

The Men of the Baton

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



Capt. Emile Trudel
Chief of Police, Quebec

IT is the pride of the new nations on the American continent that their military forces are for defence, not for aggression; that there are citizen soldiers but no standing armies. The militia of Canada has proved equal to domestic emergencies in more than one instance and is regarded with local pride on occasions of annual encampment. However, there is another army, which is on march every day, to which we owe the preservation

of law and order in city, suburbs and county and to whose organisation we may well direct our serious consideration. In Old London, when traffic is at its thickest and loudest, the uplifted hand of the policeman brings the automobile of the marquis and the cart of the huckster to a standstill and fills the foreign observer with respect for the man who rules the thoroughfare. If Canada has the reputation of a law-abiding country, a large part of the credit for such a state of affairs is due the quiet officers who patrol the country, day and night, for the purpose of preserving order and keeping the peace.

The origin of the word "police" is found in the Greek term for "city," from which we get such derivations as "politics" and "metropolis." It would seem, then, that the first officials of the kind were urban and performed their duties in the midst of a crowd. To-day every country in Europe has a uniformed, organised and disciplined body of men for the purpose of preserving order, preventing crime and detecting criminals. Perhaps of all nations, France has the keenest, most alert force. Certainly the records of the highest officials in the great cities of Europe would afford material for romance, beside which "Sherlock Holmes" would be tame and puerile. But such records remain a sealed volume. The importance of having a stalwart and reliable police force cannot be over-estimated, for it is the Army of Everyday to whom the weak may look for defence and whom the criminal should regard with proper awe. As Kipling has declared that the backbone of the Army is "the non-commissioned man"; so, in the course of our modern civilisation, the man who keeps the crowd "a-moving," lends a helping hand to the distressed wayfarer, watches for the enemy to public safety is at the very foundation of that order which constitutes a successful community's first law. The requirements and remuneration in the service of the force may well be more seriously considered by the Canadian public.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A RECRUIT.

TO consider the conditions for enlistment in the police force is to recognise the essential "fitness" of the man who satisfies them. In the first place, he must be of good height—five feet ten inches in most Canadian organisations. He must pass a rigid medical examination, since the duties of his office require sound health and muscular reliability. No weakling is allowed to take his place as a public guardian. He must have a good common school education and be able to read and write intelligently. In Montreal it is necessary for him to add French, spoken and written, to his qualifications. After reading a list of requirements and regulations, one is likely to conclude that in no other class of work are the physical and moral conditions of enlistment so high. In the regulations for the Dominion Police, the section regarding courtesy to each other is a model of Chesterfield maxims.

While unusual physical strength is required for the policeman's calling, it is highly essential that the officer should have discernment as to the proper occasion for its use. To quote Mr. Kipling again, regarding the sergeant of the army:

"He learns to sweat his temper and he learns to know his man."

Strength without discretion is a most dangerous possession. The applicant for police position may not include a knowledge of Shakespeare in his fair educational qualifications but he must have an appreciation of the great dramatist's sentiment;

"Oh it is excellent to have a giant's strength
But it is tyrannous to use it as a giant."

That most useful wisdom commonly called "a knowledge of human nature" is one of the policeman's most valuable qualifications and the man without it usually comes to grief. He must be able to distinguish between the mischievous or boisterous and the vicious. He must be energetic and prompt to check the riotous and yet careful to avoid the very appearance of officiousness. An esteemed clergyman in the city of Toronto bears the nickname of "Move-On" to this day because an over-zealous officer once hurried the minister to the station, in spite of his reverend aspect, mistaking a clerical conference for a wilful obstruction of a public thoroughfare. Students are, perhaps, the greatest trial to the patience and tact of the "force"; yet, in Montreal and Toronto, serious collisions between "the boys" and those known to 'Varsity men as "cops" are comparatively rare and are becoming very uncommon.

THE POLICE OF MONTREAL, QUEBEC AND THE CAPITAL.

THERE was a time, according to Longfellow's *Evangeline*, when locks and bolts were unknown in Canada, but that Acadian condition has changed long since and even Nova Scotia finds a constabulary a grave necessity. With the influx of immigrants, such as we have known for the last three years, port towns such as Halifax and St. John have required additions to the force.

Montreal is the city in most urgent need of extensive police additions. Even in the report of 1906, Chief of Police Campeau states that the staff is not numerous enough to do a diligent service in the new wards and urges that the number of mounted constables must be increased. Since then Montreal has increased largely in both territory and

population and the Canadian metropolis will have to take prompt measures or its slum districts will attain unenviable notoriety. Some additions were made recently and the numerical strength of the Montreal force is now 526 with seventeen stations. The salaries in the largest city of the Dominion, with the cost of living correspondingly high, are not commensurate with the responsibility of the offices. The superintendent receives \$3,500, the inspectors receive \$1,600 each, captains, \$800, and so on down the list to the first constable who receives only \$598. When one considers the qualifications for the least exacting position and compares \$598 with the wages paid to labourers in other occupations, the financial methods of the City Fathers assume more than a tinge of meanness. The Montreal police force has a harder task than that of any other Canadian body, especially since the increased immigration from Southern Europe has set in. An interesting item is to the effect that the value of property recovered by the detective bureau during the year amounted to \$67,330. The Montreal Police Benevolent and Pension Society showed a revenue of \$20,994 with an expenditure of \$20,791. Most of this revenue came from 4 per cent. on salaries.

Police games are taking a more prominent place every year, as the value of gymnasium practice and athletic diversion is more generally recognised. Chief Campeau refers approvingly to the gymnasium established in the Bonsecours Market Hall as having facilitated the task of the men by providing them with the distractions and recreations necessary to alleviate the fatigues and wearisomeness of patrol duty. The photograph, reproduced as illustration, of the Quebec tug-of-war team shows the invigorating effect of such manly sports.

The municipal police force of the city of Quebec consists of four special officers, an accountant, twenty sergeants and sixty-two constables. The salary of the constables is \$1.43 a day, sergeants \$1.65. The force has an annual military drill of one month's duration under the direction of the chief, Captain Trudel. The force is then passed in review before the Commandant of the Fortress of Quebec, His Worship the Mayor, President of the Police Committee and Lieutenant-Colonels of the city battalions.

The regulations for the Ottawa force, known as the Dominion Police, whose duties are largely parlia-



Three Types of Canadian Police

This trio of members of Canadian police organizations are sturdy representatives of their calling. To the left is a member of the Dominion Police, the special force at Ottawa; the centre figure belongs to the Ottawa City Police and the remaining member represents Montreal.