

serving as police, and organised like nothing else on earth; for each Division of one hundred men is a complete little army.

The Division can take the field with horse, foot, and guns with Departmental Corps. Or it may take the field on snowshoes with dog-trains; or in canoes and boats; or it may man a ship; or it may be mounted on sleighs. It would be equally at home mounted on sea serpents. The Regiment has built many a fort, has pioneered unexplored regions, has administered whole provinces, running all the mails, Customs, and Government offices.

The ordinary Policeman, aged, say, twenty-three, is the leader of local society, plays the harmonium in church, mends a churn or a baby, gives Counsel's Opinion to a bewildered settler, or shows the settler's wife the trick of making light pastry. But he will also raise the district to fight a forest fire, or to quell a riot, and has much the same powers as the Russian Secret Police.

Such is the Corps which in forty years has occupied and tamed a wild region larger than European Russia. Everybody has heard of Sitting Bull, the great Sioux Chief, who massacred General Custer's American cavalry in 1876. After that, with three thousand warriors, he marched northward to a little fort on the Plains manned by thirty strangers in red coats. He ordered them to surrender.

"Come in and take it," they answered.

They were men of the Mounted Police. The Indians swarmed in through the open gates. They saw only two men armed with

little switches. Then they looked about them and saw the log buildings all round the square pitted with loop holes, and in each a rifle. They turned and bolted.

Meanwhile, the Blackfoot Indians, who had an old and bitter feud with the Sioux, took advantage of the opportunity, and came north, three thousand strong, to destroy their ancient enemy. Sitting Bull asked the Fort to protect him. "We will," said the Fort, and ordered the Blackfeet to make a camp and behave themselves. Soon the Sioux complained that the Blackfeet had raided their herd and



TROOPERS OF LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE.

Photo. Topical.