

Co-Operation a Fundamental Principle

by SERGT. V. J. R. THOMPSON, Ottawa

PROBABLY THE first organized police force in the British Empire, such as we know today, came into being during the regime of Sir Robert Peel, Prime Minister of England in the early nineteenth century. From this fact, the London Policemen derived their sobriquet of "Peeler" and "Bobby", the latter term being quite frequently used even today.

The office of Constable in any force is an honourable and dignified calling. It is still more so in a force which has behind it a reputation such as is enjoyed by the organization to which we have the honour to belong.

To anyone who is conversant with the history—or shall we say annals—of the Force, it is apparent that duty in the early days was carried out under many trying circumstances and attended by much hardship. It is also apparent that the N.W.M.P. and later the R.N.W.M.P. and R.C.M.P. has been a decided factor in the colonization of this Dominion, particularly in the west.

The Force, at its inception, mustered but a few hundred men and its duties were confined to the Northwest portion of Canada. Today it numbers about 2,500 all ranks and enforces the federal laws throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, including the territorial waters. It also enforces the provincial statutes in all but three of the provinces. From this it will be seen that the growth of the Force and its attendant duties during the past sixty years has been enormous.

There is an old adage that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. This is perfect logic and is applicable, to a great extent, to any body or corps, which to function properly, must work and exist as a complete unit.

A police force, may, after all, be likened to a huge and complicated machine which, if it is to operate satisfactorily, must necessarily have the smooth co-operation and co-ordination of every wheel, cog and lever of which it is composed. Some portions of the machine will have more important and intricate duties to perform but even the smallest and least important portion must function properly to ensure the smooth operation of the whole.

It therefore follows that "co-operation" should be one of the watchwords of every member of the Force. The individual who is perfectly contented to "just get by" or who is quite satisfied so long as his personal comfort and recreation are not jeopardized will never go far in such a Force as ours, nor in fact, in any force or corps where efficiency and cheerful co-operation is an absolute necessity to proper administration.

We should be proud indeed to be members of a Force so rich in tradition and should bear in mind that it is our duty to uphold a reputation so hardly won, and to meet the ever increasing demands of the present day with the same devotion to duty as was evinced by our predecessors in order that those who follow may find in our endeavours a source of inspiration.