

Mounted Police and the Indians

THE North American Indian before civilization (?) corrupted him was pretty much of a man by man's measure. He recognized and practiced heroic virtues. He was ready to take without whimpering anything he would prescribe for an enemy. And he knew and admired a strong man whose word was trustworthy and who lived, rather than preached, the religion of a square deal. He naturally resented the coming of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police to disturb the ancient tenor of his ways. He chafed under the new regime of discipline and regulation. He made it as lively for the troopers as he could find ways to do so. Yet he soon learned to respect the red-coated riders and by degrees to give them his friendship and his support.

In 1879 the chance presented itself for the police — always tactful and humane administrators — to impress on the native mind that they and the great White Mother were friends as well as rulers. At last the buffalo herds failed, exterminated by the indiscriminate hunting fostered by a widening market for the hides. Starvation faced the red men.

It was the Mounted Police who came to the rescue and from twelve to fifteen hundred Indians were fed out of stores, the supplies being at one time reduced to six sacks of flour. The famishing Indians found that the policemen who would spend a week in the saddle, determined, resourceful and vigilant, to bring a law-breaker to justice, would also go as far and farther to give food and hope to the dusky wards of the Government.

Later as many as seven thousand Bloods, Peigans and Sarcees were placed on rations by their police-protectors, beef and flour being distributed daily from June until October. The great wall of distrust and suspicion that the police had ever found an impenetrable barrier between themselves and the native nations, if it did not crumble, at least had many breaches made in it afterwards. The abler and stronger chiefs began, too, to recognize the wisdom of official sternness in dealing with the whiskey trader, the smuggler and the outlaw; and as years passed, tribe after tribe aligned itself in support of police authority, simplifying the great task and once anew illustrating the soundness of that centuries-old policy that has made Britain the greatest colonizing power of any age or era.

It was largely through cemented tribal friendships that the work of safeguarding C.P.R. construction was simplified and ultimately accomplished with but a nominal clash between aboriginal wilfulness and the new authority in the land; and in 1882 the Government was able to transmit the official thanks and congratulations of the railway company upon the success achieved and the great reform accomplished in the breaking down of the whiskey traffic organization during the eventful railway-building period.

The police work had been strenuous, difficult, incessant. It had involved a display of courage, of stamina, of hardihood, of administrative genius that gave "the force" recognition and brought to it adventure-seeking recruits from Old Country families of nobility and ancient lineage, whose younger sons discovered to their joy that the scarlet tunic of the prairie rough-riders had become as recognized a uniform of high distinction as the historic blue of the famous Guards. There was breathing room for high spirit in the life, and inspiration in such tales as might be read between the bare-bones lines of scant official reports chronicling the day's work of the troopers, as when, in 1883, two of the self-sure constables were officially acquainted of the fact that Pie-a-Pots and his band of several hundred braves had camped on the right-of-way and threatened no end of trouble.

"Go out and move them back," was the order.

And the two policemen saluted, swung into the saddle, and sped to execute orders.

They found Pie-a-Pots and his people in ugly temper. They gave the Indians fifteen minutes in which to move camp; and when the reds displayed no obedient intent, the sergeant in charge brought matters to a head by kicking out the key-poles of the tepees.

It is axiomatic of the police policy "when in a tight place—start something yourself."

In this particular instance it was a case of hundreds against two — but the two were clean-strain white men with will and nerves of steel.

So the Indians moved. In years later it was Sergt. Fitzgerald who was called to headquarters one evening to be told that two northern tribes nursing an ancient vendetta had donned the battle paint and feathers and were facing one another with a thin ribbon of river dividing the camps, the stealing of a girl being offered as excuse for the making of war medicine.

"You will disperse both the forces and bring their chiefs back with you here," said the unblinking commissioner.

How he calmly and confidently informing the opposing chiefs that unless the tribes were dispersed, the

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war abandoned, and they themselves came down to headquarters to make required explanations and assurances, all would forthwith be arrested and taken in chains to prison in one of the epics of the service unrivalled by any of the fictional exploits of D'Artagnan or Gerard.

Use Christian Hymns.

Many Christian hymns are sung in the Buddhist Sunday schools of Japan, the name of Buddha being substituted for that of Christ and of God the Father, in such songs as "Jesus Loves Me" and "God is Love."

Canada's Fondness for Automobiles.

It will surprise most Canadians to know that among the nations of the world their country holds third place in the number of automobiles in use. In 1917 there were 199,302 cars registered in Canada, an increase of 47,705 over 1916, while the number of new cars registered in that year was nearly 76,000. The increase for 1918 is expected to be on a proportionate scale. One Canadian in every 40 owns a car; and, roughly speaking, there is one automobile for every eight families. Considering that in 1903 there were only 220 automobiles in Ontario, and that in 1917, 84,353 auto licenses were taken out, the increase is nothing short of amazing. A marked feature of the pre-eminence which Canada enjoys is the ever-increasing proportion of motor licenses which are being taken out by farmers, a fact which in itself affords a strong guarantee that good country roads will soon be the rule rather than the exception.

