

The services of Royal Canadian Mounted Police experts in fingerprints, crime-index information, examination of firearms and questioned documents are available to all other police forces in Canada. A *Police Gazette*, issued monthly and containing instructional articles on police work as well as the latest information on wanted or missing persons, is sent to all police forces across the country. The Force has two Police Colleges that are open to selected personnel from other police forces in Canada and to a more limited number of those outside its boundaries.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has gained and held an outstanding position in the police world by its adherence to certain basic conceptions, as outlined in the following special article.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

If the philosophy of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police could be expressed in one word, that word would be "service". Service to the individual and to the community has always been the creed of the Force. It began when the North West Mounted Police went to the prairies in 1873, at which time it was essentially a frontier and a rural police force. The opportunity to give greater service arose in 1920 when, as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the organization acquired new responsibilities by expanding its field of operation over the whole of Canada. Since that time still greater opportunities have arisen as the Force has accepted certain provincial as well as wider federal duties.

The service rendered has included dealing with pioneer problems in Western Canada and the North, combating Canada's illicit drug traffic, preventing smuggling on the coasts and the United States border, policing rural areas from coast to coast, patrolling the Arctic and providing Canada's security service. In performing these duties, a strong sense of service has developed in individual members, and therein lies the real strength of the Force.

In order to master its original problems and to survive the conditions under which it was to function, the Force was organized as a semi-military body. And because this kind of organization has proved of lasting value, the training of present-day recruits and the work of the Force are still carried out in a semi-military atmosphere. It is not correct, however, to say that Royal Canadian Mounted Police discipline is military in character. Rather it is a training that serves the unique needs of the Force, which recognizes that discipline must be intelligently enforced and accepted in order to maintain high standards in an organization of some 4,800 members spread over the whole of Canada.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman is impressed with the idea that public esteem for the law and its administration depends in large part on the exemplary behaviour of the individual who enforces that law. The Force therefore insists that discipline, as it pertains to its members, must set moral standards, often at a level higher than those displayed by the average citizen. Thus, a member must at all times act in accordance with the letter of the law and the spirit of the law—civil as well as moral law. Unless he is prepared to adopt this attitude he cannot approach his duties in the manner required of him.

In addition to discipline, the Force stresses the need for a strong sense of public service, initiative, independence of mind, and adaptability to changing conditions. These qualities are essential to the success of every member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and an effort is made to show all members, as early as possible, why they are desirable, not only for the sake of the Force but also for the country. At the same time, the Force realizes that it is not possible to convey the full meaning of public service until a member has had practical experience and has developed a satisfaction from his work.

The word "service" means different things to different people. To a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as distinct from most other public servants, it must be related to what the public in a democracy such as Canada requires of its police forces. Every member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, from his earliest days in training, is impressed with the fact that despite his powers as a peace officer, which are given him to carry out his many duties, his rights are no more than those of any other citizen. He must also understand that, although it is his duty to investigate crime, it is the courts of