

E 516-16

# ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

G 516-16 (VOL. 1)

SUBJECT

1954

HISTORY OF R.C.M.P.  
- CREST & MOTTO -

FILE NUMBER

### DISPOSITION

BY CENTRAL REGISTRY		OUTSIDE CENTRAL REGISTRY				BY CENTRAL REGISTRY		
CHARGED OUT		P. A.		TRANSFER TO	P. A.		CHECKED IN	
DATE	TO	DATE	INITIAL		DATE	INITIAL	BY	DATE
5-7-57		2-2-57						
22/7/57		8-9-57						
21-11-57		14-8-57						
10-12-57		21-11-57						
16/6/57	Sgt MacNicol							
6-5-57	Sgt Murray	6-5-57	Wm					
24/7/59	DSS	31-8-59	St					
9-9-59	DSS	9-9-59	St					
14-9-57	DSS	15-9-59	J					
		21-2-66	Paul					
30-6-66	adi	15-7-66	Wm					
25-11-66	Const. King	25-11-66	St					
12-4-67	Liaison	24-6-67	St					
1-5-67	Raison	11-8-67	St					
8-8-67	all done	10-8-67	St					
7-3-69	Historien	17-3-69	St					
17-6-69	Pen Godin	20-6-69	St					
APR 27 1979	Cam 15/1	79-09-28	St 3					
JUN 19 1980	DSS 4/21	80-09-01	DSS 1/1					

HISTORICAL MATERIAL

HISTORICAL MATERIAL

WARRANT RECORDS

MICROFILMED  
DO NOT CHARGE OUT  
MICROFILME NE PAS SORTIR

HISTORICAL MATERIAL

HISTORY OF R.C.M.P. - CREST & MOTTO

G 516-16 (VOL. 1) 1954

# HISTORY OF R.C.M.P. - CREST & MOTTO -

## CENTRAL REGISTRY FILE RECORD

Form No. 152

FILE NO. **G 516-16 (VOL. 1)**

**1954**

CHARGED OUT		C. R. CLERK	CHARGED OUT		C. R. CLERK
DATE	TO		DATE	TO	
5-2-54	[Handwritten]		SEP 28 1979	A. Under G306	D.
22/7/52	[Handwritten]	[Handwritten]	50-116-19	DSS4/21	G.
8/9/52	[Handwritten]		50-08-15	DSS4/15	G.
21-11-52	[Handwritten]		FEB 27 1964	[Handwritten]	[Handwritten]
10-12-53	[Handwritten]	[Handwritten]			
16/6/55	Sgt. Mac Donald	[Handwritten]			
6-5-57	Imp. Murray	[Handwritten]			
24/7/59	DSS	[Handwritten]			
9-9-59	Liss	[Handwritten]			
14-9-57	[Handwritten]	[Handwritten]			
18-1-66	Larson	[Handwritten]			
30-6-66	adj. B-310	[Handwritten]			
25-11-66	Capt. Mackenzie	[Handwritten]			
JAN - 3 1967	Capt. Mackenzie	[Handwritten]			
12-4-67	Liaison	[Handwritten]			
4-5-67	Liaison	[Handwritten]			
8-8-67	C.I.B.-22	[Handwritten]			
2-3-69	Historian	[Handwritten]			
JUN 17 1968	Imp. Godin	[Handwritten]			
APR 27 1979	Adm 151	[Handwritten]			

000221



F. 76

G 516-16

FILE NO. ~~2103~~ (VOL. 1)

1954

# DEAD FILE

NO FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE TO BE PLACED ON THIS FILE

1954

G 516-16.

