

constitution, able to ride, etc.' I trust the spirit of this clause will invariably be acted on. In the past this has not always been done. A man who cannot ride is useless for service in the Police; worse than useless, in fact a mere incumbrance".

Described is the stampeding of police horses during a storm, and the delay and inconvenience of rounding up some of them which had run upwards of 35 miles. How many stampedes took place with greenhorns on the backs of spirited mounts is judiciously forgotten. How often tempers of officers and N.C.O.'s became frayed at the apparent absence of horsemanship is discreetly left to the imagination.

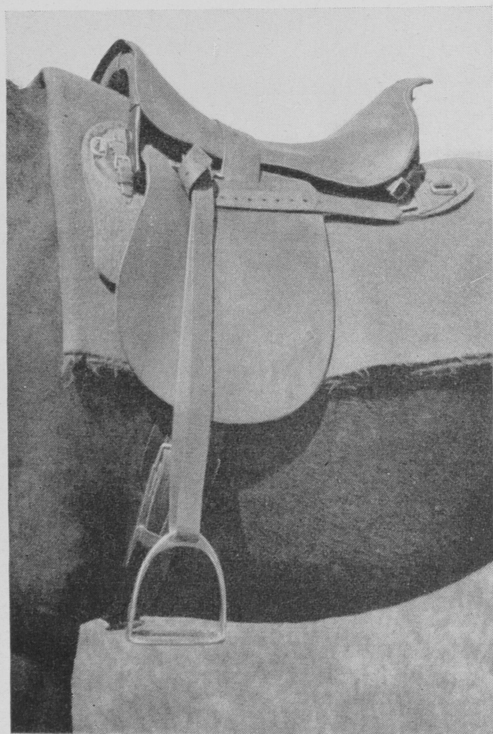
All who have witnessed beginners undergoing the elementary lessons in equitation, especially on a chilly Monday morning, will readily appreciate the embarrassment of those would-be cavaliers when their ignorance of horses was violently demonstrated before the cynical

gaze of their superiors, whose remarks probably savoured of sarcasm rather than of sympathy.

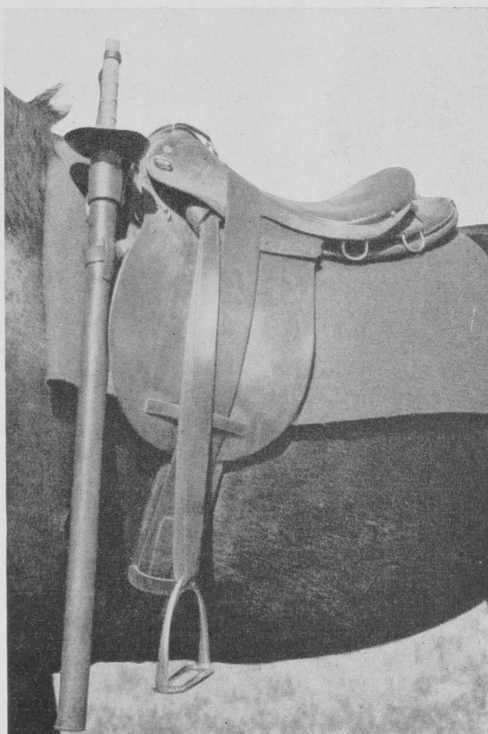
The torture of untrained muscle throughout long hours in the saddle was in itself a gruelling test of the N.W.M.P. recruits' endurance, and by no means all stood up to it. The weaker either deserted or were granted their discharge, leaving only the more willing and able to bear the many and sundry other hardships that were to follow those of the historic march west.

The loss of the failures numerically weakened the Force, but as a chain is tested by its weakest link so was the calibre of the organization in general materially strengthened. It is well that it was so. Though the standard of horsemanship may have left something to be desired the efforts of those first policemen deserve the high tribute so readily paid by Canadians since that time.

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Cavalry universal—1923-1946.



Colonial—1947-1948.