

MOUNTED POLICE DIRECT EMPIRE

Canadian Force Acts for King in Area 1,432,000 Square Miles.

New York.—Lord Byng of Vimy, governor general and commander in chief of the Dominion of Canada, has just released the 1923 annual report of the Royal Canadian mounted police...

Ernest LaPointe, minister in control, remarks in a letter of transmittal of less than thirty words that he is forwarding this routine document...

While the duties grew in volume last year the force grew smaller. The personnel lost 79 officers and men, and by last September the total strength was 53 officers, 1,000 noncommissioned officers and constables and 543 horses.

But those who are left "carry on." In the 12 months covered by the report, 16,463 cases were investigated and handled, and 2,863 convictions for crimes and misdemeanors were secured.

Enforces Thirty-Five Laws. To a great extent we may be described as a handmaid to other departments, remarks Commissioner Starnes.

The statistics which the royal Canadian mounted police help to enforce throughout the Dominion, and uphold single handed in the North, are as follows:

- Animals contagious disease act, labor act, air board act, bankruptcy act, Chinese immigration act, customs act, Canadian temperance act, forest reserve and parks act, explosives act, fisheries act, Indian act, inland revenue act, income tax act, live stock pedigree act, militia act, migratory birds act, naturalization act, naval act, navigable waters protection act, Northwest game act, Northwest territories act, opium and narcotic drug act, post office act, penitentiaries act, pension act, railway act, radio telegraph act, secret commissions act, soldiers' settlement board act, special war revenue act, seed control act, ticket-to-leave act, war measures act.

For offenses against the person the police investigated and prosecuted whites and Indians under 17 sections of the Dominion criminal code; for offenses against property, 25; offenses against public order, 3; offenses against religions and morals, 7; miscellaneous justice (perjury and conspiracy), 2.

Hand of Law is Everywhere. Here statistics, however, tell a dull tale, and in this instance they fail to give a full account of the royal Canadian mounted police, better known as the Northwest mounted police.

The police co-operate with the international bureau for the suppression of the white slave traffic, and assist Rev. John Chisholm in his system of "strangers' secretaries," etc., which guides young women to safety when they arrive from abroad, and in other ways help him, the report says.

In combating the attempt by hordes of society to recruit dens of infamy, Sergeant Blakeney tells of a thrilling adventure he and Corporal Caldwell and Constable Fahle had in covering the captain and crew of a liquor-hauling craft who greatly outnumbered them.

The report notes with regret that such crimes, and those mentioned in preceding paragraphs, are increasing. This is also true of counterfeiting, and the widespread conspiracies to defraud the government through the manipulation of exchange have caused an immense amount of extra work.

A good example of typical British society in handling crime is shown in a post office letter handled by Detective Sergeant L. McLaughlin. The 3,300 package was stolen on June 30; Sergeant McLaughlin took the case on July 3; two days later the guilty clerk confessed and the following day he was sentenced.

WHY Tropical Plants More Deadly Than Snakes.

In some tropical jungles there are plants whose stings are dreaded quite as much as the bite of a poisonous snake.

The stem, leaves and flowers are covered with long, sharp, stinging hairs, really tubes made of very brittle tissue. When one of these is touched it breaks diagonally, leaving a kind of sharp-pointed funnel.

The point penetrates into the flesh and the poison is poured into the wound from a gland in the plant. The "cruel nettle" as the plant is called, does not often cause death, though its stings result in sores that are painful for a long time.

In every case nature has devised the sting as a protection. The plant is juicy, and but for its poisonous weapons would be eaten by insects and animals; as it is, it is allowed to grow undisturbed.

Why Cubs Wept When Hunter Killed Mother

Illustrative of family affection among bears a story was related by E. B. Cribb, associate lecturer at the Public Museum, in an illustrated lecture in the museum lecture hall, at Milwaukee, Wis.

An expedition of scientists hunting bear specimens in western Canada shot a huge female grizzly. When they reached the carcass the faces of two cubs were seen staring in great surprise from among the rocks.

There they smelled the blood from the bear's wound and seemed to realize what had happened. For a time they stood awestruck in the presence of death. Finally their grief overcame all other emotions. Tears welled slowly from the eyes of the cubs and soon, grief-stricken, they wept as human beings would, mourning their mother.

Such is their work, not to mention solitary and perilous journeys through the snows, across great stretches of water like Great Bear lake, or Great Slave lake, each covering more than 10,000 square miles; or down mighty rivers like the Mackenzie, the Arctic Red and the Hare Indian.

Undergo Hardships. These arctic detachments are gradually being strengthened. In 1923 new ones were established at Cumberland gulf in Baffin Island, and a temporary one at Baillie Island, on the coast of the Arctic ocean.

To hold murder trials great distances must be traveled. One judicial party, for instance, left Quebec for Pond Island on July 7, and did not arrive until August 31. They got back October 4. Judge, prosecutor and counsel for the defense made the trip under escort of our heroes, and the crew of their vessel became the jury.

On the "Plains of Abraham" The Plains of Abraham, near Quebec, overlooking the St. Lawrence river, took their name from Abraham Martin, a Canadian pioneer of Scotch descent who was a pilot on the last Lawrence in the time of Samuel Champlain, founder of the city.

Why Indians Are Beardless Most Indians would have a slight to moderate growth of beard and mustache if they allowed the hair to grow. Beards are not wholly unknown. Some of the Mexican Indians have full beards.

Why Mistletoe Grows High? Mistletoe requires a great deal of sunlight. For this reason in bottom land forests of the East mistletoe is confined to the highest branches of the tallest trees, but in the intensity of sunlight on the Southwest mistletoe spreads over the entire tree.

