

fulness of the saddle horse for patrol purposes decreased until as of July 1 this year there are only 192 horses on the strength of the Force as against 846 motor vehicles on charge, while the uniformed personnel number 2,761 all ranks.

Perhaps an uninformed section of the public may doubt if any useful purpose is served by retaining the horse in the police and argue that the expense and time required to teach the novice to ride are adequate reasons for discarding the animal which gave the Force its earlier mobility. A few personal questions will reveal that the advocate of "modern methods" possesses little if any ability as a horseman. He sees the horse only as a beast of burden, views him as he would a car or other mechanical device, and so by comparison tries to justify his stand.

Officers of the Force, whose responsibility it is to see that strict efficiency is maintained with a minimum expenditure of public funds, would readily concede the point were it not that they, as students of criminology and psychology, have learned from long experience a great deal about methods of promoting and developing those characteristics considered most admirable in man. Obviously, they acknowledge, as a means of general transportation the police horse is as obsolete as the cavalry horse is amid the armour of a modern army in action. However, because it is their duty to maintain a high morale in the Force and the perpetuation in its personnel of a model for Canadian youth, in principle at least they endorse the sentiments of an unknown inspector general of French cavalry who while giving advice to French officers during the mechanization period following the 1918 Armistice sounded this caution for those in command:

"Maintain above all and at all costs *l'esprit cavalier*. This *l'esprit cavalier* is not born in a day by order, but is a result of a steady accumulation which has been going on for years, it exists in but cannot be acquired from books. The

pupil can only acquire it as a result of intense practice with horses. No one who has not himself practised equitation in all its forms, knows the amount of perseverance, calmness, patience and severity tempered with gentleness, that has to be displayed by a cavalier.

"Furthermore riding generates audacity, and he who does not relish taking risks will never be any good. To be cavalier one must ignore danger, never draw back in front of an obstacle whatever it may be and one must go straight.

"This cannot be obtained at once but rather requires constant work. The ability so acquired gives to the officer, by means denied to the mass, his prestige and confers on him a physical and moral domination".

Admittedly the duties of the policeman differ widely from those of the soldier, but many of the characteristics essential in the personnel of an army are equally desirable in members of a force such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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HERE then is the sphere of the Mounted Police horse today: He is the equine detector of courage, or lack of it, in police candidates. Skilled tuition in equitation will replace timidity with boldness and develop a disregard for the inevitable bodily bruises which even the most proficient must experience. Handling of a horse promotes mental alertness and rapid acceleration of muscular reflexes. It develops a sportsman-like attitude that enables the horseman to take failure cheerfully and success modestly, and, of equal importance, does more to foster the Force's *esprit de corps* than any other phase of recruits' training. Together with foot drill and physical training, riding creates physical fitness and muscular coordination, factors in the high physical standard desired.

If the foregoing were all the virtues of the saddle horse his value to the Force would amply justify the expenditure of maintaining the few still on strength, but