

North-west Mounted Police.

CANTEENS.

Every post is now enjoying a canteen, and all are running to the great comfort of the force, the profits going to improvement of messes, recreation rooms, and to provide amusements for the men.

These canteens carry a good stock of all articles required, and are run on strict business principles.

PRISONS.

A common jail is very much required at Calgary, where the police guard room, with 16 cells, generally has two prisoners in a cell. Female prisoners have to be crowded into the same tier of cells as the men, and as we have no matron or female warder, this procedure is somewhat embarrassing to our constables, and is not decent, to say the least.

At Macleod, although we have no matron, there is a corridor in which we can confine women, but at Lethbridge, Fort Saskatchewan, Prince Albert, Battleford and Maple Creek and Regina, we have no provision whatever for female prisoners. At Regina, however, we always send them to the jail.

A new guard room is very much required at Fort Saskatchewan, where the large number of settlers sometimes furnish more prisoners than we have accommodation for in the old log guard room, which is close and confined.

Early in the season finding that tramps were becoming numerous on this side of the line, and in United States territory were committing serious depredations, I drew the attention of the force to the necessity of looking after them; a large number were arrested along the Canadian Pacific Railway, and punished from time to time. As soon as this was found out there was a marked decrease in the number, and those that did appear quite altered their tone. I propose to keep up vigorous action against these vagrants, as their presence is dangerous to scattered communities, and, if in sufficient force they might rob a train. The majority of those arrested were a very low class, and some of them gave a great deal of trouble in our guard rooms.

All prisoners are well worked while in our custody, and strict discipline is maintained.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

A good deal of grading has been done throughout the Territories on the roads, and many bad hills have been improved, notably the hill at Carlton, formerly very steep, has now been graded into an excellent road.

The government bridges throughout the Territories have been repaired this fall, and all are in good order, but sadly in need of paint.

A bridge is urgently required over the Old Man's River at Kipp, and over the Kootenay at Stand-Off; with these improvements, Southern Alberta would be well off.

Nothing has yet been done about a bridge at Edmonton, where one is more required than at any point in the whole Territories, as for several weeks in the spring and fall, traffic is entirely suspended, the ferries being unable to run for drift ice. When you consider that three ferries cross the river within a distance of two miles at this point, and all pay well, you can imagine the necessity for a bridge.

There are still a number of old and well travelled roads in the country which have not been declared public highways, and consequently are liable to be fenced across by any settler concerned, in some instances sending travellers round four extra miles in ten. These should be surveyed and declared public highways.

The ferry at Medicine Hat, the property of the police, has been turned over to the North-west government, greatly to our relief, as it was expensive to run and very troublesome.