Why Dealer Offers Box The bureau of internal revenue says that the law states that after a cigar has been removed from the box it cannot be returned. It is, therefore, customary for a dealer to offer the box when a customer is purchasing cigars.

HOW ORANGE INDUSTRY BOOMED CENTURY AGO AT BAHIA.

About a century ago at Bahia in Brazil, a new orange appeared. The fruit was a freak, without seed. To the knowing in orange growing, however, this orange suggested much.

Nevertheless it was fifty years before William Saunders, chief of the government's propagating station in Washington, got twelve of the trees producing this fruit into the country.

Rich in romance of its settlement, California can number these trees as two of the most important things that ever crossed the continent. They gave birth to the entire avel orange industry of the western state.

Florida was the early center of the orange industry of the United States. It rapidly advanced to contend at home with the fruit from the Mediterranean.

Just as it was threatening invasion of the markets of Europe came the freezing winter of 1894-5. The crop failed. For the next decade it was an uphill battle to repair the loss.

Confidence restored, however, the orange industry of this southern state is again on a firm basis. Louisiana's groves suffered also from the cold winter and the state has only recently come forward again.

In California a citrus industry representing more than two hundred million dollars of capital and employing nearly 50,000 people was built up. Oranges are the most important figure in it. The western state came forward to supply four-fifths of the home demand for the yellow fruit and to compete in foreign markets. Nature Magazine.

How to Start Avalanche

Avalanches are sometimes started by trivial causes. Even a whisper has been known to set them off and lives have been lost by a climber shouting to his companions when crossing a snow slope.

The depth of the ocean is measured by a long, thin wire, which is wound on a drum so that when wound up it is like the thread on a spool. At the end of this wire which is lowered a heavy leaden weight is attached. The ship must be perfectly still so that the wire will go direct to the bottom and not at an angle.

How an Alligator Breathes The New York Zoological Park says that if an alligator has been in a quiet mood and the blood is well aerated and there is steady respiration, it might be possible for the animal to remain under water for half an hour's time.

How Many Generations? Q.—How many generations have there been since the people in the Mayflower landed? A.—A generation is reckoned by some as thirty-three years, and by others as twenty-five years.

How Sixes and Sevens Started The original form of the expression "sixes and sevens" was "to set on six and seven." It is based on the language of dicing, and is probably a corruption of "to set on cinque and six," these being the highest numbers.

Ancient Ring Found Christiania.—A massive neck ring of solid gold, believed by experts to date back to 1200 B. C., was found recently on a farm in Norway.

CLAIMS MOON IS CHILD OF EARTH

Scientist Says It Was Part of New Zealand.

London.—The secretary of the Royal Society, in his discourse at the Royal Institution, has made another notable contribution to astronomical theory.

According to the well-known nebular hypothesis of Laplace it was supposed that the solar system was originally a very extended rarefied gaseous mass—what we now call a nebula, though Laplace had no knowledge of the actual existence of nebulae—and that, as it contracted through gravitation, it threw off successive rings of matter from its edge which ultimately condensed into the planets.

Theory Long Under Suspicion. This theory has been under grave suspicion for some time and Doctor Jeans gave what appears to be conclusive reasons for finally rejecting it.

Such an event would be exceedingly rare in the history of the universe, owing to the great distances separating the stars from one another, and this consideration, coupled with the fact that at least half of the stars appear to be double or multiple suns, makes it very probable that our solar system is almost a unique structure.

Torn Away in South. Prof. W. H. Pickering has been extending his study of the mode in which the moon was separated from the earth, and he believes that when that monstrous birth took place 7,000 million years ago the earth was not liquid but solid, and had a period of rotation, a day, of three to four hours.

Then three-quarters of the earth's surface to a depth of 35 miles was carried away in a trailing mass of ruins. New Zealand was just saved.

From a region by the Straits of Gibraltar diametrically opposite, another piece of the earth's surface stretching out into the Atlantic almost necessarily followed the rest, and a ring of debris surrounding the earth and analogous to the rings of Saturn was thus formed.

May Day to Be Festival Day for U. S. Children New York.—The President of the United States, the governors of all the states, together with city officials and ministers, as well as millions of fathers and mothers, are to unite on May day this year in dedicating the 35,000,000 children of America to health and happiness.

Headquarters for the great undertaking, which is under the auspices of the American Child Health association, have been established at 370 Seventh avenue, New York city.

Led by officials of the association, among whom are many of the leading American authorities on social problems, May day will be observed in New York and all over the country as a festival day for children, with special emphasis on health. President Coolidge, in a cordial letter, gave his approval to the plan.

U. S. Bluejackets Now See Movies on Cruises Los Angeles, Cal.—When the battle fleet sailed from San Pedro for maneuvers in the Caribbean, it took along a four months' supply of motion picture films, including the latest releases.

Before leaving San Pedro each ship was given 12 complete shows for the trip by the fleet movie exchange officer, who distributes his films from the flagship Procyon. At regular intervals during a cruise the exchange collected and redistributed the pictures.

The navy department established its own film exchange some time ago. There now are complete exchanges, four on the Pacific coast, one each in Manila and Honolulu and one floating exchange which accompanies the fleet on voyages.

The exchange officer supplies a vessel with enough films for a show a day.

Rooster Makes Fatal Mistake Oak Harbor, O.—Running away from his farm home by hopping onto the cowcatcher of a Northern Ohio Electric Interurban car, a rooster made a fatal mistake of flying into the arms of James French as he alighted from the car. French gave the bird—a fat one—to a lady suggested by the relief agency here. It provided a feast soon afterward.

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