Block at top left was constructed in 1887.

