

Robertson and S/Sgt. H. S. Graves, Coronation and Long Service Medals; Cpls. D. A. Hadfield and W. F. MacRae, Csts. A. B. Ewen, H. J. Clark and Mr. J. W. R. Champagne, Coronation Medals.

Mr. Campney paid tribute to the Force and its important part in Canadian justice. The RCMP Band under the direction of Insp. E. J. Lydall provided suitable music during the ceremony.

Construction Construction of a one storey addition to the "N" Division Mess has increased the floor area by approximately 1,500 square feet with similar room available in the basement. This addition, built of concrete and

brick matching the original structure, with walls of enamel-cement finish and floors of terra-cotta tile, provides a substantial increase of space for kitchen and mess and basement storage.

Many will recall the old frame stables which for many years housed the "N" Division horses and later a Band room and Quartermaster Stores. These buildings have been moved from their old site north of the roadway leading in from the west gate, to a point east of the Riding School where they have been set up, end to end, forming one long building housing the RCMP Curling Club. (See also "Curling" report in "HQ" bulletin.)

Book Reviews

RUSSIA: A History and an Interpretation, by Michael T. Florinsky. (Two volumes.) The Macmillan Company of Canada Ltd., Toronto, Canada. Bibliography. Indexed. Pp. 1511. \$16.50.

Florinsky's history and interpretation of Russia is probably, as the publishers claim, the most comprehensive and up-to-date work available in the English language. In two volumes the author traces the development of that vast, enigmatic nation from the earliest times when the Slavs left the region bordering the Pripet marshes and peopled the numerous waterways that have played such an important part in the development of Russia, to the moment when the modern Soviet state emerged from the confusion of the October revolution and the humiliation of Brest-Litovsk.

Three things stand out in this history. First, the writing is clear, direct, often witty, and urbane. Second, Florinsky cites his sources without making the work bristle ominously with footnotes. To be sure, footnotes are used, but with discretion and scholarship. On the other hand, where the results of earlier historical researches have been invalidated by new evidence, any quotations or summaries of earlier opinions used are identified within the text by parenthesis. Then, Florinsky's own interpretation, generally a wise course charted on the basis of new documentary evidence and penetrating insight, becomes doubly valuable. Thirdly, in his own analysis of the events leading up to World War I the

author puts in perspective the particular actions and policies of Russia with the actions and policies of the other major powers: Britain, Germany, France, and the Dual Monarchy. This is a particularly interesting part of the book, for the history of any nation is never the history of a people in isolation, unaffected by external events.

Mr. Florinsky wisely ends his narrative in March 1918. The two volumes are thus an excellent basis for any study of the Soviet Union. Undoubtedly, Leninism was a product of Russian history, but it was not an inevitable product. It was merely the final result of accidental circumstances, and confusion, bitterness, and hopeless division within Imperial Russia. This is well brought out by the author. In addition, these volumes help to make many features of the Soviet State more understandable. For example, certain Soviet administrative innovations bear striking similarity to changes inaugurated by Peter the Great. In his incessant struggle to mobilize his resources to wage war, Peter imposed the interior passport system that subsequently not only characterized Tsarist Russia, but a variation of which still remains in force in the U.S.S.R. The M.V.D. and its immediate predecessors are not new agencies created since 1918; secret police were first introduced by Ivan the Terrible, and so have long been a familiar feature of Russian life. On the other hand, the dissatisfaction of the Soviet leaders at the apparent slowness