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HEROIC WORK OF THE ROYAL NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE IS TOLD OF IN A REPORT

Ottawa, March 1—Stories of privation cheerfully accepted as part of the day's task, of obstacles overcome that would strike the average man as insurmountable, of heroic, arduous and devoted work, make up the annual report of the activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police which was tabled in the House of Commons yesterday.

At the same time the report is a compendium of valuable and useful information, particularly in those sections of it that deal with the operations of the force in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions. Patrols undertaken in mid-winter and extending for many hundreds of miles, over the Arctic wastes of Canada's northern islands in order to enforce the law of the Dominion among the aborigines, to apprehend white men who do not scruple to vitiate the life of the Eskimos and the Indians, to relieve suffering, to distribute food and to conduct explorations all designed towards making those regions better known, are recorded in the report in simple language. The daily life of the Royal Canadian Mounted in their isolated posts—the most northerly of which is 700 miles south of the North Pole, at Bache Peninsula in Ellesmere Land—is pictured graphically.

Nursed Three Months

Outstanding is the report of the patrol consisting of Inspector T. V. S. Wunsch, Sergeant J. R. Paton, and Constable W. A. Cooper, to Liard, B. C., near the Yukon border. In January, 1927, Sergeant Paton got both hands very badly frost-bitten, and first-aid treatment lasting four hours partially restored circulation. Sergeant Paton was nursed day and night for three months until the use of his hands were almost fully restored. However, it is recorded that "in the course of treatment gangrene set in at the extremity of one little finger, and, with the patient's consent, the last joint was amputated, with a razor by Inspector Wunsch, there being no doctor anywhere in the district." The report says that "our men went out of their way to render help and succour to all, from assisting an Indian mother to bring a baby into the world, to reading the ord's prayer at burials."

Eskimo Progressive

Upon the more general aspects of the work, the report observes: "The Canadian Eskimos are progressive people. Many of them have sewing machines, gramophones and radio outfits in their houses. The ambition of the head of every family (at Akavik) is to own a power schooner of his own, and quite a few have realized the desire already. It is possible to count as many as 25 boats with auxiliary gasoline engines tied up at Akavik during the summer."

"Inquiries have been made among the natives to ascertain what the marriage custom among the Eskimos are. Some rather interesting information on this subject has been gathered. It seems, according to a report from Sergeant Baker of the Bernard Harbor detachment, that there is no definite established ceremony of any kind. A man generally chooses a woman who he considers suitable, and if both parties are agreeable they commence living together as man and wife.

The man generally selects a woman who is good at making clothes, preparing food and is generally handy around the camp. The woman desires a man who is a good hunter and provider. In most cases they continue to live together, but if after a time they find they are not suited to each other, they separate. This may be after a few weeks, or even after a few years."

Game Licenses

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police collected in excess of \$60,000 in revenues for the national treasury for the year ending September 30, 1927, the annual report discloses. In the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the force collected game licenses for the Department of the Interior, and also disbursed bounties for the killing of 1,001 wolves, amounting to \$30,030. For the Department of Marine and Fisheries the Mounted Police collected a number of radio licenses, and in addition fines to the amount of \$31,908.25 were taken in.

The total amount of fines imposed as a result of cases which were instituted by the police force totalled

\$138,867.17; of this \$98,751.17 was paid; and \$65,000 paid through other channels than the Mounted Police.

"It is absolutely useless to proceed against smugglers by way of indictment in Halifax." This quotation forms a portion of the annual report of Commissioner Starnes of the Royal Mounted Police, and is it employed in reference to the activity of that body in the activities of that body in the Maritime Provinces. Commissioner Starnes, in describing the assistance given by the Mounted Police to the Department of National Revenue, says:

Smuggling Activities

"The most interesting phase of this aspect of our activities had regard to the coast line near Halifax, where during the whole year the smuggling of liquor has greatly exercised us. Our strength there was especially increased the use of a fast car was obtained, and in December, 1926, and in January and February, 1927, a series of seizures and arrests took place, the former accounting for over 400 gallons of run and not far short of 300 cases of liquors. The smugglers were defiant as well as persistent, on one occasion attempting to run our car down in the road, and resisting arrest. However, a number of prosecutions were instituted, strongly supported by evidence. I regret to be obliged to report that these failed, the juries, in spite of convincing evidence, able presentation and strong charges from the Bench persisting in returning verdicts of acquittal. The officer commanding in the Maritime Provinces in this connection observed:

"It is absolutely useless to proceed against smugglers by way of indictment in Halifax."

