## OLD-TIMERS' COLUMN

## July, 1951]

men opened fire on him, but the outmoded pistols they were issued with had insufficient carrying power. Then they attempted to secure shotguns and finally after some time had elapsed Tinsley got a loaded one from the fire hall. Cocking both barrels the young constable stepped around the corner of a store behind which the killer was hiding and from a distance of approximately 25 feet, both men fired simultaneously.

Lapointe collapsed from wounds in the stomach and young Tinsley received numerous pellets along the top of the head, in his left hand and right trigger finger. Subsequently Lapointe was tried for murder, but was adjudged insane and died 42 years later in a mental hospital. Mr. Tinsley told the Quarterly that he received the Sandford medal for his part in this affray. And while this undoubtedly is a prized possession of the ex-policeman he has two others which are cherished as dearly-a framed certificate of service from the Commissioners of Police, Toronto, and a grand grandfather's clock presented to him by members of the Toronto force when he retired almost 17 years ago.

Altogether Mr. Tinsley's has been an interesting life but as he enjoys his wellearned retirement at his Toronto home, or in the relaxing surroundings of his cottage at Gananoque Lake, he says he occasionally has the feeling that he is fortunate to be alive. There are few who would argue the point.

## **Ex-Member Rated Great Athlete**

Some old timers may recall the athletic feats of an ex-member who served in the Yukon at the beginning of this century— Reg. No. 3530 ex-Cst. Andrew John Timmins. Joining the NWMP on Mar. 31, 1900, Timmins—an Ottawa boy—served until May 1, 1903 when he was granted his discharge after completing two years' service in the Yukon. While there is nothing on his service file to indicate his athletic prowess, the following appeared in the Ottawa *Journal* on May 21 in a column "The Sport Realm", by Bill Westwick, Sports Editor.

"Ottawa has had more than a fair share of talented athletes whose fame has been



Inspr. James Tinsley in the uniform of the Toronto City Police.

duly recorded whether playing for their home teams or away. Some of those stars, however, are little heard of as the years roll by and a letter received by this department the other day tells of the achievements of one former native son in the Yukon in the early part of the century.

"The letter, from Los Angeles, Cal., speaks for itself:

"'Sir: Your article of Apr. 9, 1951, on the achievements of "Klondike Mike" Mahoney in the early days of the Klondike spurred me to write of another great Canadian athlete. A. J. "Jack" Timmins who with Pat Higgerty of Ottawa joined the NWMP . . . and volunteered for service in the Yukon. Jack's brother Ed Timmins and family live in Ottawa. Ed Timmins was a famous lacrosse player in his youth.

"It was the consensus of opinion among all Americans and most Canadians at Daw-