

True Stories of the R. N. W. M. Police

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MOST of the "Blue Books" of Canada are dry reading; few but statisticians and publicists can find in them much agreeable mental pabulum. But there is at least one exception—the Report of the Royal North West Mounted Police; this almost always teems with modestly told accounts of deeds of courage and devotion, sometimes, alas, tales of disaster and horror.

When Canada in 1870 bought the vast territory of the Hudson Bay Company, but little of that enormous expanse was sufficiently settled for the establishment of local government. The part which was fairly well settled was formed in 1870 into the new Province of Manitoba; but the remainder to the North and West had to be otherwise provided for.

In 1873 there was organized a police force which received the name North West Mounted Police in 1879, and was renamed Royal North West Mounted Police in 1906. Since its inception it has been charged with the duty of preventing, detecting and repressing crime from Hudson Bay to the Rocky Mountains, and from the 49th parallel to the Frozen Sea, the Arctic Ocean.

A semi-military organization with its commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers and men, every member is a Peace Officer; the Superintendent of a Division is a Justice of the Peace; and the Commissioners have the powers of two Justices of the Peace.

This force has attracted the adventurous of all countries, the same but has sheltered the son of Charles Dickens, the son of a Cambridge Doctor of Music and a Cadet of one of the oldest of Scottish families.

The discipline has always been rigid, but the utmost cordiality and mutual confidence have prevailed throughout the force—it is not too much to say that it is the most celebrated police force in the world and that it well deserves its fame.

I do not intend to speak of its record in war—whether the North-West Rebellion, the South African War or the World War, now happily about to end; but just to recount one or two of the things which these Policemen do as a matter of course—premissing by saying that it all appears in official re-

ports without boasting or rhetoric.

Two Roman Catholic priests, Fathers Rouvier and Le Roux, were stationed on the North east shore of Great Bear Lake, and had also a Mission established in 1911 at the northeast end of Lake Rouvier, to the northeast of Great Bear Lake and about 67 20 N. Latitude and 118 W. Longitude.

THE TWO PRIESTS DISAPPEAR

In November, 1913, the two priests

investigate. Fort Norman is 64 40 N. L. on the right bank of the Mackenzie River, about half a mile above the confluence with that River of the Great Bear River, which empties Great Bear Lake. The ice did not leave the lake till July 17th. Six days afterwards the Inspector left on his mission, with him being two constables and two special constables, one of them a guide and the other, Ilavnik, an Eskimo interpreter who took with him his wife and daughter—a Roman Catholic Priest and a

Factor went along as guests. The main portion of the supplies had been sent forward by scow with nine Indians who were to "track" it up the river to the lake, that is, tow it by a line from shore.

The Inspector's party went by York boat with a four inch keel, their dogs following on shore—tracking, sometimes all hands waist deep in the cold water all day, sometimes in mudslides, portaging, wading and unloading, it took twelve days to run the ninety miles to the lake—it "took four days to get around one mile." Going down, the whole ninety miles can be run in one day with a canoe.

Then the York boat was made seaworthy and fitted with spars, etc., which consumed eight days; and the little expedition set off on its 350 miles trip to the North East corner of the lake, Dease Bay; there they arrived September 8th, after a twenty-seven days' voyage and none too soon—there were already scurries of snow and it was very cold at nights. The description of the fishing in this lake is enough to wake old Isak Walton and to make the mouth of his disciples water. The lake abounds in fish, lake trout being the chief variety, averaging 8 pounds but running up to 18, and two were caught 28 pounds each. Whitefish in Dease Bay average 5 pounds. The water is clear and cold, splendid for drinking and very soft. The party went into winter quarters September 11th—winter had already set in.

PRIESTS' CABIN FOUND IN RUINS

The Inspector left September 19th with the Eskimo special constable, an Indian guide and the priest guest for the Lake Rouvier mission many miles



INSPECTOR LA NAUZE AND PRISONERS, SINNISSIAK AND ULUKSAK

went to the mouth of the Coppermine River with some Eskimos to preach the Gospel to those at that place. After staying some five days at the settlement, they started up the River for their station to the South near Great Bear Lake, but they never arrived. The Canadian Arctic Expedition was shortly afterwards near the mouth of the Coppermine and some of the Eskimos were seen in possession of a priest's cassock and a crucifix. Everything pointed to a murder, and Inspector LaNauze at the Fort Norman Station was instructed to in-

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away. They were obliged to travel overland with pack dogs, as although Lake Rouvier empties into Great Bear Lake by the River Dease, this did not furnish a waterway. Passing the place where Stefansson camped in 1910-11 and his sled-making place, through a koppe-like country, on the 28th they crossed Lake Rouvier on the ice and arrived at the tiny cabin which they found in ruins, with nothing to indicate where were the missing priests. Then they sadly retraced their steps and arrived at their winter quarters on October 4th, having travelled over 180 miles.

Nothing could be done in the dead winter months, but almost at once after the Equinox, and on March 20th, the Inspector set out for the mouth of the Coppermine River, taking with him one Constable and the invaluable Ilavnik. They arrived at their destination in 32 days, and two days after met Corporal Bruce 35 miles east of the mouth. Bruce had been detailed in August, 1915, by the Inspector at Herschell Island at the very north of the Yukon Territory, to investigate the disappearance of the priests; coming to Coronation Gulf into which the Coppermine empties, he found early in September that Uluksak, an Eskimo who had been seen by members of the Canadian Arctic Expedition wearing a priest's cassock had a "cache" on a small rocky island in the outer harbour of Bernard Harbour, some 50 or 60 miles north of the mouth of the Coppermine. Accompanied by a naturalist of the Arctic Expedition he searched the cache and found amongst other things, a priest's cassock marked "R. Père Rouvier," a French R. C. Bible lesson-book and a small brass R. C. communion plaque. In October he found in another Eskimo's possession a "Psalterium Breviarium Romani"—in November, Uluksak who was an "Angatkok" or "Shaman" (i.e. priest pretending to and credited with spiritualistic powers) and was considered by the Eskimos to have great command



ESKIMOS VISITING THE R. N. W. M. POLICE TENT AT INNUAIRNERIT

over the spirits, came to the camp of the Arctic Expedition and before he left he had been induced by a member of the Expedition to barter for cartridges the French Bible lesson-book, a Latin Breviary with Father Le Roux' name on the fly-leaf, a crucifix and rosaries which had been the property of the unfortunate priests.

Bruce found various stories concerning the priests: some saying that Uluksak shot them, others that they were spirits which Uluksak shot instead of white men—Uluksak boasted much of his own Shamanistic powers such as living under water for two or three days at a time, bringing dead men to life, turning men and women into wolves and musk-oxen, seeing white men with mouths on their chests and dogs with four tails, etc., etc.; he did not as yet, however, confess to crime but said the articles had been given to him by a white man.

When Inspector LaNauze fell in with Corporal Bruce, May 2, 1916, Bruce had almost made up his mind that the priests might have got safe back to Great Bear

Lake and that the Inspector might have turned back accordingly. He now told his story and the Inspector decided to work westward, visit all the Eskimos en route, and find Uluksak: in a few days they came across a large Eskimo village and Ilavnik and the Inspector letting the people talk, the tragedy was revealed.

Two days after the priests had left for their upward voyage, two men, Uluksak and Sinnisiak, started to follow them, saying that they were going to help the priests: a few nights afterwards they returned carrying the priests' rifles and told the Eskimos that they had killed the priests near the Bloody Falls on the Coppermine.

SINNISIAK CONFESSES TO CRIME

The Inspector learned that Sinnisiak was believed to be somewhere on Victoria Land (across the Gulf from the mainland) on the ice, and Uluksak east of the Coppermine. After six days' travel Sinnisiak was arrested, stunned with fear of instant death and with a loaded .22 automatic rifle and two large knives hidden under the deerskins at his back. Notwithstanding his threat to "make medicine and the ship will go down and all be drowned," he was taken away.

