

Editorial

In view of the fact that the duties and conditions under which an organization operates are invariably mirrored in its equipment, it may be of general interest to note that according to the Annual **Strength of the Force** Report for the year 1874, the strength of the Force consisted of 295 officers and men, 273 horses and 347 cattle. Figures for the present year disclose that our organization now has a total strength of 2677 officers and men (of whom 224 belong to the Marine Section) while its transport under present day conditions consists of automobiles, large and small craft for use on maritime waters, and dogs for Northern patrols. Aeroplanes are also utilized on the Eastern and Western seaboard for observation purposes in connection with enforcement of the Customs Act. The horse, however, from its one time position of supreme importance, has now been relegated to one of a more subsidiary nature, although Reserve Mounted Troops are kept at various points in Canada as a contingent factor in dealing with riots or disturbances of a serious nature and for ceremonial occasions.

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It is an unfortunate fact that no form of decoration for acts of bravery on the part of Peace Officers appears to be in existence in Canada. While the average Policeman will look on deeds of courage performed in the face of extreme danger as being in the customary routine of duty, it would, nevertheless, be a source of gratification to his relatives—and incidentally, to the organization of which he is a member—if some signal token of appreciation such as a medal were to be granted for acts of individual bravery. This especially applies in cases where a policeman lays down his life in the execution of his duty as happened in the recent case of Constable John Lewis of the Sarnia Police Force when engaged in the apprehension of a notorious criminal during a liquor store hold-up.

Many deeds of supreme courage are performed by Peace Officers throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion and the bestowal of a token of appreciation of this nature for gallant service performed would appropriately signify the appreciation of the State and of the public whose interests they serve.

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Elsewhere in this edition of the Quarterly Magazine appears an Obituary Notice regarding Colonel James Walker, who joined our organization in 1874 immediately subsequent to its inception, and recently died at Calgary, Alberta, aged ninety years.

On the occasion of Colonel Walker's death, the following telegram was received by His Excellency the Governor General of Canada from His Majesty King Edward VIII:

"Please convey to the Commissioner Royal Canadian Mounted Police the King's regret at hearing news of death of that distinguished veteran of the Force Colonel James Walker".