



Editorial

Among R.C.M.P. horses Reg. No. 2036 "Billy", pictured above, was unsurpassed in beauty, stamina, intelligence and good disposition, with the possible exception of Reg. No. 214 "Black Peter", a famous equine member of "Depot" Division for a number of years after 1909. Ridden by our present Commissioner, Billy in 1937 led the R.C.M.P. contingent at the Coronation of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and while on that trip took part in a command appearance before the Queen in which he was especially admired by the two Princesses. Many serving and ex-members of the Force will fondly remember Billy, who was five years old when purchased by the Force in 1927 at Cochrane, Alta. He participated in the International Horse Show, Olympia, London, Eng., 1930, was at the New York World Fair, New York City, 1939, and saw service at Vancouver, B.C., Winnipeg, Man., Ottawa, Ont., and Regina, Sask., where he was destroyed in 1944.

Dealing with police horses in general, a news dispatch widely circulated some little time ago may have left a wrong impression. "That fine figure on horseback—the mounted policeman—", it stated, "has had his day."

With this statement we cannot agree. Despite the horse's rapid decline in the past half century, we are convinced that he will not vanish completely from the police scene before the onward rush of mechanical equipment. True, he has largely been superseded by machinery and gone forever is the hitching-post era of the North West Mounted Police when he was relied upon exclusively for overland travel. Police forces everywhere have become mechanized. But while this supplanting process has advanced far, it is certain from the police viewpoint that a final blow to live horse-power never will be struck. Though nearly ousted by the motor car, motorcycle and plane in the fast pace