When they got back to Bernard Harbour, there was a formal charge laid before the Inspector as a Magistrate and the prisoner made a voluntary confession, claiming self defence. He was left with Bruce; and the Inspector with his constable and Ilavnik went after Uluksak. It may seem dangerous to have left but one man in charge of a prisoner amid his tribe of natives: but that is our Canadian way. From the time in 1794 when one constable was sent to arrest a Six Nation Indian in his village, although Joseph Brant was strongly insisting that the Six Nations were an allied nation and not British subjects, through the time when in 1804 a single Toronto constable arrested on



R. N. W. M. POLICE WINTER QUARTERS IN 1915
It was here that the Reverend Fathers, Le Roux and Rouvier, made their base

the Toronto Peninsula in the midst of his own band of Mississaugas, the Indian Murderer Ogetonick (only that he might be drowned in Lake Ontario with Judge, Lawyers, High Constable, witnesses, interpreters, captain and crew when the Government Schooner "Speedy" conveying them to the Assize Town was lost with all hands, *spurious verus*, till when a handful of North West Mounted Police went to the International Boundary to receive Sitting Bull and his braves, our system has always been not to permit the native to imagine himself different from ourselves in obedience to law, but to treat him as an ordinary British subject submissive to law until he proves himself otherwise. While there has been an occasional exception, it has almost invariably happened that one or two North West Mounted Policemen could enter the camp of a band of Indians and exercise their authority as freely and as safely as though they were in the streets of Toronto. The native knows that the arm of Canadian law is as strong as it is long. With the Indian we have the same determination to enforce the law as with the white, and we have never made a hero of the gunman or the professional gambler, but have treated them as the brutal murderer and the vulgar thief which they are. Bret Harte could never find a model in our Northwest.

After four days' journey through water and snow, the little party reached the mouth of the Coppermine, and while the Eskimos had not yet arrived, an Eskimo boy with the party, standing on the top of an island, saw through a glass six sleds far out on the ice approaching: these disappeared but another sled reached the police party on the following day. The sled contained an important witness who said that Uluksak was on an island about ten miles out in the gulf (apparently with the former party of six sleds). They went to the island where they found the Eskimos in their skin tents, gave the peace sign and all the Eskimos ran down to meet the invaders except Uluksak who hung back. He was arrested: like Sinnisiak he expected instant death, but went quietly with his captors. They rejoined Bruce at Bernard Harbour: a formal charge was laid against Uluksak and he made a complete confession of guilt—"very nervous and shivering and shaking."

It had been intended to take the prisoners for trial out by the overland route by Great Bear Lake: there was a danger of losing them on the long trip overland, and moreover they begged not to be taken into the Indian country—they still have a well-grounded dread of the Indians. Fortunately the Canadian Arctic Expedition put their whole service at the disposal of the Police, and the Inspector decided to take the prisoners out by the Herschell Island route, utilizing the Arctic Expedition's Schooner "Alaska."

The ice did not leave Bernard Harbour until July 8, when open leads began to show. The days got very warm and the mosquitoes very troublesome. By July 10, the "Alaska" had her load of zoological, ethnological and geological specimens on board, with a full year's supplies in the event of being ice-bound on her way out: July 13 she started on her long voyage steaming west down a lead close inshore. By reason of the vicinity of the Magnetic Pole, the compass was quite unreliable—one night it swung right round—and the navigator had to steer by sun or shore. By July 22 they had got through the ice into open water, and although there was much loose ice, it was so scattered that the "Alaska" was able to travel at full speed. On the 28th, Herschell Island was reached and the prisoners were placed in the R. N. W. M. P. Post.

The Inspector reported to the C. O. and recommended that a Judge should come out to Coronation Gulf at the mouth of the Coppermine River in a strong and comfortable ship, and winter there—the witnesses could be got together and the case tried there, the prisoners picked up at Herschell Island and brought in on the ship: "still," he adds, "there is always the risk of being ice-bound in these parts, as some years ships fail to reach Herschell Island."

Leaving now the two Eskimo prisoners at the Post at Herschell Island, let us break the thread of the narrative to give an account of the tragic death of the two priests.

HOW THE PRIESTS MET THEIR DEATH

The two Eskimos caught up the priests three days' journey on their way south: Le Roux asked them to go with them as far as the trees, offering to give them traps for their help. The first day all went well, and, when the time came to make camp, the Eskimos made a small snow-house for the whites: the following day there was friction—the priests apparently were disappointed at not reaching the timber—and Uluksak went on pulling the sled, Sinnisiak close to the sled and the priests behind. What happened is not very clear; apparently Rouvier handed Le Roux a knife and a rifle, and Le Roux pointed the gun at Uluksak, perhaps to frighten him. After a while Sinnisiak said to Uluksak, "We ought to kill these white men before they kill us." Uluksak objected and Sinnisiak said, "Well, I will kill one anyway, you had better try and be strong too"; Le Roux turned around and Sinnisiak stabbed him in the back, the priest struck Uluksak with a stick and he retaliated by stabbing him twice and he fell. Rouvier ran away and Sinnisiak shot at him with the rifle, hitting him at the second shot; he fell down and Uluksak stabbed him and Sinnisiak chopped his neck with the axe and killed him. The Eskimos cut open the dead bodies and ate a piece of the liver of each (of course that the

strength and courage of the dead might enter the eater, not by way of cannibalism). The murderers went straight home, taking with them some of the property of the deceased, and at once told their people. Such was Uluksak's story, and Sinnisiak's was not much different; but he made it appear that Le Roux forced the Eskimos to pull the sled and threatened them with the rifle when it stuck.

If any credit is to be given to the murderers, the priests were the victims of their own want of tact; but it may be that the murder was premeditated and was for their frearms and other goods. As the Inspector wisely remarks, "We are dealing with a still practically primitive people, who six years ago were discovered living in what might be termed a stone age and hidden away in the vast Arctic spaces of the Northland of Canada."

INSPECTOR La Nauze wintered on Herschell Island with his prisoners. This little island is only 3/4 by 4 1/2 miles with a circuit of 23 miles and its highest point is only 500 feet high.

Winter is a very elastic term in those latitudes but the Royal North West Policeman does not stretch it.

On May 9th 1916, the Inspector left the Island over the ice for Moose River, one of the several mouths by which the waters of the mighty MacKenzie reach the Arctic Ocean. He was accompanied by Corporal Bruce, the ubiquitous Ilavik and the two prisoners. The authorities had decided not to send a judge to the North, but to try the prisoners in the settled country further south.

Passing the Escape Reef (every place-name has its history in that region) the party arrived at the River and sending their dogs back to Herschell Island, awaited the opening of the River. Not till June 13 was Moose River free of ice—it was a late spring. On that day a Constable who had been sent to meet them from Fort McPherson on the Peel River (the Fort a little north of the Arctic Circle) arrived at the camp having followed the ice down the River in a whale boat. The next day they all proceeded in the whale boat up the River and after a five days' run arrived at Fort McPherson a trip of some 270 miles from Herschell Island. Remaining there for a time, on July 7th the Inspector received orders to take the prisoners to Edmonton the capital of Alberta and on the North Saskatchewan River, where they were to be arraigned. Leaving Fort McPherson by steamer "Mackenzie River" on July 8th, they arrived at Fort Norman in four days, a year lacking 15 days since the Inspector had left it on his perilous mission. There he found a valuable witness and an interpreter whom he took along with him—up the Mackenzie River, across Great Slave Lake, up the Great Slave River they sailed for eight days and arrived at Fort Smith July 21st; then

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came a 16 mile portage to Fort Fitzgerald, and the Peace River was ascended for six days to Vermillion Chutes. Another portage of five miles round the Chutes and the steamer D. A. Thomas took the party to carry them up the Peace River. A sail of three days brought them to the Peace River Crossing, on August 7; there they met the new railway which is opening up that vast land, and the next day began the trip on the Railway to Edmonton where they arrived after two days' travel, August 10.

