



Opening of New Police Building - Edmonton

A DOUBLE ceremony took place at "K" Division Headquarters on the afternoon of November 7. On this occasion there was a presentation of Long Service Medals and Clasps, and at the same time the new Edmonton building was opened.

"K" Division was honored in having present for this occasion the Hon. J. J. Bowlen, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, and the Hon. E. C. Manning, Premier of Alberta.

Almost three hundred guests were present in the gymnasium to see the Lieutenant-Governor present the Long Service Medals to approximately twenty serving members and ex-members. The Clasps were presented by the Premier, Mr. Manning. One of the interesting incidents of the day was the presentation of Long Service Clasps to two former Officers Commanding "K" Division, Asst. Commr. W. F. W. Hancock (Rtd.), who received the Silver Clasp, and Asst. Commr. Herbert Darling (Rtd.), who received the Gold Clasp. It was also a great pleasure for many old-timers to see Insp. W. H. Loughheed (Rtd.) receive his Gold Clasp from Mr. Manning on this occasion.

Our respected Provincial Magistrate at Edmonton, Magistrate George Clark, better known to the Force as Insp. George Clark, MC (Rtd.), received his Silver Clasp at the same time. A number of former NCOs well known in "K" Division also received their Medals or Clasps on this occasion, among them being ex-Sgt. Major S. M. Slinn, ex-Sgt. E. V. Butler, ex-Sgt. H. J. Adams, and ex-Cpl. A. E. Dickinson.

Following the investiture in the "K" Division gymnasium, the Officer Commanding, Asst. Commr. G. B. McClellan, escorted the Lieutenant-Governor and the Premier to the front door of the new building, where Mr. Manning, kindly substituting for Commr. L. H. Nicholson, who was unable to be present, cut the blue and gold ribbon, officially opening the new building.

At the conclusion of the opening ceremonies an event took place which will be of great interest to many "K" Division old-timers and to others who served at Edmonton Post before it was "K" Division.

To go back for a moment historically, the present new building replaces the original stables and carriage shed built in 1910. Many members of the Force, among them some still serving in "K" Division, and many ex-members still residing in Alberta, did mounted drill or led saddle horse patrols out of Edmonton Post between 1910 and 1936 when the mounted troop was finally abolished. Both the present Officer Commanding, Assistant Commissioner McClellan, and "K" Division Sgt. Major C. F. Wilson were at one time members of the mounted section at Edmonton.

When Asst. Commr. George Curleigh retired from the Force the new building was then under construction. Assistant Commissioner Curleigh preserved one of the old hand-forged hitching-rings from the old stables when they were torn down. He passed it to Assistant Commissioner McClellan, who assumed command of "K" Division in August 1956, with the suggestion that it be installed in the outer wall of the new building as