

## 1883—Winnipeg Police Force—1913

**P**OLICE! Police!!

Reader, when a lad, you have no doubt stood, with eyes wide open (and mouth on a move that way) looking at some tempting fruit on the stand behind the railing in one of the old Ontario show buildings. As you looked and looked, the temptation was strong to help yourself. Though there was notice, "Please do not touch," you may have reached forth, with the greatest of tenderness, and placed your finger on one of the tempting cherries. At that moment up stepped a man on the inside of the railing who, with gruff voice, said "Don't you see that notice?" There may have been a desire to get even with him for the moment and possibly there was a longing to be constable so that you could look, and perhaps handle, all the good things behind the railing. That constable, for the time being, was the embodiment of all that was of importance to you. Be that as it may, he carried but short time authority, possibly only for the afternoon and evening of the show. What is known as a Policeman carries more weight. "Police! Police!" carries more terror with it than "Mr. Constable!"

The policeman, for the term he is employed, is one who carries authority to arrest on sight. Generally he has on his person handcuffs and a baton, and sometimes fire-arms, ready at hand in case of a mix-up. He may be hard pressed, or a desperate character may endeavor to make escape; and the officer must always be perfect—if he does not do what the civilian thinks is right he is put down as no good.

The policemen of the day are generally trained to duty. If started as a "green 'un" the man who assumes the office is put on probation for a year, is put

through a course of drill, and made conversant with what his duties are, which includes a course in first aid street ambulance work. He should make himself fairly familiar with the laws of the land. One of the first essentials for a good policeman is to be a gentleman, and which carries with it the power of holding secrets. He should be able to control himself under the most trying circumstances. A "bobby," or "peeler," should be of even temper; if not, there is possibility of his not only getting into trouble himself, but the corporation with which he is connected. The authority vested in a policeman is considerable, but there are limits to even that, and it is essential that such should be known by the man carrying the authority.

Policemen are in a measure like soldiers. If we were all as good as our mothers desired us to be, possibly there would be no use for these officers of the law. If there was no stealing, robbing, and so on, it would not be necessary for each town and city to have a squad of stalwarts. What a saving that would be! And the poor fellows would be out of a job! If there was no war, all would be peace; if no misbehaviours, arrests would not be necessary, and consequently the stalwarts would be obliged to find some other employment.

On this page we give cut of the present Winnipeg Police Force, and also one of the Force in 1883. Those of today are a fine body of men; in fact have always been so. This you would know was the case if you saw them on parade, with Chief MacPherson and Deputy Newton, guiding. Many of them are six feet and step like men of determination. A pretty sight it is to see them march along the street. With steady step and

heads erect they present an imposing appearance. What a braw fine crowd the majority of them would be, with MacPherson and "Mac" Newton as drum majors, dressed as kilties, and on the march!

In connection with the Winnipeg Police Force it is worthy of note that there have been few changes in the office of Chief, and possibly this has considerably to do with the efficiency of the Force. The writer remembers but three Chiefs—there may have been four, but, if so, the first of the four was in the way back. Chief Murray was followed by Chief McRae, who held the position with credit for many years, and now Chief MacPherson has a firm command.

In 1883 there were in all 48 men in connection with the Winnipeg Police Force. D. B. Murray was Chief, J. C. McRae, afterwards Chief and who recently retired with the best of records, was one of the sergeants, of whom there were four. There was one detective and forty-one constables. This was the staff in July; a few months later the Force was reduced to about half. This reduction was largely owing to the bursting of the land boom. In 1881-2 the boom was in full swing, but with the summer of 1882 a lull set in and with the opening of 1883 retrenchment was the order. Mr. A. A. Aird was then Clerk of the Court and he still holds the position. One of the constables was W. J. Leach, and he is now on the Force, being the only remaining officer in active service.