TRIAL OF SINNIASIAK

On August 14, 1917, the trial of Sinniasiak began before the Chief Justice of Alberta with a jury; he was tried for the murder of Father Rouvier; and after a trial lasting more than two days he was found Not Guilty. This unaccountable miscarriage of justice resulted in the venue being changed to Calgary; there the two prisoners were tried before the Chief Justice and a jury; and, August 24, both were found Guilty, the jury adding "the strongest possible recommendation for mercy that a jury can make." The death sentence was pronounced, but all the facts were at once communicated to the proper authorities at Ottawa. All accounts show that the Eskimo is but an overgrown child and that a white man who is at all discreet need fear nothing from him; he has little fear of death and has no conception of the heinousness of what we call offences against the law. It was decided to commute the death penalty to imprisonment for life as being—equally effective deterrent to others and more just to the immature minds of the offenders.

They were sent to the Fort Resolution Post in their own zone but not in the Coppermine District; and are consequently lost to their kith and kin but living in a familiar climate.

I am permitted to copy here part of the latest inspection report of the Fort Resolution Detachment which tells a whole story in a few words:

*PRISONERS

Uluskak and Sinniasak, two Eskimos undergoing sentence for murder of two R. C. Priests near Bloody Falls, Arctic Coast.

The prisoners had no complaints and looked well. Are said to be model prisoners and willing and obedient. Reg. No. 6296 Const. Wight does most of the escorting and the two prisoners seem to like him. He understands them enough to get along with them and tell them what to do.

The prisoners have built an Igloo on the ice close to the Det. and it is said to be exact reproduction of the real thing as used by the Eskimo on the coast. I went down and looked at this Igloo—it was about 8 feet in diameter and about 7 feet high. It was built and had the grease lamps and meat board and platform to sleep on all complete,

cut of hard snow. All that was missing was the deer skins, covering the sleeping bunk. There was a passage way about 6 feet long to pass through about 4 feet high on one side, which led into the Igloo proper. On top of the Igloo was a snow man, and on top of the passage way was a snow dog. There was an ice cake set in one side for a window. The snow blocks were beautifully fitted together. The blocks were 6 inches thick."

Having given an instance of crime which remained unpunished for four years, an instance may be adduced of speedy justice much more nearly typical of the administration of our wild country than the other.

THE CASE OF ELFORS

Ned Elfors a Finn who had been at



ESKIMO WOMAN

the Yukon for a time, met in Seattle, Emil Anderson and David Bergman, two Swedes, and they decided to go to the Yukon together. They bought guns in Seattle and on their arrival at Whitehorse they bought a small boat and provisions, Elfors taking the management of the little party. Sailing down the Lewes River, Elfors was very "cranky" but there was no serious trouble until they had passed Selkirk and were at the end of a day's journey, 12 miles below the town. Camping for the night, Elfors proposed to Bergman to go with him in the morning to kill rabbits expressing a hope that they might get a bear. In the morning they set out, leaving Anderson asleep;

about an hour afterwards Elfors returned alone, awakened Anderson and told him they had shot a bear and Bergman had stayed behind to skin it. He asked Anderson to go with him to help Bergman, and they went off, Anderson with a rope, Elfors with a .22 special rifle. Anderson walking ahead, heard a shot and felt a pain in his jaw; he turned around and grappled with Elfors; finally he broke away, and ran until he struck the telegraph lines. Stopping once to call Bergman and receiving no answer, he made his way to Selkirk, and at once notified the R. N. W. M. P. officer there. Elfors threw away some of Bergman's clothes to lend color to the story he concocted that Bergman had gone down to Dawson in another boat; he took the boat, the camping outfit and the rest of the property and made his way down the Yukon River to Dawson, 163 miles away. The officer in Selkirk at once, June 8, 1908, telegraphed to Dawson; but he did more—as instructed from Dawson, he at once followed the murderer down the river. Elfors was fully armed, but the constable waited till he had fallen asleep, carefully removed his weapons and seized him. This was June 10 and 100 miles below the scene of the tragedy. Seven days afterwards a searching party found the body of Bergman. June 26, Elfors was taken by Thompson to Dawson and there committed for trial; he was tried, July 6 and 7. On the latter day, just a month after the murder, the offender was sentenced to be hanged. Hanged he was, October 6, four months after his diabolical crime. One does not wonder that Constable F. H. Thompson became Corporal F. H. Thompson forthwith.

TREMENDOUS RISKS TAKEN BY POLICEMEN

Many such tales could be told; but it is time to turn to another phase of the work of the Royal North West Mounted Policeman. It has been said that tales could be told of disaster and horror. Let us give only one that we may recognize the fearful risks taken year by year by these heroic men as a matter of course and of routine without a thought of there being anything extraordinary in them.

Fort McPherson, founded in 1903, has already been mentioned as lying north of the Arctic Circle. Dawson, the Capital of the Yukon Territory lies some 3½ degrees further south in N. L. 64° 5', and about 500 miles distant by the usual overland route. This City in the height of its glory had probably 25,000 inhabitants but now its glory is departed and it has not more than a fifth of that number. At each of these places is a R. N. W. M. P. post. In the season of 1904-5 a patrol carrying mail was sent from Dawson to Fort McPherson and return. The patrol was made without mishap year after year, being maintained for the purpose of taking mail to members of the R. N. W. M. P. and others in that region, as well as to bring in

reports and requisitions for supplies. It was naturally looked upon as a great boon by the Force, and indeed was absolutely necessary to keep touch with the outlying posts. The patrol was undoubtedly one of the most arduous, but being made so often it became one of the ordinary duties of the police. All over the Northland the police are making these difficult journeys,—the Commissioner gives particulars of one of 700 miles, another of 900 miles and others of greater length than this; he adds: "This is dangerous work in our rigorous winter climate and in spite of every precaution a tragedy may occur at any time."

F. J. Fitzgerald from Halifax, Nova Scotia, received his promotion as Inspector in 1910, and was given command of the MacKenzie District. He was selected for that position at his own request and because he was familiar with winter travel, its conditions and dangers, having had many years' experience in the Far North. He, on being appointed to the command, asked that the patrol should be sent from Fort McPherson to Dawson instead of the reverse way that he might be in direct communication with Headquarters by wire, and moreover he would thus break his travel at the more congenial spot, Dawson, rather than at the lonely outpost of Fort McPherson. This was acceded to; and Fitzgerald, in November, 1911, arrived from Herschell Island with his dogs to lead the patrol to the Capital. He rested his dogs for 19 days, and December 21, he left Fort McPherson with three constables and one ex-constable (who had married an Eskimo and settled in the country), three dog teams of five dogs each.

He was expected at Dawson about the end of January, but he did not arrive. No great alarm was felt; but after the patrol should have arrived the police began to make enquiries from the In-



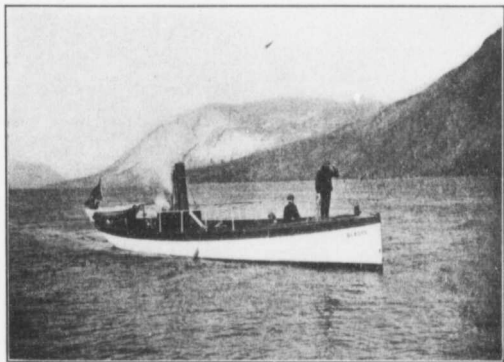
LUNCHEON CAMP AT PEAL RIVER

dians who came in from time to time over the route which the patrol would probably follow.

