

"The Mounted Police must therefore have the confidence of the Public, as an offensive as well as a defensive Force, if its full benefit is to be obtained."

Apparently poverty was known in the West in the early days, and having in mind present conditions, the following statement taken from report submitted by Superintendent Perry on December 3rd, 1888, is significant:—

"Whenever it is found that aid must be given, an equivalent in the shape of work should be demanded; that is, employment should be offered rather than relief, except of course, to the widows, infirm and sick."

On leaving Prince Albert, Superintendent Perry was in command of Regina and Calgary districts, successively.

In spite of heavy duties while in Command of Southern Saskatchewan, Superintendent Perry found time to qualify in law being articled to the old established firm of Haultain & MacKenzie at Regina and at the end of three years he graduated with Honours and was called to the Bar of the Northwest Territories. The legal training received was of particular value to him some years later when, as Stipendiary Magistrate for the Northwest Territories, he presided at the trial of Joseph Fiddler on a charge of Murder. The trial took place at Norway House on the 7th October, 1907, with the decorum of a Supreme Court. The only excuse offered by the prisoner was ignorance of the law. After hearing the evidence the Jury brought in a verdict of "Guilty". Commissioner Perry sentenced Fiddler to be hanged on the 7th January, 1908.

On May 29th, 1897, he left Calgary on duty in connection with the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. The detachment sent to England to represent the North West Mounted Police consisted of Superintendent Perry, Inspector Belcher and thirty N.C.O's and men, together with 27 horses. This was the first occasion on which a representative detachment of the Force had been sent overseas, and their appearance, physique and discipline were greatly admired.

Superintendent Perry returned to Calgary on October 13th, 1897, but left there for special duty in British Columbia, the same year. The following year he visited the Yukon on special duty and on September 26th, 1899, he took over the command of the Yukon from Superintendent S. B. Steele. At that time there were two Divisions in the Yukon; Superintendent P. C. H. Primrose being in command of "B" Division with Headquarters at Dawson, and Superintendent Z. T. Wood in command of "H" Division with Headquarters at Tagish. During April, 1900, Superintendent Perry handed over the command of the Yukon District to Superintendent Wood, returning to Regina where, on August 1st of that year, he was appointed Commissioner of the Force, his ability and training and outstanding service having marked him for promotion.

At this time, affairs within the Force were in a very unsettled state. The total strength was about 900, of whom 250 were in the Yukon. Nearly 200 members had left for Service with the Canadian Contingent to South Africa.

With Commissioner Perry began the modern era of the Force. He made numerous changes in the uniform, discarding the helmet, except for use on