

# ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE QUARTERLY

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Vol. 23—No. 2 OCTOBER 1957 Ottawa, Ont.

Supt. H. A. Larsen Represents Canada at Norwegian Ceremony . . . . .	99
The Examination of Exhibits in Suspected Arson Cases . . . . .	103
<i>B. B. Coldwell, Ph.D.</i>	
Fort Macleod Replica Dedicated . . . . .	114
Troubled Waters . . . . .	116
<i>Cpl. H. G. Searle</i>	
Forces to Participate in B.C. Centennial . . . . .	120
Building Good Citizens . . . . .	122
<i>Cst. P. J. Kouri</i>	
Indians Honor Police Dog . . . . .	125
"Four Points East" . . . . .	126
<i>Sgt. E. R. Hartling</i>	
The Murderer was a Gentleman! . . . . .	128
<i>The Staff</i>	

## DEPARTMENTS

Recent Cases . . . . .	136
Old-timers' Column . . . . .	151
Division Bulletin . . . . .	154
Book Reviews . . . . .	181
Obituary . . . . .	183

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## Contents Copyright

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## Black Gold

Two centuries ago adventurous white men were pushing their way into the interior of the North American continent, their lodestars the fortunes to be made from rich and bounteous furs. A century later the trek was still westward, but now they were pioneers seeking land on which to found a new life. The 20th century finds the west with still another and equally irresistible attraction—oil, and the amazing growth of cities such as Edmonton and Calgary during the past ten years reflects the growing importance of petroleum products to the national economy. Our cover picture on this issue presents a scene that is becoming more familiar each year on the prairies.

Although the oil industry is a comparative newcomer to the Canadian scene, attempts were first made to produce oil commercially in Ontario about a hundred years ago. However, oil was first discovered near Calgary in 1914 and at Norman Wells, N.W.T. in 1920. The Turner Valley discoveries followed in 1924, with Lloydminster coming through next 15 years later. But it was the Imperial Oil discovery near Leduc, Alta., in 1947 that gave the first real indication of Canada's tremendous oil possibilities and since then continued exploration has produced several other major fields. Today some experts estimate that this country's oil potential is incalculable.

Improvements in drilling machinery and techniques have brought vast