SEARCH BEGAN FOR MISSING PATROL

Toward the end of February, an Indian, Esau, arrived at Dawson who said he had been one of Fitzgerald's party as a guide but had been discharged on New Year's day at Mountain Creek; he said this was only twenty days easy travelling from Dawson; and it was at once thought that some accident might have happened to the party. The Canadian telegraph wire was down, so was the American, and Dawson was completely isolated; but the Superintendent there moved promptly and, Feb. 28, a patrol of Corporal Dempster (who came with his dogs to Dawson for that purpose) with two constables, one ex-constable and an Indian guide left to search for the lost, all being familiar with the

route. They took three dog teams of five dogs each, and sent on 60 miles ahead by horse team the heavier supplies. By March 12, following the usual route, they had struck an old trail; this they followed not certain if it was Fitzgerald's trail or an old Indian trail. At the end of the day they came across what had probably been a night camp of the missing party; there were old butter-tins, corned-beef-tins, and a piece of flour sack marked "R. N. W. M. Police, Fort McPherson." The next day the trail was again picked up, another night camp found (all the three were within 15 miles); the next day a fourth, 5 miles further on. The following day, March 16, in a little cabin on Mountain Creek, they found a cache of a toboggan, wrapper and seven sets of dog harness. A search disclosed the paws and shoulder blade of a dog off which the meat had been eaten. This looked ominous but not necessarily indicative of disaster—the Indians and others in that Northland are not averse from dog meat, and there was some dried fish in a corner of the cabin. The trail was followed sometimes with great difficulty and on March 20, at a Cabin known as "Colin's Cabin," 50 or 60 miles from Fort McPherson, a despatch bag and a bag of mail matter were found. Next day, 10 miles further on, they discovered a tent and a stove, tent-poles, a thermometer and a plate; 10 miles further was a blue handkerchief tied to a willow and close by it was a small open camp with the dead bodies of the two constables. The camp-kettle at their feet was half full of moosekin cut up and boiled, and they lay side by side in a bed of three Alaska sleeping-bags, one under and two over them. Reverently covering their dead comrades, the detachment went on toward Fort McPherson, and next day found the body of the Inspector and ex-constable. All the four were fearfully emaciated, the stomach flattened almost to the back



R. N. W. M. POLICE BOAT, YUKON

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bone, the lower ribs and pelvis showing very prominently; their flesh was discolored to a reddish black, and the skin was peeling off; every bit of clothing they had they wore, two suits of underwear and the usual outer clothing.

THE CAUSE OF THE TRAGEDY

An investigation and the diary of the Inspector disclosed the causes of the tragedy. All the dogs, indeed, (with possibly one exception) were in good condition, having recovered from the fatigues of the long journey from Herschell Island. The Inspector knew, no one better, the dangers of the trip to Dawson; he expected that it would probably take 35 days—it generally took from 30 to 39—and he took rations for about 30 days; he had always thought that the Dawson patrol carried too much weight, and he expected to find some game on the way. He went over the list of rations with his subordinates and

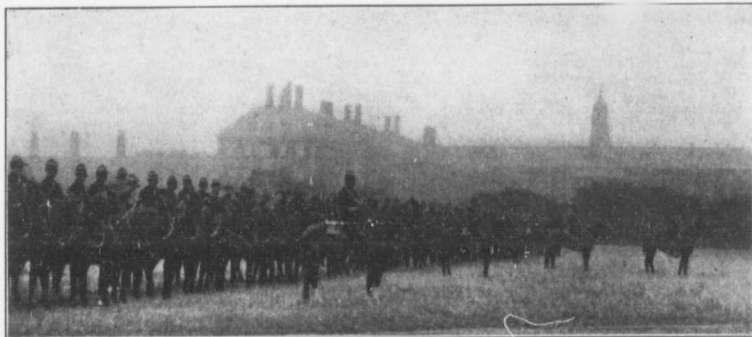
Creek up which they were to go to cross the divide, Carter was sent ahead to look for the Portage but could not find it. They turned back for five miles and went up a Creek Carter thought was Forrest Creek but it was not; then up another stream which was also not the right one. Again Carter was sent out, but in vain: he did not know one river from another and was completely lost. The provisions were almost gone and the only thing to do was to turn back, kill and eat the dogs until they could meet Indians. Says the despairing Inspector: "We have been a week looking for a river to take us over the divide, but there are dozens of rivers and I am at a loss."

January 18, 1911, the party turned back being then 265 miles from Fort McPherson and 211 from Dawson. They had travelled continuously (with only one day off) from December 21st, 1910, until January 17, 1911, 27 days of

body and skin peeling off." But the gallant men still bore on—it is probable that they lived for five to seven days after that time; and they all got to within 35 miles of Fort McPherson, the Inspector and Carter within 25, almost within sight of home and safety. The Inspector was the last to succumb; his last record is his will written with charcoal leaving everything to his mother in far off Halifax, and ending "God bless all."

In this the greatest tragedy in the history of the force, there perished as noble a band of heroes as even our English speaking races have ever produced. Their bodies were reverently lifted and taken to Fort McPherson where they were decently confined and becomingly laid to rest with military honors amid the mourning of the small band at the Fort. Peace be to their ashes.

There were persons of much experi-



A TROOP OF THE ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICEMEN

they agreed on their sufficiency. Almost certainly they would have been sufficient but for an error in judgment of the Inspector. While there were Indians at Fort McPherson willing to guide the party, Fitzgerald determined to rely upon ex-constable Carter who had been over the route in the opposite direction four years before and who said he was certain he knew the trail from the Wind River to Dawson. He, however, hired an Indian, Esau, to take the party across the Portage. The Indian did so, guided the party for five days and, January 1, was discharged with his pay, \$24. Carter proved a broken reed; a route looks wonderfully different travelled the opposite direction, where there is no trail it is easy to miss points and in hazy or misty weather all kinds of mistakes may happen.

The Inspector's diary told the story: they reached Wind River all right, January 8, and proceeded up it for four days: when they did not find Forest

travel, a distance of 340 miles. The horrors of the return voyage are set out in simple language; the trail was exceptionally heavy, the men were breaking through the ice continually, getting wet, and the cold was intense. The entries run (below zero) 30°, 24°, 39°, 43°, 46°, 65°, etc., before the turn back, thereafter 37°, 39°, 43°, 50°, 62°, 64°, etc. The distance made per day ranged from 6 to 18 miles. "By January 29, 'man and dogs very weak,' the next day 'all hands feeling sick, supposed to be from eating dogs' liver'; February 3, 'Men and dogs very thin and weak and cannot travel far. We have travelled about 200 miles on dog meat and have still about 100 miles to go, but I think we will make it all right, but will have only three or four dogs left.' February 5 is the last entry (they had then gone 230 miles on dog meat) 'killed another dog tonight, have only five dogs now and can go only a few miles a day; everybody breaking out on the

ence who thought and said that the party would have pulled through had they not eaten dogs' liver; but that was not the official opinion. The three causes officially assigned for the tragedy namely the small amount of provision taken, the omission to take an Indian guide and the seven days' delay in turning back when they failed to find the Creek, are all explicable. The Inspector expected to arrive at Dawson with the provision taken, eked out perhaps by game; and he would have done so beyond question but for Carter's failure to guide the right way. Carter's assurances were accepted because he was an old-timer and a former member of the force and it seemed like waste of money to hire an Indian for the job; the delay was due to anxiety to perform the patrol and not to return to Fort McPherson defeated. It is just such bull-dog determination and devotion to duty which have made the breed what it is. Let the Marne, St. Julien,

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Vimy Ridge and Chateau Thierry bear witness what it is. Even as it was, the result would not have been disastrous had they not failed to fall in with Indians who have been met with on almost every other occasion.

This sad event brought vividly back the recollection of the marvellous escape of the Anglican Bishop of Yukon (Bishop Stringer) two years before. The Bishop left Fort McPherson for Dawson with a party on September 1, 1908. When he got to the head of Rat River, one of his natives took sick and the Bishop brought him back to Huskie River where he engaged another native. At McDougall Pass, the rest of the party turned back leaving the Bishop and Mr. Johnson to continue the trip. On the Bell River they were caught in the young ice and had to leave their canoe and walk to La Pierre House. From that place, they started overland to the Fort, 85 miles away, and generally made in four or five days; they got lost in the mountains. They had but three days' provisions when they started, but were able to get some ptarmigan and berries; at one time, however, they were reduced to boiling and eating their seal-skin water boots. They arrived at Fort McPherson after 26 days from La Pierre House, starving and very weak. But the Bishop was not cast down, he rested up a bit and left the Fort, November 5, arriving at Dawson, December 23, a trip of 48 days.

