

North-west Mounted Police.

At Fort Saskatchewan the post has been painted, a new stable erected, and also a small sick stable, and several old buildings pulled down and rebuilt at a very small expense considering the work done. Next year we must have a new inspector's quarters, and a new guard room, as the present are not fit to live in.

At Battleford considerable painting and repairs have been done, and with ordinary repairs next year we can get along. A new outpost has been built at Onion Lake, also at Jack Fish Lake, and Henrietta and McFarlane's Detachments have been much improved.

At Prince Albert the post has been repaired, and painted, with police labour. A hospital is required when money is available.

In all divisions great improvements have been made on the outposts, and next year only the usual repairs will be required generally, I hope however to be able to build at Cardstone, at the quarantine ground south of St. Mary's, at Pincher Creek an officer's quarters, and outpost at Gleichen and Duck Lake.

500 iron cots are very much required to complete all the divisions. The present wooden ones in use in most of the divisions being unsightly and dirty.

PHYSIQUE.

Our physique is about the same as usual, and is not likely to improve materially, as we are so very much above the average of other forces.

DISCIPLINE.

The men have generally behaved very well during the year, a few, however, behaved badly; the reduction in the force enabled me to get rid of these very summarily, and in future, with your consent, I propose to give all recruits a two month's trial before engaging them, as it is impossible with our greatly reduced strength to have any poor or dissipated men.

DRILL.

By taking every opportunity, even of a few odd days, we have kept our men well drilled, but we have so few men, and so much to do outside police duties, between blacksmithing, carpentering, harness repairing, wheelwright's work, painting, tinsmithing, etc., customs, and quarantine duties, to say nothing of the chances of an occasional order, such as the taking of a census of the whole territory in a month, or some other unexpected work sprung upon us, that I do not see how we can keep up our drills mounted, dismounted, and artillery. Unless the men are well drilled they cannot be disciplined, and without discipline of the highest order, they are useless as mounted police in this country, where some of them are 50 miles away from immediate supervision. The expense of doing the work above mentioned by civilian labour, would increase the expense of the police enormously, and when a job was wanted in a hurry it could not be done in many cases. The solution of this problem causes us a great deal of uneasiness. However, this year I am pleased to report that on the various occasions on which we were called upon, we turned out escorts to the satisfaction of His Excellency the Governor General, and the British officers who happened to be present.

KITS.

We have been unable to keep our men as well provided in kits as usual, just as soon as a contractor knows our requirements after repeated failures, his time is up, and a new man, quite ignorant on the subject tenders below him, and half the year is wasted before he realizes what we require, consequently we are short of articles urgently required, this increases the clerical work in the force enormously, is very unsatisfactory to the men, and compels them to be frequently badly dressed, is very injurious to the