SEE FILE NO. ~~2103~~ (VOL. 2)

For subsequent correspondence relevant to the subject matter of this "Dead" File

84-02-01

HISTORICAL CARDINGAc1. CREST AND MOTTOG-516-16

## RMP - HISTORY

Summary: An extensive search with negative results ~~was~~ made in 1938 to establish who chose the Buffalo head and also the motto, and when the crest and motto were brought into issue. An extremely interesting report, entitled, "A story of the RMP Crest and Motto" was written on 31 Mar 1939, and with some editorial changes, this was published in *The Quarterly*, Jul 1939. It was later discovered that the badges of the Force from that used in its early days, (all of which have been merely variations) were not of sound heraldic design according to authorities. A new badge which was designed in 1953, was duly registered in the records of Carter Principal King of Arms, College of Arms, London, England. This new badge of the Force came into official use on 25 Feb 1954, by Order-in-Council P.C. 1954-27/256, and may be described as follows: "The badge of the Force shall be a bison's head facing frontwise surrounded by a blue band, with a gold border, inscribed with the motto "Maintiens le Droit" in gold, surrounded by 12 green maple leaves. Under the device, a gold-edged blue scroll bearing the legend: Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in gold. Above the device, the St. Edward's crown. Under the crown, on a blue scroll, the name Canada." The meaning of the various figures incorporated in the badge is as follows: The Canadian bison is an animal which has long been a symbol of Canada since the early days when they roamed the western plains; the 12 maple leaves represent one for each of the ten provinces, and the North-West Territories and the Yukon; the

INDEXED  
SERIALS

St. Edward's crown is the new type of crown adopted by a decree of Her Majesty, Elizabeth II; the motto, as is well known, means "Uphold The Right". Pursuant to Section 9 of the Trade Marks Act, Canada, the adoption and use by the RCMP Coat of Arms was duly registered in the Trade Marks Journal on 22 Aug 1956.

Covered: 1935-02-14 to 1939-03-31 G-516-16 Vol 1 (1954)  
1941-08-14 to 1954-04-22 G-516-16 Vol 2 (1954)  
1956-02-10 to 1961-12-29 G-516-16 - (1961)

- 2. MOTTO AND CREST G-516-16  
RCMP - History

RÉPERTOIRE INDEXED

Summary: Same as in card #1 above

- 3. THE QUARTERLY - Jul 1939 G-516-16  
RCMP Crest and Motto

RÉPERTOIRE INDEXED

Summary: Article - "The Crest and Motto of the RCMP."

- 4. CARTER PRINCIPAL KING of Arms, G-516-16  
College of Arms, LONDON, ENGLAND

RÉPERTOIRE INDEXED

Coat of Arms - RCMP.

Summary: The coat of arms of the RCMP was registered with them.

- 5. TRADE MARKS ACT G-516-16  
Coat of Arms - RCMP

RÉPERTOIRE INDEXED

Summary: Pursuant to Section 9 of the Trade Marks Act, Canada, the adoption and use by the RCMP Coat of Arms was duly registered in the Trade Marks Journal on 22 Aug 1956.

Copy.

3

S.1146-2.

February 14th, 1935.

Dear Sir:

R.C.M. Police Stationery.  
-----

1. Attached hereto is a quarto sheet letter-head used in my office at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Headquarters, Ottawa, which bears the Coat of Arms of Canada.
2. As the R.C.M. Police is a Police Force, separate from any Department of the Government, under the control of the Minister of Justice, it would appear correct for its letterhead paper to bear the regimental crest, rather than the Coat of Arms of Canada.
3. I also enclose a sample of the R.C.M. Police crest which perhaps could be reduced in size, and it will be appreciated if you will kindly let me know if there is any regulation which would prevent the use of the Police crest on the stationery used in my own office at the R.C.M. Police Headquarters.
4. It is not proposed that the R.C.M. Police crest should be used on all the letterheads carried by the various branches of the Force, but simply in the office of the Commissioner.
5. If there is no objection to the use of the Police crest in lieu of the Arms of Canada, it is presumed your Department would undertake to have a smaller crest made than the sample enclosed for use in replacing the Arms of Canada.
6. It may be added that it is intended that the stationery used by all other branches of this Headquarters, except the office of the Commissioner, will bear no crest, either of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Arms of Canada, but will have a plain printed heading.

Yours very truly,

The King's Printer,  
Dept. of Public Printing  
and Stationery,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

J. H. MacBrien,  
Commissioner.

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ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED:-  
THE COMMISSIONER  
R. C. M. POLICE  
OTTAWA



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OTTAWA

REF. N° .....