FORCE LOOK AFTER INSANE

Much of the work of the police is to look after the insane. Insanity is very prevalent in the waste places of the earth and it accounts for many tragedies which otherwise would be crimes. For example, there was, perhaps still is, a whole class of Indians of unsound mind who were believed to indulge in cannibalism; these were called "We'ti-ti-Koo" and were often made away with by their people to prevent them killing and eating other members of their family or tribe. Sometimes a missionary would take charge of them in the incipient stages of insanity, but oftener they were slain.

Whites are by no means exempt from mental disease and some of the most anxious of the duties of the police are connected with these unfortunates. One story will suffice as a sample: At Fort Chipewyan at the west end of Lake Athabasca there was an insane man whom it was necessary to send south for treatment, and Constable A. Pedley was detached for this work. His story will be told in his own words:

"I left Chipewyan in charge of the lunatic on December 17, 1904, with the interpreter and two dog teams. After travelling for five days through slush and water up to our knees, we arrived at Fort McKay on December 22.

"Owing to the extreme cold, the prisoner's feet were frost bitten. I did all I could to relieve him, and purchased some large moccasins to allow more wrappings for his feet.

"I travelled without accident until the 27th reaching Big Weechum Lake. Here I had to lay off a day to procure a guide, as there was no trail.

"I arrived at Lac La Biche on the 31st, and secured a team of horses to carry me to Fort Saskatchewan. I arrived on January 7, 1905, and handed over my prisoner.

"During the earlier part of the trip the prisoner was very weak and refused to eat, but during the latter part of the trip he developed a good appetite and got stronger."

This trip of some 400 miles was not the whole journey. It was necessary to transfer the lunatic to Calgary, 150 miles further south. Dr. Rouleau, reports of him; "He was badly frozen about his feet and the exposure to the cold had caused paralysis of the tongue for several days. Every care and attention was given him at the hospital (to which he was transferred) with the result that he was discharged on February 23 with the loss only of the first joint of his big toe. His mind and speech was as good as ever. His life was saved."

The story is not yet finished. The Commissioner completes it:

"Constable Pedley commenced his return trip to Fort Chipewyan. When he left Fort Saskatchewan he was apparently in good health; but at Lac La Biche, he went violently insane as a result of the hardships of his trip, and his anxiety for the safety of his charge. He was brought back to Fort Saskatchewan, and then transferred to Brandon Asylum. I am glad to say that after spending six months there, he recovered his mind and returned to headquarters. He was granted three months' leave, and is now at duty as well as ever."

The rule of the Force is that crime will be dealt with, investigated, prosecuted, no matter how remote the place, how dangerous the journey, how great the cost.

Almost at random, the eye meets an account of an Inspector who, hearing

of a supposed murder, was absent 132 days and travelled 1,750 miles by canoe and dog train, only to find when he held an inquest that the death was clearly accidental.

One notorious murderer was brought back from Idaho and other criminals from other parts of the United States.

IN these days of telegraphy, wireless and otherwise, of enterprising newspapers and ubiquitous reporters, the world expects particulars of every event of interest at once; even a day's delay is considered intolerable.

But this rapidity of news cannot always be attained—circumstances alter cases; and it may not be considered extraordinary that the Canadian people received for the first time in the month of June, 1919, particulars of a tragedy in their country which had occurred in the same month eight years sooner. And this is what is disclosed in the Report of the Royal North West Mounted Police submitted to Parliament in June, 1919, by the President of the Council for the Dominion.

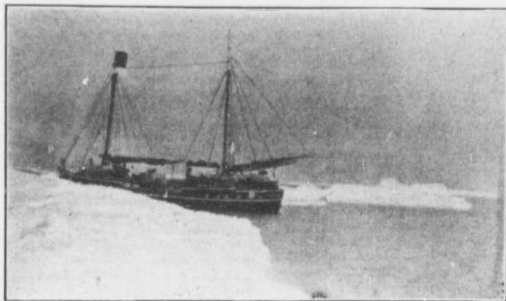
The vast expanse of the arctic regions of Canada seems to the inattentive visitor almost destitute of animal and vegetable life; but the careful and skilled eye of the trained observer soon discovers that almost every square mile of that tremendous area teems with both.

The insatiable curiosity of scientific investigation has driven many to the outlying portions of the earth's surface and still continues to do so. Some attach themselves to expeditions which have other objects than fauna and flora in view, looking rather to geographical and ethnological discovery—such were Banks and Solander who accompanied Captain Cook in his last and fatal voyage, the naturalists who went with McClintock, Peary—I do not mention Dr. Cook of whom Maurice Egan has just written most entertainingly and who seems to be wholly discredited even in



A PLATOON OF R. N. W. M. POLICE ON PARADE

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THE R. N. W. M. POLICE BOAT, "ALASKA," TIED UP IN ICE WAITING FOR AN OPENING TO GET THROUGH

Copenhagen. Some prefer to form small groups of two or more, that they may have greater freedom of action, go where they like, stay as long as they please and leave when they are ready.

A party of two left Ottawa in 1911 for the Far North—one, the leader H. V. Radford, was an American who had some experience in exploration in the northern regions and had made collections for the United States Biological Society of Washington, D. C.; the other, a younger man, was a Canadian a native of Ottawa, named T. G. Street.

They were known to have passed the winter of 1911-1912 near Schultz Lake, west of Hudson Bay (about 98° W. L. and 64° N. L.) and to have left that place early in 1912 with three Eskimos under the leadership of one Akulack, who were to bring them to Bathurst Inlet, a large bay of Coronation Gulf at the northern margin of the Continent and opposite the immense Island known as Victoria Land. They intended to make their way westward along the arctic coast to Fort McPherson. The party arrived at Bathurst Inlet early in June, 1912, and Radford wrote from that place on June 3, to Mr. Fred Ford, the Hudson Bay Company's representative at Chesterfield Inlet that all was well and that he had been well received by the natives. This letter he gave to Akulack to take back with him. Akulack on June 5, left Kwog-juk Island in Bathurst Inlet where the naturalists were staying with a small tribe of Killin-e-muit Eskimos—"a barbarious, but on the whole kindly people"—but did not return at once to his former home near Schultz Lake. He went a short distance south and there spent the summer. He bought a wife from them, however, for a rifle and kept in touch with them. His reason for not returning to Schultz Lake was the familiar Biblical excuse of the parable—"I have married a wife and therefore I can not come."

REPORTS OF THE MURDER

In the spring of 1913 reports began to reach civilization of the murder of

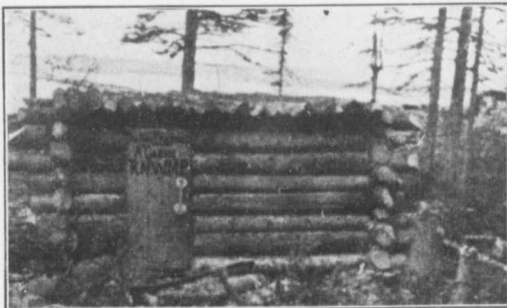
Radford and Street by the Eskimos on May 31, 1913. Sergeant Edgerton in command of the post at Fullerton, reported the occurrence with the particulars which he had been able to obtain and which proved substantially accurate. A native, called by the euphonious name of Cow-muck was the first to bring the news; he was Mr. Ford's trader at Schultz Lake, but the Hudson Bay authorities do not seem to have placed reliance on his statements—they "take little stock in Indian yarns"—but Akulack's arrival June 11, 1913, with almost the same story as Cow-muck's made the matter very grave. Akulack reported that when he left Radford, all seemed in good order. Radford had his two Eskimos engaged and all preparations made for his departure to the west. The Eskimos were to guide him to a whaler wintering some 60 miles west of Point Barrow with whom the Bathurst Inlet Eskimos sometimes traded. He said that the two white men were killed when they were about to start on their journey around Cape Barrow (about 111° W. L. and 68° N. L.) Cross-examination by Ford and Hall, the Hudson Bay Manager at Ches-

terfield Inlet failed to shake Akulack, and that a terrible tragedy had taken place on that bleak northern island seemed all too certain.