Over 1,000 Men

The total strength of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at September 30, 1927, stood at 1,004 all ranks, according to Col. Corthland Starnes, Commissioner, whose annual report was tabled by Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice. This is an increase in personnel of 61 over the preceding year. The number of investigations carried out was 29,955 for the period under survey.

"The two features most worthy of notice," writes the Commissioner "have been the continued increase in the personnel employed in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions, accompanied by an increase in the complexity of the duties to be discharged there."

QUERY MARS PHONOGRAPH SYMPHONY

London, March 2—There is in existence in England a phonograph record of Caesar Franck's symphony which carries the symphony through its various movements, to work up to an overwhelming climax—at which moment the music stops short and a woman's voice inquires tensely:

"Tell me, my dear, where do you buy your stockings?"

The record was being made during a public performance of the symphony and by an acoustic freak the woman's voice, probably inaudible to any more than a few inches from the speaker, was reproduced perfectly. This record is now known as the "Stocking Symphony."

SECOND CUT IN U. S. NAVY PLAN

Washington, March 2—For the second time in recent weeks the House naval committee today refused to follow a navy department recommendation and voted to authorize an appropriation of only \$14,800,000 for the moderation of two battleships instead of the \$34,670,000 requested for the renovation of five capital ships.

A student failed in an examination in all the five subjects he took. He telegraphed to his brother: "Failed in all five. Prepare papa."

The brother telegraphed back: "Papa prepared. Prepare yourself."

Here and There

(20)

Invited to see Montreal by the hotels and the tourist and convention bureau of the city, 75 members of the Massachusetts Hotel Men's Association spent a week-end recently there and were given a royal reception. As their president, Emil Coulon, said, "We came to sell New England to Montreal, but you have sold Montreal and Quebec province to us."

During the usually quiet immigration months of December and January the Canadian Colonization Association colonized 75 families who took up land to the extent of 22,734 acres. In 1927 the Canadian Pacific Railway, through its land department and its subsidiary (the C. C. A.) placed 2,694 families on Canadian farms, this including 626 families averaging 5 persons to the credit of the Association and 1,529 families on C. P. R. lands.

The movement of British youth to Canada promises to be considerably heavier than usual, due to new arrangements made with the British Government. Ontario is taking 500 boys, Manitoba 50 and the Maritime Provinces and Saskatchewan an indeterminate number, while some hundreds are to be moved by private organizations. In all it is estimated some 2,000 boys will probably be brought out under the new scheme this summer.

Another body of sportsmen are finding Montreal and Eastern Canada good places in winter as well as summer. The Appalachian Mountain Club, of Boston, picked the best period of the winter season to spend a week in the Laurentians mainly devoted to skiing, but with sleighing, dog-mushing, and tobogganing thrown in. It was the first time they had ever visited this district in winter and they are going to repeat it.

Resignation of Colonel Walter Maughan as Canadian Pacific Steamship Passenger Traffic Manager has been followed by the appointment of William Baird, who was assistant European Manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway in London, Eng. Mr. Baird, whose appointment is effective March 1, joined the Allan Line steamship company at Glasgow as junior clerk in 1905 and came into C. P. service when that company took over the Allan Line in 1916.

Bee keeping in Saskatchewan made marked progress in 1927, there being an increase of 45 per cent in the number of colonies over those of 1926 and an increase of 191 per cent in the 1927 honey crop over that of the previous year. The number of spring colonies in 1927 was 3,803 which increased to 5,962 by the fall count. The production of comb honey for the year was 64,042 pounds and of extracted honey 436,932 pounds, making an average production per colony of 148½ pounds.

Airplanes are now being used to herd vast numbers of reindeer in the big Arctic stock farms, according to Ralph Lomen, pioneer of the reindeer industry of Alaska. "It's a new idea and it's not being practiced regularly, but herding by airplanes seem feasible," said Mr. Lomen. "Our head herdsman went out recently and in two hours accomplished as much as would otherwise have required a week with six men. There is room for 12,000,000 reindeer in the northern tundra of Canada and such a herd would be worth \$50,000,000. It could be done in 50 years if Canada started now in a modest way."

He—Would you marry me if I were some other fellow?

She—Would you ask me if I were some other girl?

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