Copy. ↵

KING'S PRINTER  
(CREST)  
CANADA.

Your file No.S.1146-2.

Ottawa, February 23rd, 1935

Dear Sir,

Re R. C. M. Police Stationery.

In the absence of the King's Printer, I beg to acknowledge your letter addressed to him under date of the 14th instant, with reference to the use of the regimental crest on letterhead paper to be used in the in the Commissioner's office.

In reply I would state that so far as I have been able to ascertain, there is no regulation preventing the use of the R.C.M. Police crest, but it would entail re-cutting not only the crest but the full embossed letterhead sheet. Upon receipt of a requisition from yourself this work could be undertaken.

If desired, a cut could be made of this crest, which might be used on your printed letterhead paper.

Yours very truly,

Sgd. J. C. Shipman,  
Acting King's Printer.

Major-General J.H. MacBrien,  
Commissioner,  
R. C. M. Police,  
O t t a w a .

Copy.

6

S.1146-2

February 25th, 1935.

Dear Sir,

1. Please accept my thanks for your letter of the 23rd February with respect to the proposed use of the regimental crest of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on the letterhead paper of the Commissioner's Office (only).

2. Before proceeding any further in the matter, can you give me any idea of the approximate cost of the proposed change, provided, of course, it is to be understood that all the present stock will be used up before any change is made.

3. If you can possibly give me the information I have asked for, it will be much appreciated, and if it can be worked out under the following headings, it will be of considerable assistance:-

- (1) How much will be the approximate cost to change the letterhead paper of the Commissioner's office (only), as set forth in my letter to you of the 14th instant?
- (2) What will be the additional cost to make a cut of the crest used for the Commissioner's office for use on the printed letterhead paper for all branches, as referred to in the third paragraph of your letter now under acknowledgment?

Yours very truly,

J. H. MacBrien  
Commissioner,

The King's Printer,  
Department of Public Printing  
and Stationery,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Copy.

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Your file No.S.1146-2.

KING'S PRINTER  
(CREST)  
CANADA.

Ottawa, 5th March, 1935.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge your letter of February 25th with reference to an approximate price of a new die for your letterheading, and in reply I would say that the cost of a chromium plated die would be \$44.00.

With reference to the printed letter-heading for all branches, I would suggest that instead of making a cut of the crest, as mentioned in my letter of February 23rd, they be printed on a modified offset printing press which we have in this department.

Yours very truly,

Sgd. J. C. Shipman,  
Acting King's Printer.

Major-General J. H. MacBrien,  
Commissioner,  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
O t t a w a.

G.219-3.

MEMORANDUM

1. File 626 of 1900, which was subsequently brought forward to 470 of 1902, 88 of 1903, and 197 of 1904, shows the changes in uniform brought about by Commissioner Perry from the 1889 Regulations.
2. The Report to Council recommending the changes was made on the 4th August, 1900.
3. The only reference to collar badges and cap badges is as follows:-

" Proposed changes in uniform and kit:-

Adopt badge for general use on hats and caps. "

4. The Supply File for cap badges and badges for felt hats is S.105 of 1901, and I have already written to Messrs. Henry Birks & Sons, of Montreal.



G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

November 10th, 1938.

MEMORANDUM.

1. Paragraph 202 of the 1938 Regulations, provides for a cap badge for Officers, as follows:-

202. CAP. A buffalo head in silver surrounded by a wreath of Maple leaves surmounted by a crown and underneath a scroll inscribed "R.C.M.P." in gold embroidery.

2. Paragraph 200 provides for a collar badge for officers, described as follows:-

200. COLLAR. A buffalo head surrounded by a garter inscribed "Maintiens le Droit" and round the garter a wreath of Maple leaves surmounted by a crown with scroll underneath inscribed "Royal Canadian Mounted Police" badge to be of gilt metal.

3. Paragraph 238, describes the cap badge and collar badges to be worn by members of the Force, in these paragraphs it refers to the badge of the Force, i.e. A Buffalo head in relief surrounded by a garter inscribed "Maintiens le Droit"

4. The 1928 Rules and Regulations, paragraphs 269 and 271 describes the Officers badges, cap and collar, in the same way.

