

North-west Mounted Police.

APPENDIX Y.

ANNUAL REPORT OF VETERINARY STAFF SERGEANT H. T. AYRE, 1896.

REGINA, 30th November, 1896.

The Officer Commanding
Depot Division, North-west Mounted Police,
Regina.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward the following annual veterinary report of Depot Division for the year ending this day.

The general health of the horses of this division has been very good for the past year, four deaths occurred amongst the horses on winter herd, viz., Reg. No. 1161 from enteritis, Reg. No. 1156 hypertrophy of the heart, Reg. No. 1541 was found in a snow drift and had evidently been frozen to death, and Reg. No. 2183 from inflammation of the bowels and uterus, these are the only deaths I have to report in the division, there have been the usual number of cases of lameness, wounds, bruises, etc., (a list of which I append) but nothing of a contagious or serious nature.

During the past year some thirty horses have been cast and sold from this division, averaging a very fair price, these have been replaced by thirty remounts purchased chiefly from the Quorn ranch, one car load we received on the 15th June are all well broken and have turned out very good horses, the last lot were received on the 14th November, and will I think turn out (after a little handling) to be very good horses for our work.

The usual summer herd was run from the post, which is a good saving of hay, and also of much benefit to those horses run down and requiring a rest, although this year owing to the great plague of flies, they did not do so well as they might have done.

Mr. O'Brien has again got the horses to winter, there are at present thirty-seven on herd, the feed is very good, that part of the country luckily escaping the many prairie fires we have had.

The hay feed was very good, last year a great saving was effected by the officer commanding purchasing straw for bedding, which answers that purpose far better than hay, and is to be had at a trifling cost, most of the new contract this year has been put in by a number of Germans, and is of very good quality, the oats fed were also of a superior quality, all of them being grown around Regina. I weighed one bushel brought in by a Mr. Martin, and they went 50 lbs. to the bushel. I have been in this post over five years, and I do not think I have seen a finer sample, and certainly not cheaper considering they were only 19½ cents a bushel.

Unless I was away on other duty, I personally examined every load of hay and oats that came into the post.

Great care has been taken with the shoeing, there has not been one case of lameness from bad work, every horse where practicable, being shod once a month.

The detachments have been well supplied with medicines, also all patrols leaving the post.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

H. T. AYRE,
Veterinary Staff Sergeant.