In July, 1913, the officer commanding the R. N. W. M. P. at Fort Nelson, at the mouth of the Nelson River on Hudson Bay and near to the old and well-known York Factory of the Hudson Bay Company, received the report and at once took the proper steps. Some false reports of the reappearance of one or both of the two naturalists had to be investigated, and for some time there was uncertainty as to the reliability of the news; however, at length it was determined to send a Patrol to the spot to investigate and if necessary to arrest the wrong-doers. It was considered that it would take the best part of two years to capture the responsible parties. Superintendent Starnes in command at Churchill recommended a Patrol of one officer, one N. C. O. of experience with Eskimos, winter travelling and boating, two or three constables, good winter travellers, and a good interpreter. He suggested that a small schooner should be sent to Churchill, there load supplies for two years for the party and the prisoners and witnesses—then go as far up Churchill Inlet as possible and establish a base of supplies. From that point the party should work by boat or canoe as far up as the open water extended and there establish a second base of supplies from which the overland journey might be made with sleds and dogs.

INVESTIGATION EXPEDITION FORMED

The wreck of the Hudson Bay Company's schooner and other untoward and unexpected circumstances prevented much being done in that year at the east. Nothing could be done at Bathurst Inlet at that time, as it was too remote, and only a well organized expedition could accomplish the necessary journey. Starnes' recommendation met the approval of the Commissioner and early in 1914 the Canadian Government approved of the scheme. A schooner,



R. N. W. M. POLICE SHELTER CABIN AT SULPHUR POINT, GREAT SLAVE LAKE, N. W. T.

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Village Belle, was bought for the purpose of forming and furnishing a base of supplies, and she sailed from Halifax July 31, 1914, carrying Inspector W. J. Beys, one N. C. O. and two Constables. Owing to unusually bad weather, the party did not reach Hudson Bay until too late to do anything in the way of establishing bases of supplies that year, but in 1915 Inspector Beys established a base at Baker Lake (about 95° W. L. and 64° N. L., northwest of Hudson Bay), an unexpectedly heavy and tedious task, owing to rough weather on the Lake and exceptional difficulties in transportation. In the following winter he made two attempts to reach Bathurst Inlet from Baker Lake, but on each occasion he was forced to return to his base by the scarcity of deer which prevailed that year in that region. It was wholly impossible for the party to transport a sufficient supply of dogfeed with them, they must needs rely upon game for dogfeed and "deer are capricious in their movements."

In the summer of 1916, Inspector Beys was relieved by Inspector F. N. French, who arrived at Baker Lake toward the end of September and spent the autumn and winter in making preparations.

It may be noted that Inspector La Nauze in his patrol in 1915 to arrest the murderers of Fathers Rouvière and Le Roux (the story of which we have already told in the January and February issues of THE POLICEMAN'S NEWS) had heard an account of the murder of Radford and Street substantially the same as Akulack's.

French left the Baker Lake Post, March 21, 1917, with Sergeant-Major Cautkin, who was well acquainted with the Eskimo language, Police Natives Joe and By-and-Bye, hired native Quash-ak and a native woman Solomon, —Police Native Joe being a fair but not a first class interpreter, and the native woman Solomon having relatives at Gordon Bay on Bathurst Inlet and herself being a first class repairer of clothes. They had three teams of police dogs, 25 sleds and two canoes; the Eskimos were of the Avivilik tribe, a Hudson Bay, not an inland group. Passing west across Baker Lake they took up supplies from the cache, a month's rations, after which they would have to depend upon such game as they could find. Then from Baker Lake to Schultz Lake over land rough and broken with rock outcroppings in many places 200 to 700 feet high and following as far as possible a chain of small lakes—this took five days. Delayed by storm for a week they broke camp April 2 and proceeded to Aberdeen Lake over a very uneven, rough and broken country, arriving April 5 after being frequently held up by storm. Three days afterwards they left for Lake Garry (on Backe's River) which they reached in eight days over land sandy and undulating with deep ravines running in all directions. On this

stretch they crossed the "Height of Land" which was covered with large broken boulders causing them to make a long detour to the east.

The weather was very foggy, so that when they got to Lake Pelly it took them till April 24 to discover the Backe River outlet. They proceeded down the river until they came on an encampment of Shan-ing-ong-muit Eskimos and there they built their igloo. April 26, following the advice of the Eskimos, they struck northward through Lake Perry down and across the Ellis River and on May 7 came out on the Arctic Coast a few miles west of the mouth of that river on Queen Maud's Sea. They next day continued northwesterly along the coast past Point Brown, the Kent Peninsula, Melbourne Island, into Blue Inlet and Melville Sound. The blizzards which they had encountered from their departure from Baker Lake continued and held them up from time to time. But "May 13 broke fine and clear, in fact it was our first experience of a really warm day since starting out"—a really warm day in May in the Arctic is, however, not quite the same as a really warm day in May at Palm Beach.

The next day fresh sled tracks led them to a large Eskimo encampment on an island in the mouth of Bathurst Inlet; these were the Killin-o-muits, the island was at the mouth of Bathurst Inlet off Cape Croker and near Kwog-juk, and the tribe of the authors of the tragedy was found and its locus was nearby. Careful investigation on the spot verified the accuracy of the account brought by Cow-muck and Akulack.

VERIFICATION OF AKULACK'S STORY

The Eskimos had had little if any intercourse with white men; neither explorer knew anything of the Eskimo language and they had to make known their desires by signs not always thoroughly understood.

Radford was a man of imperious and overbearing disposition and quick temper. All the way from Baker Lake he had acted in a harsh and arbitrary way toward the Eskimo guides, he had even threatened to shoot a native named "Bosen" at Baker Lake because he would not accompany him to Bathurst Inlet, and at Schultz Lake he had chased a native whom he accused of cheating him out of a fish in a deal. He had also run after and threatened with a snow-knife an Eskimo, Ar-vok, because he would not leave the settlement on Gordon Bay and go with him to the Island Kwog-juk. These things were no doubt told to the Killin-e-muits, and Radford's violent unreasonable conduct toward them increased their dislike and fear of him. Street was as universally liked as Radford was universally hated and feared. Radford, whom the Eskimos called Ish-yu-mat-ok (Captain) had engaged two "huskies" (i. e. Eskimo men), Kan-e-ak and Har-la, who were

good hunters, to conduct himself and Street, whom the Eskimos called Ki-uk, west of Point Barrow to a whaler who was there wintering. He seems to have had no difficulty in making this arrangement, although very few huskies were on the island, most of them being away with the chiefs at the seal holes or fishing or hunting on the mainland; and he had been some fortnight or so with the tribe without at least open outbreak.

The party were all ready to start, the sledges were loaded and Har-la started off with one sledge around a point of the island. But Kan-e-ak refused to go with the other sledge. He said that his wife had hurt herself falling on the ice (which seems to have been true) and that he did not want to leave her. It is not at all unlikely that this was a mere pretext. Hiring natives as guides on a journey through the North country is apt to be the source of great annoyance, as one of them may back out at the last minute. Inspector French had such an experience on this very patrol on his return trip. A native he had engaged to go with him from the mouth of the Coppermine River to Cape Krusenstern backed out and did not want to go as he had hurt his leg. French told him that he did not want him at all unless he came willingly. The "hurt leg" was obviously a falsehood, but French dropped him then and there. However that may be, Radford did not use discretion when Kan-e-ak refused to go, he did not try to get another native. He lost his head altogether; he got very mad, picked up a dog-whip and struck the Eskimo across the head and face, shouting all the time. Kan-e-ak lay down on the ice, Radford continued striking him and called for Street. Street came running and according to some accounts tried to stop Radford from continuing his brutal conduct. Radford dragged the unfortunate native to a crack in the ice and was apparently about to drown him. Whether Street helped him in this or not is uncertain, but it is certain that the Eskimos thought that the white men were going to kill Kan-e-ak. Two huskies, Ok-i-ok and Hul-a-lark, ran to the assistance of their threatened tribesman. Ok-i-ok seized Radford and Hul-a-lark stabbed him in the back with a snow-knife. He put up a strong fight for his life and had to be stabbed several times before he fell; at length with several wounds, he fell on the ice. He did not die at once but lay groaning and struggling for some time until Hul-a-lark "went up and cut his throat and finished him off." One native called Al-ik says Hul-a-lark did this "as he did not wish to see him in pain." Perhaps so, but one may be allowed to indulge in a mild doubt as to Hul-a-lark's benevolence.

