

APPENDIX BB.

ANNUAL REPORT OF VETERINARY STAFF SERGEANT H. G. JOYCE, 1896

PRINCE ALBERT, 30th November, 1896.

To the Officer Commanding
" F " Division.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th November, 1896, and append list of cases under treatment during the year.

Since last report no cases of an epizootic or contagious nature have occurred among our horses, and the majority of cases under treatment were due to the ordinary wear and tear, accidents and exposure to which police horses are liable from the nature of work they perform in all seasons of the year.

Last June eight horses were cast and sold, good prices being realized.

Eleven horses were received in July from the Depot division, some of whom performed their work rather indifferently on patrol, prairie fire and other duties.

A number of horses on detachment work have been exchanged in consequence of showing the effects of hard work and were turned out on herd for a much needed rest.

Twelve horses comprise the winter herd at St. Catharines, eight miles from the post. I visit them frequently, and when I last saw them they were in excellent condition.

On the 9th of last June, horse Reg. No. 1238, a cast horse, was destroyed by order of the Commissioner.

Horse Reg. No. 1912, a wheeler in a four horse team fell and broke his neck while on special duty.

During the year glanders has not been so prevalent in this district as in former years, very few cases being reported. There have been no outbreaks of anthrax, and I have not seen a single case of tuberculosis, actinomycosis in cattle, scab in sheep, swine fever, or mange in horses.

On 28th August and 17th October, I went to Duck Lake and Rosthern, to investigate a sickness among horses belonging to settlers in those districts, a number having succumbed from its effects. On both visits I failed to find a serious case, but from symptoms related by persons who had lost horses I am inclined to think that in most cases the animals died of typho-malarial fever.

The forage of all kinds supplied by the contractors is of good quality.

The stock of drugs and appliances is ample for the present, a fresh supply will be required early in the coming year.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. G. JOYCE,

Veterinary Staff Sergeant.