

APPENDIX A A.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ASSISTANT VETERINARY SURGEON
WROUGHTON, 1890.

FORT MACLEOD, November, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to request that you will forward, for the information of the Commissioner, this my report for the year ending 30th November, 1890.

The past year I have been in veterinary medical charge of the horses of the three divisions stationed in this section of the country, viz., "D," "H" and "K." The headquarters of the divisions named, and their several detachments, are constantly visited by myself.

I am pleased to report that no infectious or contagious disease exists amongst the Police horses in this district, and that the general health has been very good throughout the year.

During the winter, horse Regl. No. 499 (an old horse), which had been cast as useless for further Police work, died from idiopathic spinal meningitis, becoming completely paralyzed in its hind extremities. Two other horses in January last contracted glanders and were at once destroyed. Both these horses belonged to "H" Division. Everything was done to prevent the spread of this disease in the stables, and I am pleased to say with good success, no other horses contracting it. No cause could be assigned for the outbreak, as the horses were never in contact with any known or even suspected case of glanders.

In "D" Division a pack pony was destroyed, as it was suffering from "round celled sarcoma, the tumor extending downwards below the scapula, where incision was impossible. In this division they also lost another horse from pyania. The animal was suffering from irregular strangles, marked by the development of abscesses in various internal organs.

No deaths have occurred since February of the present year, and the horses throughout the whole of my district are in excellent health. They are hard worked, as the mileage of the different divisions will testify.

Twenty-two remounts were posted to the three Divisions of this District last spring, and I am glad to state they have turned out remarkably well. They were all purchased in this section of the country, and were very carefully selected.

On the 24th May a public sale of cast Police horses was held at Macleod, when six of "D" and one of "H" Division were sold. These horses sold fairly well for this part of the country, where the demand for horses is limited at present.

I should like again to draw attention, as I did last year, to the fact that here in Macleod and Lethbridge good hospital stables with isolated loose boxes, are very much needed. The infirmary stable here is a portion of the long log stable; it answers fairly well, and is the best we can get; but there is no way of isolating a horse which is or may be suspected of suffering from a contagious or infectious disease, and no means of keeping up an equitable temperature, which is so essential in diseases of the respiratory organs. The flooring is also very unsatisfactory, there being no proper drainage. Lethbridge is even worse off in this respect than we are. They have no regular sick stable—merely three stalls, and one loose box, partitioned off from one of the large stables. This arrangement I consider highly unsatisfactory in every way, and in the event of an outbreak of infectious or contagious disease might prove truly disastrous.

The large frame stable which I reported upon last year has been thoroughly repaired, and is now the best stable in the Post. The flooring was taken up, and the space below filled with clay, the passage way and the back part of the stalls being refloored, leaving the front clay for the horses forefeet to stand upon. The inside has also been cased, and I see no reason why it should not be a thoroughly warm, and comfortable stable.