

## NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

Lieut.-Col. J. F. Macleod, C.M.G., formerly Commissioner of this force, has been re-appointed a Stipendiary Magistrate for the North-West, and on the 1st November last resumed the duties connected with that position, the district assigned to him being the southern and south-western section of the Territories, with residence at Fort Macleod. Lieut.-Col. A. G. Irvine, an officer of ability and experience, who has for several years been Assistant-Commissioner, has been promoted to the command of the force.

Complaints continue to be made regarding the condition of the police buildings, and the character of the accommodation they afford in their present state of repair. It is most desirable that the barracks should be as comfortable as possible, but it is not deemed expedient to incur any considerable expenditure upon them at present, nor until the line of the Pacific Railway has been finally determined, as upon that determination will depend the situation of the permanent head-quarters; and it may there be found convenient to abandon a number of the existing posts and construct others elsewhere.

The measures contemplated last year with a view to reduce the cost of maintaining the force have been gradually brought into operation, and a large saving in expenditure will be effected during the present season. The pay of the men has been reduced from 50 cents per diem, for the first year of service, and 75 cents for each of the subsequent four years, to 40 cents and 50 cents respectively; and a corresponding reduction has been made in the pay of the non-commissioned officers. In accordance with the provisions of the Act 42 Vic., chap. 46, the system of granting bounty land warrants at the close of the term of service has been discontinued, in so far as concerns all enlistments subsequent to the 30th June, 1879. It is proposed, however, to establish a scale of long service and good conduct remuneration in addition to the ordinary pay, which will constitute an inducement to desirable men to remain in the force.

There were obvious disadvantages attaching to the custom of permitting detachments to remain throughout the entire length of service at one post, and during last spring the system was inaugurated of moving them to new stations at least once in two years. It is, of course, understood that the headquarters staff do not come under the operation of this rule.

The most amicable relations continue to exist between the police and the Indians, and manifestations increase of growing confidence and good feeling on the part of the latter. Although partially relieved of the responsibility of making treaty payments since the appointment of agents to take charge of the whole of the bands, the force still render important services to the Indian Department in the way of furnishing escorts to persons charged with the conveyance of the treaty money, and in assisting the agents during its disbursement.