

1516. By an Act 36 Vic., Chap. 35 (1873), authority was given for the organization of a Mounted Police Force, for the better preservation of law and order in the North-west Territories, the number of men being limited to 300. Accordingly, in the autumn of the same year, a small force was organized, consisting of 190 men. Subsequent Acts have amended the original provisions in various ways, and the number of men is now limited to 1,000. On the 30th November, 1894, the strength of the force was as follows: 1 commissioner, 1 assistant commissioner, 10 superintendents, 31 inspectors, 6 surgeons, 2 veterinary surgeons, 184 non-commissioned officers, 658 constables, and 54 scouts, &c., making a total of 947. There were also 794 horses, and 15 ponies and mules. The country is divided into nine divisions, exclusive of the depot, and these divisions are subdivided into a total of 83 stations.

1517. The duties of the force, as defined by Act of Parliament, are:—

1. The preservation of peace and order, the prevention of crime and the apprehension of criminals.
2. To execute warrants of magistrates, &c., and generally discharge the duties of a constable in relation thereto.
3. To escort prisoners and lunatics to and from jails, asylums, &c.
4. To search for, seize and destroy all intoxicating liquors held contrary to law.

For the better performance of the above duties, it is provided that the force, in addition to special powers, shall have all the powers that any constable has by law.

The amount of work that is yearly done by this force can hardly be realized by any one unfamiliar with the enormous extent of territory that they have to watch. They patrol steadily along the frontier from Emerson to the Rocky Mountains, a distance of 800 miles, keeping down raiding, cattle-stealing and smuggling—especially of intoxicants—and in this way are of the greatest possible use, as well as protecting peaceable settlers along the border. They also see that the Indians do not leave their reserves, and keep a watch on their actions generally. The maintenance of the ordinance against starting fire on the prairie, with the punishment of offenders, is one of their important duties. They have immediate charge of the cattle quarantine on the frontier. They are, in short, responsible for the preservation of law and order throughout a district of upwards of 300,000 square miles, and some idea may be formed of the amount of work done when it is considered that upwards of 1,500,000 miles are annually covered by the force, in the discharge of duty. It is generally admitted that the force constitutes a remarkably fine body of men, and the regulations for joining are strictly adhered to.

1518. The following may be said to be the principal regulations:—

Applicants, who must make personal application, must be between the ages of 22 and 40, active, able-bodied men, of thoroughly sound constitution, and must produce certificates of exemplary character. They must be able to read and write either the English or French