

## North-west Mounted Police.

### APPENDIX Z.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF VETERINARY STAFF SERGEANT C. H. SWEETAPPLE, 1896, "G" DIVISION.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN, 30th November, 1896.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward this, my annual report for the year ending 30th November, 1896.

During the past year, the general health of the horses of this division has been good.

Besides the minor complaints and accidental injuries which unavoidably occur, horse Reg. No. 1639, died of pneumonia, and there are at present four cases of typhoid fever under treatment. These are all progressing favourably and I do not anticipate any further trouble from this disease.

The stables are warm, well ventilated and lighted, and are supplied with every thing necessary for the health and comfort of the horses.

There has also been pasture secured where the ground is moist and grass abundant which has been a great convenience and benefit.

I have made frequent visits to the different detachments and have found the horses well taken care of and free from disease, but the shoeing has not at all times been satisfactory.

I have given the smiths employed, and the non-commissioned officer in charge, careful instructions, when it has been found necessary.

During the winter months, veterinary lectures were delivered and instructions given as to the care of the horses, and a practical knowledge as to treatment in case of an emergency, also particular attention was given in describing the symptoms of glanders, so as to prevent our horses from coming in contact with animals suffering from this disease.

Besides three horses transferred from "E" division, Calgary, seven remounts were posted to this division, and one remount was purchased in Fort Saskatchewan. These should become very serviceable animals and are well adapted for the work required of them.

Horse Reg. No. 1813 was cast and sold as unfit for further service, and there are still several old horses which should be disposed of as being unable to do the severe work which may at any time be required of them.

Most of the saddle horses have gone without shoes during the summer, and I find they are much less liable to injuries and lameness, if the ground is free from stones, than those which are shod. The shoeing done by Constable Le Roy has been very satisfactory.

In several parts of the district I have found animals suffering from glanders and the necessary steps have been taken to prevent the spread of this disease.

Two outbreaks of symptomatic anthrax have occurred, but prompt action was taken and the loss was slight in both cases.

I visited Beaver Lake district, where a number of horses had died, and found them to be suffering from typhoid fever. Instructions were received to apply the tuberculin test to a band of cattle supposed to be suffering from tuberculosis, but owing to the unfavourable state of the weather since receiving these instructions, it has been impossible to apply the test.

Though the different divisions have always been very well supplied with reading matter, I would beg to suggest that considerable benefit would be derived by adding two or three veterinary periodicals to the list.