

set by modern law enforcement the horse still must take over on back concessions on those not infrequent occasions when Nature holds the polished machine helpless in her grip.

Mounted sections of high standard are maintained by large police forces the world over, not excepting the R.C.M.P., of course, which but a few months ago purchased for its breeding station at Fort Walsh, Sask., a fine new stallion. Since the Force's inception in 1873 the horse has been a major factor in our history. In the future, too, he will have his special role for he continues to reign supreme in some phases of police work.

Riding gives a man self-discipline and self-reliance that he retains for life, and down the years equitation has figured prominently in R.C.M.P. training. "There's nothing like a horse to bring out any weakness in a man", stated the Commissioner a short time ago. But perhaps more important than their use in training and as transport animals on trails and roads that defy the motor car, is their invaluable aid in the handling of crowds.

Thinking, living organism that he is, the horse can be adapted to uses far beyond the ken of pistons, gears and cogs. The caterpillar, tractor and snowmobile have partially conquered gumbo and snow bank, but as Exercise Muskox and other tests have demonstrated, these things will not be within economical and practical reach for years to come.

Scientific research has given the world countless marvels but its accomplishments have not been limitless. However, Lord Louis Mountbatten's announcement of the scientific production of "an electronic brain" with near qualities of intellect opens up a vista of new possibilities. If as the former commander-in-chief in South-east Asia tells us the stage is now set for such Wellsian developments as can utilize those hitherto human prerogatives of choice, memory and judgment, it may well be that the police horse is on the way out.

But until this "revolution of the mind", as it is called, actually is upon us the police horse will remain. Certainly he need not fear the assembly-line threat any further, for his superiority over some of its creations has been proved. This traditional co-worker and friend of man still has something which, at least until vehicles assume the human traits predicted for them, the police cannot afford to be without.

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As the recent war drew to a climax the R.C.M.P., taking heed of the Canadian Army's experience, established a personnel department and adopted the psycho-screening technique. It proved to be an accurate procedure for selecting police recruits, determining specific traits that qualify the owners for certain branches of police work, sorting the men out and fitting them into their proper niche in the extensive field of their new calling. In line with the *Quarterly's* policy of keeping on top of the latest developments in the Force we publish in this issue an account of this new department, its aims and objects.

**A New Department** The R.C.M.P. Personnel Department, the article tells us, has already become a practical, efficiency-promoting instrument. To prevent square pegs getting into round holes it aims to classify every man and put him where he can serve most usefully and contentedly, be it as a detachment man, detective, office worker, or laboratory technician. It is designed to protect the welfare of the individual policeman and promote the general efficiency of the Force.

During the depression years there was no dearth of young men anxious to join the Force, and the plentiful supply afforded a wide, select and varied choice. Today, however, conditions are vastly changed and recruits of the calibre sought are not available in anything like the same numbers.

Under the old system, each candidate for the R.C.M.P. was taken from the waiting list as his name came up, and, as the most practical way of judging him, he was allowed to demonstrate his worth in the school of experience. In other words, money, time and effort were spent on an unknown quantity. Happily, because of the qualifications possessed by the many applicants, able and highly capable personnel was found; but a discouraging