

General Duties "A" Division

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UNLIKE OTHER Divisions of the Force, the duties of "A" Division consist chiefly of the supervision of the Federal Government Buildings in and about the City of Ottawa.

This, however, is only one of the multifarious duties charged to the Division, but, as fully three-fifths of the personnel is employed in this connection, the responsibility of affording protection to Government Buildings and property is of paramount importance. At the present time, there are some twenty-eight buildings over which we have supervision, both day and night. This includes such important buildings as the Royal Canadian Mint, Government House, and the East Block (in which are located the Finance Currency Vaults, etc.).

The duties in connection with the supervision of these buildings, while not of a strenuous or arduous nature, are most monotonous and tedious, and for the greater part, offer little in the way of diversion.

These duties are carried out on a three-shift basis, viz: 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.; 4.00 to 12.00 M.N.; and 12.00 to 8.00 a.m. In some of the smaller and less important buildings, two shifts only are in operation, providing Police Protection during the night hours only, viz: 4.45 p.m. to 12.00 M.N.; and 12.00 to 9.00 a.m.

The change of shifts takes place on Monday of each week, on which day the man on duty from 12.00 M.N. to 8.00 a.m., Monday morning, is required to return for duty at 3.50 p.m. in order to commence his week on the 4.00 o'clock shift. The man on duty from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., Monday, returns for duty on the Midnight Shift of the same date. Thus, the Constable reporting off duty at Midnight on Sunday is not required for further duty until 7.50 a.m., Tuesday morning, on which shift he also remains for the balance of the week. It is obvious from the foregoing that two men on each building work the "double-shift", but as they change to the 4.00 o'clock shift, they, likewise, benefit by the day off on Monday.

In the majority of the buildings, only one post is established and this is generally located at, or in the vicinity of the main entrance. In such buildings as the East Block and Victoria Memorial Museum, however, a number of posts are maintained within the building in addition to the post at the main entrance. This provides greater protection to such important branches as the Currency Grilles, valuable Art Exhibits, etc.

In addition to the protection afforded within the buildings, outside supervision is also provided to some of the larger buildings, both day and night, the year round. On Parliament Hill, for instance, members of the Division are employed continuously on Patrol Duty. These Patrols include the East and West Blocks, in addition to the Centre Block, which is the seat of the Federal Parliament. Similar Patrols are utilized at the Royal Canadian Mint and Rideau Hall, the residence of Their Excellencies. The duties in connection with this supervision, are simply in the nature of a constant patrol of the buildings, including the examination of all doors and windows