As soon as Radford, the "Captain," Ish-u-mat-ok, fell on the ice, Street, Ki-uk, ran shouting after the sleigh which Hul-a-lark had started off with,

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and was driving—as the Eskimos thought and as is not unlikely—to get a rifle. Ok-it-ok ran after him and caught him, and a native called Am-e-gal-nik stabbed him with a snow-knife and he fell dead.

The two bodies were laid side by side on the snow and covered with their deer-skins and so left when the Eskimos left on the following day. The Eskimos were all frightened and therefore left the island next day and made an encampment further away and to the south where the huskies who had come with the naturalists had gone on the day before the tragedy. They told them all about it. They never afterwards used their former camp, fearing that the spirits of the white men would haunt the place.

Before going from the Island, however, they took the rest of the white men's goods and divided them. The rifles were broken up and used as tools as most of these Eskimos were wholly unacquainted with their use and themselves used bows and arrows. A note book of Radford's containing scientific notes on birds and animals encountered on the journey to the Arctic Coast was afterwards recovered from a young Eskimo, one Gil-gol-u-ok, but no other part of the property of the murdered men could be obtained after diligent inquiry. Gil-gol-u-ok said that he had obtained the note-book from another native Ming-el-oo-ak whose whereabouts was unknown. Kan-e-ak, Hul-a-lark and Am-e-gal-nik left the island, went to Victoria Land and were believed to be living, on some islands between East Victoria Land and King William's Land. It would be a matter of great difficulty to effect their arrest. It would probably take at least two years to do it; a patrol would be required to go as far east as Adelaide Peninsula or Frankland Isthmus or to North East King William's Land, as the persons wanted would know that the Police were after them and they would keep out of the way, probably under changed names.

However, the instructions of the Commissioner to Inspector French did not call for the arrest of these men. He was instructed to get in touch at the earliest possible moment with the tribes said to be responsible for the deaths, to make inquiries and obtain a full and accurate account of the occurrence, if it was found that the information that there was extreme provocation was true, the Government would not prosecute. The Inspector correctly judged that even if the slayers were brought to trial it would not be possible to convict them, the only evidence being that of natives all of which went to show that Radford was the aggressor and that the natives acted in defence of one of their band who was being brutally treated and whom they believed to be about to be killed.

These Killin-e-muits are far superior to most of the Eskimos; very clean,

industrious and well clothed, the men tall and of fine physique. Inspector French found other Eskimos to be "born thieves and fearful liars, not to be trusted out of one's sight,"—the Wad-le-ar-ing-muits of the Coppermine River to which tribe the murderers of the two Roman Catholic priests, Fathers Rouviere and Le Roux, belonged being "altogether too familiar" and liable to take advantage of any lone white man traveling among them.

It seems probable that had the chiefs been in the camp on Kwog-juk Island, instead of absent at the seal-holes—the tragedy would have been avoided. But there were only some six or eight huskies in the village or igloo and they were frightened out of what little wits they had. And there is no reason whatever to think that if Radford had not assaulted and in appearance tried to kill Kan-e-ak he would have received injury. The natives are very simple and primitive, full of fear of the white man, and no one should attempt to deal with them unless he understands their language or has an interpreter with him. Chief El-at-chak says: "The Captain (Radford) was always mad and always fighting and scaring their huskies—the white men did not understand our language and we did not understand them."

French determined to see the plate of the murder for himself. He engaged a native to take him to Kwog-juk Island and made a personal examination. Nothing whatever was found. "Kwog-juk Island is a long narrow strip of land in the southern part of Bathurst Inlet to the west of Gordon Bay and in places has very precipitous banks. It is a noted sealing place as it opens early on the west side of the channel." Afterwards he was informed by Mr. Phillips, the manager of the Hudson Bay Post at Bernard Harbour that some huskies went to Kwog-juk Island in the spring of 1913, collected the remains of Radford and Street and threw them into the sea to prevent discovery by white men who might come to look for them.

THE RETURN VOYAGE

The Patrol on May 24, were informed by the Eskimos that there were three ships on the Arctic Coast some nine days' travel distant, and as they were wholly out of supplies they made for these ships. June 2 it snowed heavily detaining them for two days. Then they pushed on, June 6 they came across Ul-uk-sak who had assisted Inspector La Nauze in arresting the murderers of the French priests, and June 8 they reached an American gasoline schooner, the Teddy Bear, (Captain J. Bernard) where they were kindly treated and furnished with provisions and oil. Captain Bernard had the priests' rifle which he had obtained from a Coppermine Eskimo who said he had got it from one of the men under arrest for the murder of the priests. This the Inspector took possession of and

brought away. They then determined to push on to the Hudson Bay Post at Bernard Harbour (about 115° W. L. and 69° N. L.) which they reached June 13, after travelling 2,483 miles from the previous March 21st.

By this time the supplies had run out, their deer-skin clothing was much the worse for wear, the hair having begun to fall out and "the winds pierced through the seams and holes." All of the party had suffered more or less from snow-blindness during the whole journey and most had been continually frozen in face and hands. The dogs had all pulled through, and one had been added by a trade for a snow knife and another the property of a native guide from Backe's River had to remain because they could not get back. 168 deer had been killed and three wolves of packs which were worrying the dogs. A seal or two were caught every day on the Arctic Coast. They came across only two white settlers, one, Albin Kihlman, a Norwegian, (sometimes called a Swede) engaged in fishing and trapping at Tree River, and the other J. Anderson an American near Cape Krusenstern. Near Tree River on the east side of Hepworth Point they found "a beacon about 16 feet high and built of flat rocks with an arm pointing North and South." This they judged had been built by some of Franklin's men in 1821.

Now came the return trip made in the early winter under conditions of great hardship. After buying two months' supplies from the Hudson Bay Post at Bernard Harbour and taking a small amount from the Canadian Arctic Expedition's cache at the same place, the party left the hospitable Post, September 1, 1917. On the way home they picked up Kihlman, the Norwegian and took him along lest he should become destitute if left on the coast. Early in October the air began to get colder and the ice to form along the rivers. And the party hastened onward toward the South East. November 15 they met some Killin-a-muits; November 18 they were again by Gordon Bay; December 12 at Backe's River; December 22 they had to shoot five of their dogs which they skinned and fed to the other dogs; their own food supply being reduced to 15 pounds of frozen deer-meat. But the hunters the next afternoon killed twenty musk-oxen and every one "enjoyed a big feed for Christmas night." It will excite no astonishment that the party stayed in that glorious locality for more than ten days—indeed all the Christmas holidays and until January 3, 1918. The dogs which were exhausted "were getting all they could eat and were picking up again." The cache of supplies put in by Inspector Beys in November, 1915, was about 15 miles from this Eden of the North. But they found it broken down. The wolves had evidently got at it, for all that remained was a little flour, oxo, tobacco and candles.

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On January 3 they started for the Theron River, a week later they arrived at Aberdeen Lake. January 16 the dogs again showed signs of distress and three had to be killed to feed the others. The next day one of the bitches had a litter of seven pups which the other dogs promptly ate. January 21st, they killed ten deer which cheered them all up, men and dogs. Five days after they sighted the familiar Hudson Bay Post where Mr. Ford the Post Manager kindly greeted them and gave them the best of food. January 29th, they "arrived at the detachment, all well and glad to get home."

