

reputation of the force for neatness and causes a great deal of discomfort. Supplies should be got a year ahead, when there would be plenty of time for the new contractors to experiment.

PAY.

On this subject I will quote my last year's remarks as my opinion is exactly the same, viz. :—

“I think that the question of pay should receive some further consideration. Under the amended bill of last session, 1894, four staff-sergeants can receive up to \$2 per diem, an increase over the old scale of fifty cents per day; but duty inspectors of short service still draw the same pay as experienced inspectors in the performance of arduous and responsible staff duties.

“I would call your attention to the present system of superannuation, which operates most unfairly towards the large number of officers promoted from the ranks.

“These, after serving for years in the ranks, are promoted for efficiency, and at once lose all chance of their pensions under the Police Act, and are only placed under the Superannuation Act from the date of their promotion, which means practically that they must serve ten years after promotion to get anything; they thus lose all the years of service in the ranks and are on exactly the same footing as those who join as inspectors without previous service, at the same time as themselves. This you will allow is most unfair treatment of deserving public servants. These officers should, I think, be allowed to pay back superannuation from the date of their engagements, or at least from the date of their promotion to the rank of sergeant.”

RATIONS.

Our rations are usually excellent and plentiful. Where butter contracts are let to creameries there is no complaint, while those let to farmers are not always satisfactory. The prices we pay for tea (25 cents per pound) is too low, and, I think, we should be allowed 30 cent tea. Cooking the rations is our great trouble, as it is extremely difficult to get competent cooks among our men, hitherto we have met this difficulty by engaging specials with considerable comfort. This practice, owing to the reduction to 750 of all ranks, including specials, I shall have to stop, as with such a small strength every man must be a thoroughly efficient constable, and such men are seldom cooks.

FUEL AND LIGHT.

The price of fuel continues about the same, and while wood is cheap enough, coal is too dear all over except at Edmonton. At Macleod we burn Lethbridge coal, and a little Canadian Anthracite, the Indians having the contract for a considerable proportion of the former; at the outposts we burn local coal whenever procurable. At Lethbridge only local coal is used. At Calgary we burn Canadian Anthracite in the furnace and base burners, and Lethbridge coal in the other stoves. At Edmonton we burn local coal, and at Fort Saskatchewan we burn wood, except in the hospital and engine house. My reasons for so doing are that our wood stoves are still in good order, and the expenditure for wood assists the settlers a good deal. At Maple Creek we burn Lethbridge coal, and a little Canadian Anthracite. At Regina we burn Canadian Anthracite in the furnaces and base burners, and Lethbridge coal in all the other stoves. At Battleford and Prince Albert we burn wood, as it is plentiful and cheap. At Regina we still use coal oil for light, but I hope in the near future to see electric light installed, as a fair offer has been made. At Prince Albert, Lethbridge and Calgary we have electric light, but at all other divisional headquarters we still use coal oil. I think it would be more economical in the long run, when danger of fire is considered, to provide a more expensive oil.