Dean Welldon on Titles.

Dean Welldon, of Manchester, formerly head master of Harrow, writes to the Manchester Guardian: "It is slightly surprising that the protest against hereditary titles should come in the first instance from Canada because Australia and New Zealand are probably still more democratic in sentiment. My general experience is that there is a widespread feeling beyond the seas that hereditary titles and still more hereditary legislative powers are incompatible with democracy. The feeling is intensified by the suspicion to which evidence at home has recently afforded color, that titles may tend to become a scarcely less effective means of corrupt political influence than bribes openly given in the time of Walpole."

An Actor in Khaki.

A good story is told of a young actor enlisted in Canada, and in his difficulty what was more natural than that he should turn to his profession for help, for he had been trained with the greatest actors in the land. He practiced in seclusion, and one day, when his trained recruits had been drafted and a new batch had appeared, he strode to the job in the full panoply of the Cockney drill sergeant, pungent with the wit and wisdom of the Mile End Road. He never had a greater success in any part, and if his points were not applauded they were promptly obeyed.

Oil-Burning Locomotives.

Oil-burning locomotives are now used in twenty-one states, on fifty-three railroads and on 32,000 miles of track in this country. They consume 42,000,000 barrels of oil yearly.

Carrying a Load.

Many a man who objects to carrying a bundle home from a dry goods store goes home from his club loaded.

The Control of Tibet.

Tibet is controlled virtually by the natives, who are a branch of the Mongol race, the Chinese Government looking after foreign relations and maintaining small garrisons of Chinese troops.

Upset the Molasses.

When a barrel of molasses burst on a Freeland, Pa., street, firemen were called out to flush the bricks so traffic could proceed.

FEEDING THE SOLDIERS.

Camp Menus Are Better Here Than Overseas.

In the war estimates just brought down in the House of Commons, provision is made for rationing Canadian troops in England at a cost of 38 1/2 cents per day and in Canada at 50 cents per day. Sir Robert Borden explained that the rations are much better here, due in part to food scarcity in the Old Country.

The difference in the amount of food supplied to Canadian soldiers here and in England is shown by comparing the diet sheet in use at Exhibition Camp, Toronto, with that which was provided for Canadians in England. Both these sheets cover a period of March, so that the comparison is a fair one. In England the amounts of the various foods available day by day vary largely, but for purposes of comparison we have taken a day on which the soldiers fared particularly well, namely, Monday, March 25. On the Tuesday their menu was far more scanty. Here are the figures:

Ounces of	Every day	Best day
	Canada.	England.
Meat	14	11
Bread	14	13
Potatoes	12	8
Bacon	3	1/2
Beans	2	2 1/2
Jam	2	1/2
Butter, oleo.	2	1
Sugar	3	1
Fresh vegetables ..	6 1/2	7
Vegetables	7	7
Split peas	1/2	1/2
Salt	1/2	1/2
Cheese	1	1
Coffee	1/2	1-6
Tea	1/2	1-6
Milk powder	1	1/2

In addition the menu in England contains five-sixteenths oz. barley flour, three-quarters oz. ground rice, one-sixteenth oz. molasses, one-half oz. maize flour, seven-eighths oz. oatmeal. In Canada oatmeal, flour or rice will be served in lieu of beans, and dried prunes in lieu of jam. In England oleo is invariably substituted for butter.

It is to be noted that the above comparison is with one of the best days for food in England. On the day following the troops got only 11 ounces of bread and four ounces of beef, but the bacon allowance was increased to three ounces. Thus, taking bread, meat and bacon together, the diet is 31 oz. every day in Canada, as compared with 24 1/2 and 18 oz. in England.

The figures in the foregoing table embrace the total food served at three meals in Canada and four meals in England, there being a late supper of vegetable soup and bread in the latter. For a purpose of further comparison, there are here set forth the details of the menu in both England and Canada on Monday, March 25, the Canadian diet sheet being that of the Second Bn., First C.O.R., at Exhibition Camp:

Breakfast.
Canada—Grilled steak, porridge, bread and butter, coffee.
England—Oatmeal, Hamburg steak, bread and oleo, coffee.

Dinner.
Canada—Pea soup, boiled beef, boiled potatoes, vegetables, bread and butter.
England—Boiled beef, rice pudding, potatoes, carrots, no butter or oleo.

In England one-half the unit would get roast beef instead of boiled beef.

Supper.
Canada—Bread pudding, jam, cheese, bread and butter, tea.
England—Pork and beans, jam turnovers, bread and oleo, tea.

Late Supper.
England—Vegetable soup, no butter.

The main difference in the meals in Canada and England seems to be that in Canada the quantities of staples served are much larger, while in England the army has certain lean days and when there is a dish like roast beef, it goes to only half the unit, the other half taking the same quantity of boiled beef.

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