

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE QUARTERLY

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Commendable Actions

An excellent example of initiative by a member of the Force was recently brought to the attention of *The Quarterly*. While the incident could not, in a strict sense, be considered police work, it was a fine sample of public service and may have averted a disaster that would have brought possibly death and destruction to a section of British Columbia.

The investigation concerned a dam constructed probably some 20 years ago at the outlet of Germanson Lake, as part of placer gold mining operations carried out in that area. In October a report was received by the Fort St. James RCMP Detachment that someone had closed the sluices on the control dam; the water level on Germanson Lake had risen above the high-water mark. The report indicated that the dam was in a dangerous condition and if it was breached by much more pressure, about five feet of water covering an approximate area of 40 square miles would rush through an opening about 70 feet wide and carrying debris, old timbers and trees would sweep down the Germanson River Valley. (Investigation in the same area later, showed that the water had risen to within 18 inches of flooding portions of the road along the north shore of Germanson Lake.)

The NCO in charge of the detachment examined the dam and found that the water was within three feet of spilling over the fills at the ends of the dam. The ten-foot sluice gate