

that ex-Constable Kyle's importance to ex-Constable Boucher will be greater because he possesses those qualities. ● ● ●

### Frontier Echoes

An old letter from Reg. No. 1034 ex-S/Sgt. Herman Des Barres, which turned up recently at headquarters, may revive for a few old-timers memories of one of the more colorful figures of the Force in early days. A big powerfully-built man, Des Barres was born in Germany, and before coming to Canada was a member of the Prussian Army. He settled in the West in the Qu'Appelle district where for a time he worked in the Indian Department. He was 27 years old when he joined the NWMP in May 1884. Part of his story follows:

I served for 20 years in the NWMP after joining in May 1884, and for 18½ of them was a non-commissioned officer. In 1885 I was promoted to corporal, the next year sergeant and in 1888 became sergeant major. During the North-West Rebellion in 1885 I served at Carlton and Prince Albert.

Afterwards I took part in the pursuit of Big Bear, who was captured by members of the Force near Carlton.

In 1897 I was preparing to go to Regina from Grenfell with a prisoner, and after fulfilling that duty, I hoped to attend a dance in barracks in honor of the police contingent going to Queen Victoria's Jubilee. But a telegram from Duck Lake to the effect that Insp. J. B. Allan and his party had come across the notorious Indian, Al-mighty Voice, changed my plans. I was ordered to join a party under command of Supt. J. H. McIlfree en route to Duck Lake. We succeeded in getting the man we were after.

In December 1899 I volunteered for service in South Africa, and being accepted left under the command of Lieut.-Col. L. W. Herchmer in January 1900. This command was later on transferred to the late Lieutenant-Colonel Evans. After returning to Canada I served for two years in the Yukon, and was placed in charge of the detachment at Whitehorse.

Being German by birth, and therefore fluent in the language, I did a lot of work in the German settlements around Regina, Balgonie, Strassburg and Grenfell. I helped



Buy Circle Bar hose for all occasions and use. Fancy Wraps—Fine Ribs and Cushion Sole for Men.

Women's anklets and long hose. Special styles and constructions for all occasions.

Ask about our special pre-shrunk styles of different kinds.

## The Circle Bar Knitting Co. Ltd.

MILLS AT KINCARDINE (Head Office)  
OWEN SOUND, ONT.

in teaching them to respect the laws of Canada, and acted as interpreter for them in and out of court; I also transacted a good deal of their business for them.

I left the RNWMP in May 1904, retiring to pension at Calgary, where I had been in charge of the notorious murderer, Cashel.

For a time after his discharge, Des Barres was Inspector of Liquor Licenses in Saskatchewan. Later he moved to British Columbia where he joined the Provincial Police. He resigned from that force to become Chief Constable of Trail. Thirty-five years after leaving Germany, Des Barres journeyed to his native land to see his aged mother before she died. He returned to Canada and enlisted in the Canadian Army during World War I.

Des Barres died in Quebec in 1926. But for the few old timers who remember him, these few paragraphs from a letter written many years ago, will recall the burly, ex-soldier, whose native arrogance forced him to the forefront of several historic incidents of frontier days. ● ● ●