This investigation occupied the Patrol 314 days. They travelled more than 4,500 miles at a cost of some \$30,000 to determine the facts of the one tragedy, and we Canadians do not consider the time, labor or money misspent.

INVESTIGATION OF INFANTICIDE

Investigation was made by the same party into the custom of infanticide. The male children were preserved but it was an old and recognized custom with the Eskimos of Coronation Gulf for a mother to kill a female infant born to her when on a journey and particularly in the case of twins, she not wanting to be troubled with a young babe. It does not appear that the practice prevailed when the natives remained in a permanent camp. But it was so frequent a practice that women were scarce. Many of the men could not obtain a wife, and in some cases a number of men had a wife in common. The custom of polyandry is not, however, so developed and systematized as in Tibet. With these Eskimos it is an interesting instance of a custom in the making, the process of evolution not yet having gone far enough to form a legal and regular system. Efforts are being made to check the infanticide which is its cause and explanation if not a valid excuse for its existence.

The "eternal triangle" of man, wife and lover is not wanting in this primitive people. It is a primitive "institution," and the usual result of jealousy, strife and murder is here as common as in more sophisticated regions.

It is pleasing to know that the unfortunate Siniesiak and Uluska who had been convicted of the murder of the French priests and whose sentence had been commuted to imprisonment for life were model prisoners at Fort Resolution. They worked willingly and were apparently quite contented. The punishment of these Eskimos has had a most salutary effect on the denizens of the northern regions who know and fear the white man's vengeance.

The tremendous patrols still continue and must continue until the aeroplane is brought there into familiar use, which is expected in a very short time.

Some of the longest and most important patrols were:

Dawson to Fort McPherson—57 days—1,000 miles.

Whitehorse to Teslin—24 days—318 miles.

Whitehorse to Teslin—26 days—389 miles.

Dawson to Mayo—19 days—500 miles.

Dawson to Rampart—21 days—150 miles.

Fort Fitzgerald to Ft. Norman—54 days—1,200 miles.

EXPERIENCE OF INSPECTOR PHILLIPS

That the R. N. W. M. Police must perform long trying and dangerous trips has now become so much a matter of course that one is apt to forget the danger and toil entailed on water and land. This article cannot more fitly close than with an account of an experience of Inspector Phillips which is here given in the words of his own official report to his superior officer.

"N" DIVISION, ROYAL NORTHWEST

MOUNTED POLICE, MACKENZIE RIVER

SUB-DISTRICT

HERSCHELL ISLAND DETACHMENT,

July 24, 1918.

The Officer Commanding

R. N. W. M. Police,
Peace River, Alta.

Sir,—I have the honor to advise you of the total wreck of the Fort Macpherson whale boat, eight miles to the east of Herschell island, on the 22nd instant.

On this date I, in company with Regimental Numbers 4396, Const. Doak, W. A., and 5369, Const. Cornelius, E. H., were endeavoring to get into Herschell island, but on getting close enough to the island, we discovered that the ice would not permit us to enter the harbor.

Two courses only were open to me, the first to keep on running to the westward, which I considered impracticable on account of the gale which was blowing, and the possibility of being caught by the main ice flow, west of the island. My other course was to come about and try to make the harbor at "Itkilipik"—the latter course I adopted. We beat back to within about eight miles of the harbor at Itkilipik; it was still blowing heavily and our boat was shipping considerable water, and constant bailing became necessary.

At this place the mast stays broke, allowing the mast to lean dangerously to one side; before I could get this remedied our sail was blown to pieces, and I was obliged to cut it loose. I then tried with the oars to keep the boat from drifting in on the ice, but with the heavy sea running I soon found this to be ineffectual.

We drifted rapidly on to the ice, at the same time an effort was made to handle boat so that she might strike near a cake of ice sufficiently large for us to clamber on. On getting closer to the ice I saw that it was all in small cakes. Our chances at this time of getting on to the ice did not seem very good, so to lessen the impact of our boat with ice, I had everything

aboard her thrown overboard; this I considered necessary as there was a possibility that we might be able to run her up on a cake of ice without smashing the bow in. We struck a few minutes later, and in five minutes the boat was smashed to pieces. I started across the iceflow, shouting to Doak and Cornelius to follow; this was the only chance left us. I thought at that time that there was a bare possibility of us getting across the flow ice on to the shore pack.

Our journey across the flow ice is very hard for me to describe—the distance I imagine would be about four hundred yards. I am thankful to say we managed to get over this. The cakes were small, and were churning around and upending, at times the piece on which one of us would be standing would start to upend, and it was a case of jump or be crushed; this was the manner in which we reached the shore ice. After our arrival on the solid ice, we started to follow it southwest towards Herschell Island. I had not proceeded far in this direction when I struck a wide lead which was impossible for us to cross. I here decided to make for the closest land, which was Cape Itkilipik. We turned in a southerly direction, and found the leads narrower. By joining our belts and suspenders together a line was made. One of us would swim the lead and then assist the others over by the life-line I have described.

I should say that approximately twenty-four leads in the ice were crossed in this manner before we eventually reached the shore. The time spent by us from the wrecking of the boat (on the ice) to our reaching shore was ten hours. A gale from the north-east had been blowing all this time, and in our soaking wet condition we suffered severely from the cold. The only clothing we wore at this time was our under garments, trousers and mucklucks, our Artiggies we threw away, as we found they hampered us too much when getting over the leads. Herschell Island was about twelve miles by following the coast line from the place where we managed to get ashore. We started at once to walk in this direction; after traveling about one mile I noticed that Constable Doak was delirious. Constable Cornelius and myself assisted him to walk a little further, when, owing to cramps in the legs, we could take him no further. Constable Cornelius at this stage volunteered to go on to Herschell Island for assistance, food, and matches, and I permitted him to go. After the departure of this constable I built a wind break out of driftwood. Constable Doak and I crawled into it; here we remained until 11 p. m. of the 23rd instant. We were taken off at this time by Captain Allan and Gonzales, who were en route from Kitegaruit to Herschell Island with whale-boat; they saw our signals, put into the "spi" on which we were, gave us some food, and after we had

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eaten we all started for Herschell Island with their whale-boat. The wind by this time had turned to the southwest, and had made a small lead between the ice and the mainland; this we followed, keeping a sharp lookout for Constable Cornelius. We saw nothing of him, and on our arrival at Herschell Island found that he had not arrived there. I at once started Constable Brockie and two natives with whale boat to search for this constable along the coast, who found him on a sand spit about ten miles off Herschell island. I am glad to be able to say that this constable was brought in safely. I am sorry to say that at the present time the two constables and myself are laid up with swollen feet and legs, due undoubtedly to exposure. I am, however, in hopes that we will be able to return to duty in the course of a day or so.

I cannot speak too highly of the courage and loyalty shown by Constable Doak and Cornelius through the trying circumstances encountered by us; at no time did these men lose their presence of mind; any hesitation on their part at times might have been attended with fatal results.

With reference to government property lost in the wreck I regret to say that an approximate sum of \$65, being balance of the last half-year's Sub-district Contingency Fund, went down in my valise. I was fortunate enough to save the fifteen hundred dollars sent in this summer. This amount I was carrying in my hip pocket.

Constable Doak's entire kit, all official mail, and the Herschell Island detachment books, also all personal property, was lost. I will have a list of all government store lost, and will submit board in due course.

I should have stated that I was on my return trip to Herschell Island from Fort McPherson when this accident happened. We had an uneventful trip up to the time we ran into bad weather and ice on the coast.

In conclusion, I must say that I am exceedingly sorry to have to give you a report of this nature, but I think you will agree that this accident occurred through circumstances over which I had no control. I am happy to be able to report no loss of life. As soon as I am able to send a patrol to the vicinity of the wreck I will do so, with the idea that there may be some government stores blown up on the coast.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. PHILLIPS, Inspr.,
Commanding Sub-district.

