

## North-west Mounted Police.

ment being placed under command of Staff-sergeant Hetherington who had had two years experience in the district, and who is a very capable non-commissioned officer.

There has been about the usual amount of drunkenness in the Territories, and some Indians have been found drunk and arrested; in some cases the parties who supplied the liquor have been severely punished, but in many cases the Indians will not divulge the names. An efficient Indian police would be a great assistance in suppressing this demoralizing practice, as the few Indian scouts our appropriation enables us to keep, have proved their value in that direction.

In some places the liquor laws, as far as the closing of bars at prohibited times is concerned, are not very carefully administered. But on the whole, there is very little drunkenness apparent.

### HORSES.

In my report last year, I stated that about 30 horses would meet our requirements this year; in this I was mistaken. We had a large number of horses purchased in '84 and '85, which from all appearances could stand another year. The census was required at once, and I regret to say, many of these horses having to be hurried up a little without the best of stabling, were unable to stand the work and collapsed. The reduction in the number of men also compelled many detachments, reduced in strength, to take an extra amount of work out of their horses, on some occasions to keep up patrols, which the old ones could not stand, although every care was taken to change them off at intervals for a rest.

These causes upset my calculations, and we have bought 79 excellent horses at a very low price, the average being about \$60 for remounts, sired by thoroughbred horses, some of them out of imported mares also. These remounts compare favourably with the best horses the police have ever purchased, and as we are training them during the winter when there is not much hard riding to do, and as they are all 4 past, and some 5, they are likely to stand a great deal of work. In previous years we have had to work our remounts hard when just 4.

Although I have purchased every horse offered fit for our work, I have only just succeeded in obtaining the number I required. Many of the ranchers are going out of horses altogether, and most of those still breeding, are raising draught horses.

Horse breeding has not been a success in the territories, as ranchers do not stick long enough to one class, the result being very inferior horses of no class in particular. Everyone has too large a band of horses, and when they do raise a good horse, he generally gets hurt in the crowded corral, or in breaking before fit for sale.

You, sir, authorized the giving of two prizes, one of \$50.00, and one of \$25.00 for the two best horses shown at the Territorial Fair, suitable for police use. Fourteen horses were entered. The first prize being taken by a very fine bay gelding 5 years old, bred and exhibited by the "Quorn" Rancho, Calgary district. The 2nd prize went to a bay gelding, 4 years, by "Nuremburg," bred by Mr. Thomas, of Cut Arm Creek, Regina district, exhibited by Mr. Forrester, of Regina. The horses were such a good lot, that after purchasing as per authority the first and second for \$125.00 each, I also purchased the 3rd horse, a grey gelding, 4 years, bred and exhibited by Mr. Qxarart, of Maple Creek at \$125, and also the 4th horse, a black gelding, 4 years, by "Zulu," bred by Mr. James McCaul, of Regina, and exhibited by Mr. Cameron, for \$100.00. Several of the others were very fine horses, but slightly blemished owing to accidents.

The best horses bought this year were obtained from the Quorn Ranch, E. J. Swann, manager; those we selected are well put up with action and quality, and well broken, but even in their case we only purchased less than one-fourth of the horses shown.

There is no doubt that cattle ranching pays much better than horse ranching at any price, as a steer is always worth his weight in beef, and a horse has to be valued according to his style, soundness and action. When 4 year old steers are worth almost as much as the best selected horses, you can readily imagine what ordinary horses are worth, and the profit in raising them. Common horses are no longer salable, as they are not required for street cars, etc., and the sudden cessation of breeding is going to make horses scarce in the west.