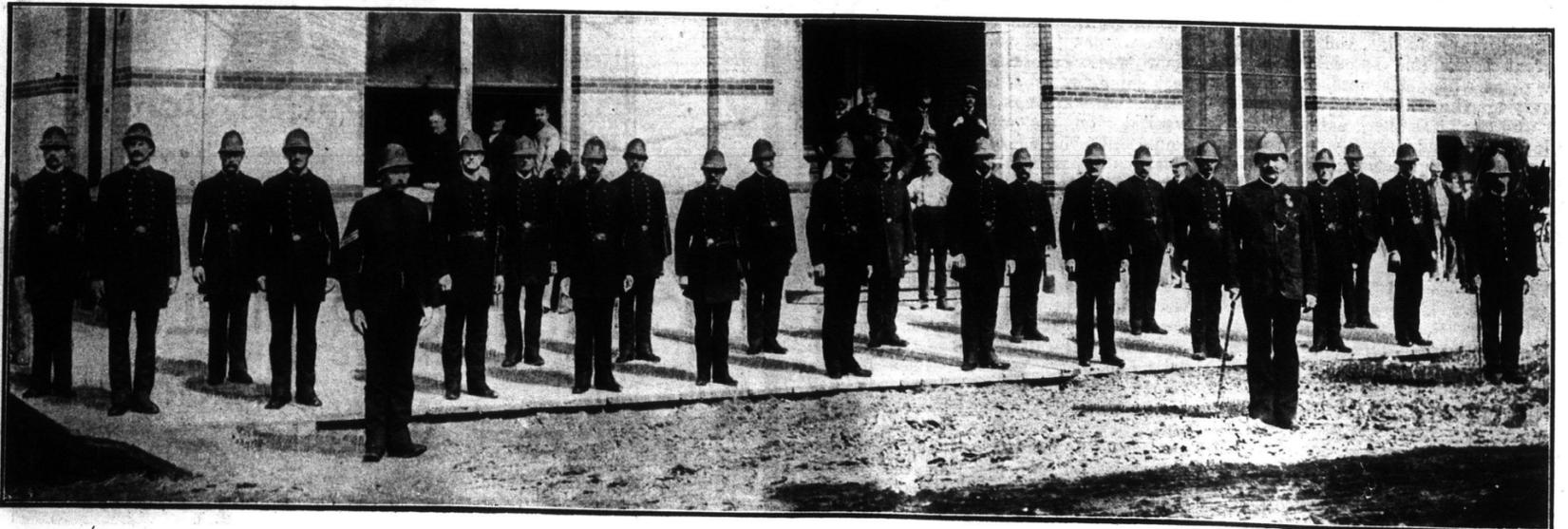
The Force of 48 in 1883 had been reduced from time to time until there were only 16 in July, 1893. J. C. McRae was Chief and Mr. Aird, Clerk. There was on the Force, the two Munros, who continued until the grim reaper called

them, A. McCharles (retired), W. J. Leach, W. Blair and B. Stewart, the three latter still doing duty.

July, 1903, found the Force with 37; the general officers being much the same as ten years previous. Of the constables the following are still doing duty: C. H. Newton, P. Stark, W. Blair, C. Knox, J. J. Samson, and B. Stewart. MacPherson, the present Chief, began service in that year.

1913 finds 240 in connection with the Police Department of Winnipeg. The Chief is D. MacPherson and C. H. Newton is Deputy Chief Constable. There are four inspectors—P. Stark and W. Blair at the Central Police Station, Rupert Street; H. Green at the Fort Rouge Station, Jessie and Nassau Street; M. Bruton at North End Station, Magnus and Charles Street; J. McDowell, J. Street, and H. McLachlan are Sergeants at Central Station; J. Wilson and J. Rice at North End, and C. H. Knox at Fort Rouge. In addition to these six Sergeants there are eight patrol sergeants. Sixteen detectives are on the Force, and Eli Stodgell, who was one of three detectives employed in 1903, holds the position of Chief of the Detectives. There are 192 constables—120 at Central Station, 50 at North End and 22 at Fort Rouge. Mr. Aird is still Clerk of the Court, and his assistant is G. F. Richards. In the Clerk of the Court's office there are two clerks and a stenographer. Then, the Chief Constable has a secretary and two stenographers. There are two elevator men, and one caretaker, and a matron. The garage staff is composed of one motor inspector, four chauffeurs and two floormen.

A man joining the Force now has to undergo a rigid medical examination and produce the best of evidence that he is what is termed a square-toed and not afraid of work. Once a man joins the Force his time is pretty much all at the disposal of the community. He cannot



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