



Some Officers of the Toronto Police Force of Thirty Years Ago

From the left: Deputy-chief Macpherson, Inspector Leith, Sergeant Stark, Inspector Ward, Inspector Archibald, Sergeant Williamson, Inspector Duncan, Sergeants Stephen, Munro, Carr and Alexander. On horseback, Chief-Constable Draper, on right, Orderly Robinson. Photograph taken on the old cricket grounds, corner College and McCaul Sts.

The Men of the Baton

A Consideration of the Duties, Dangers and Rewards of the Members of Our Police Force

SECOND ARTICLE

WINNIPEG, the central city of the Dominion, presents the difficulties attendant upon a shifting and cosmopolitan population. Its growth by leaps and bounds has required a constantly increasing police force, with a membership thoroughly informed as to the complex make-up of the capital of Manitoba. In the early days Winnipeg was a favourite refuge for criminals from Illinois and Minnesota and detectives of unusual alertness were required to identify such fugitive gentry. Thrilling tales are told of fleeing criminals who were tracked to the young city in the 'Eighties. But the Winnipeg force of to-day has more to do with the distribution of foreign settlers than with the undesirable fugitive who is dodging extradition. The bewilderment of the new people who are coming from Iceland, Scandinavia, Hungary and Italy, to say nothing of the British Isles, appeals to these warders of public safety whose responsibilities are considerably increased during the spring months when the rush of immigration is at its height.

A "strike" is an event which proves a severe test of police tact and discipline. The crowd is in an ugly mood which may break at any moment into rebellion and open attack. In such a crisis the police

force is the outward and visible sign of law and order, yet it is obliged to avoid the very appearance of suppression. Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal and Winnipeg have known the unpleasantness of a street railway strike and in every instance the police force stood the strain with equanimity. Calling out the militia is a disagreeable resort to the iron hand and few Canadian cities have had any protracted experience of such a course during labour dissension. In Winnipeg the situation was peculiarly acute but the police force showed throughout the disturbance a happy combination of firmness and discretion.

It must be remembered that many of the newcomers from Russia and Hungary have had reason to associate uniforms with nothing but tyranny and are naturally slow to learn that the Union Jack means constitutional freedom and that the baton of the constable may be a protective rather than a punitive force. It is in Winnipeg that these people of an "infant civilisation" are to be found in largest numbers and it is largely due to the conduct of the police force that they learn the difference between the freedom of a law-abiding people and the sullen submission of the despot-ridden.

In Ontario, the law regarding the constitution

of the Board of Police Commissioners is better calculated to exclude political and other undesirable influence from the police department than the enactments of any other province, although Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba have a much better organisation, as regards removal from merely municipal council control, than that of Quebec province. It can readily be seen how unhappy might become the constitution of a force which depends upon the political fluctuations of a city council. There are cities in the United States where the intimate connection between corrupt aldermen and inefficient constables is all too evident and is frequently the material for cynical jest. "Police" and "politics" may have the same root origin but they cannot be too widely separated, as the terms are understood in modern society.

THE TORONTO FORCE.

It may be said, without being guilty of gushing, that Toronto is proud of its police force, a body of men numbering 380 for all ranks and having no small undertaking in the charge of a city which has passed the quarter-million mark in population and which is of such extensive area. The annual report for 1906 of the Chief Constable, Lieut.-Col. H. J. Grasett, late of the Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment, gives, with other valuable information, a descriptive roll of the Toronto force.

There is a general belief that most of the Toronto constables are Irish by birth and certainly the rich accents of many a Toronto member are suggestive of shamrocks and shillalaghs. However, on enquiry from Deputy Chief Stark who is himself a native of Durham, Ontario, a county which has also supplied Toronto with Inspector Hughes of the educational force and Warden Gilmour of the Central Prison, one is informed that 172 men are of Canadian birth, 104 Irish, 51 English and 26 Scotch. It is well-nigh impossible to avoid quoting Kipling when writing of "men who do things." In considering how the Scotch have little taste for the calling while the Irish find it much to their liking, one recalls a sentence from *Kim*: "For, to the Irish, the game is always more than the money." The remuneration, even on the Toronto force which is better paid than that of other Canadian cities, is not what it should be and the canny Scot would rather build a railway than patrol a city.

The first physical standard for the applicant to the Toronto force is that of height, which must be five feet, ten inches. Zacheus would not be admitted, whatever his honesty in the matter of tithes. The age limit for a new member is twenty-one to thirty years. He must, of course, pass a rigid medical examination and possess a good common-school education. In some cities applicants must have residential qualifications. This is not the case in Toronto. There, an applicant's length of resi-



Midwinter



Midsummer

A Toronto Policeman



A Winnipeg Policeman
In Summer Uniform