5. Paragraph 300 describes those of N.C.O. and men in the same way.

6. In the 1909 Regulations, paragraph 1180 defines the collar badge and Paragraph 1182 the cap badge for the Officers.

GH/L.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Ottawa, November 12th, 1938.

Memorandum.

1909 Rules and Regulations.

1. In connection with the R.C.M. Police crest, the following information may be found in the 1909 Rules and Regulations:

BADGES. — *Specis*

1180. Collar - A Buffalo head surrounded by a garter inscribed "Maintien le droit" and round the garter a wreath of maple leaves, surmounted by a crown with scroll underneath inscribed "Royal North West Mounted Police."

1181. Badge to be of gilt metal for tunic, mess jacket, scarlet and blue jackets and frock coats and of bronze for field jacket.

1182 Cap - A buffalo head in silver surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves, surmounted by a crown, and underneath a scroll inscribed "R.N.W.M.P." in gold embroidery.

2. N.C.O.'s and Constables - no description is given of the collar badges, but simply the number and the position they occupy.
3. These regulations were authorized by Order-in-Council of the 29th of July, 1909.

//

G.219-1.

November 14th, 1938.

Dear Sir:

1. I am looking into the history of cap and collar badges worn by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and as the records at Ottawa leave gaps at important points, it will be very much appreciated if you will kindly inform me if you have any record of having made badges for the North West Mounted Police prior to 1901.

2. In order to give you some idea, I attach hereto a copy of a letter received from you at this Headquarters dated June 3rd, 1901. The sketches or designs referred to in your letter were returned to you on the 6th June, 1901.

3. I shall appreciate it very much if you can let me know if your file or records still retain the designs of the badges referred to.

4. If you have any designs of North West Mounted Police badges (or buttons) prior to 1901, I shall also be grateful if you will let me see them.

Yours very truly,

Messrs. Henry Birks & Sons,  
Gold & Silversmiths,  
Montreal, P.Q.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH'RW.



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G.517-47.  
O.44.  
G.219-1.

November 14th, 1938.

Dear General Perry:

1. I hesitate to bother you again, but my desire to get the facts of the case is my excuse.

2. I have been trying to find out from our records when the Force adopted the buffalo head and the motto, "Maintiens le droit", as the crest and motto for the Force.

3. Once again our files fail us for the reason that the ones which would help us were destroyed in the fire in the West Block in 1897.

4. The late Colonel Fred White, in 1896, informed a correspondent at Peterboro that the North West Mounted Police at that time had no crest on its official forms or paper, but the Officers had a crest for their private paper.

5. It seems to me that the buttons used on the tunics of the Force prior to 1904 bore the buffalo head and the motto I have mentioned, but I can find no definite proof of this.

6. Upon examination of the buttons on the tunics of members of the Force about 1885, it is not possible to decide whether they had a crest or not.

7. You were responsible more than any other Commissioner for the present uniform of the members of the Force, and I shall appreciate it very much if you will spare the time to drop me a line as to when you consider the Police first adopted or used the buffalo head as its crest.

- 2 -

8. If you can tell me what kind of buttons the Police wore in 1885, and when the change to the buffalo head was first made, it will also be appreciated.

9. I suppose it is not possible to say who first selected the crest. I can find no trace of any Order-in-Council about it.

Apologizing for troubling you,

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Major General A. Bowen Perry, C.M.G.,  
6288 Marguerite Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C.

GH'RW.

G.219-1.

Notes regarding R.C.M. Police Crest & Motto  
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In February, 1935, Commissioner MacBrien wrote to the King's Printer, asking if we could not use the R.C.M. Police Crest, instead of the Coat of Arms of Canada, on the letterhead used in the office of the Commissioner at Ottawa.

The Acting King's Printer replied that he saw no objection to the proposal for as far as he knew there was no regulation preventing it, and later it was arranged to use the crest in all Branches of Headquarters. Copy of the exchange of correspondence attached hereto.

Colonel J.W. Spalding was Deputy Commissioner at the time, and he arranged with Reg.No.11123 Const. W.W. Skuce at Headquarters to draw a new crest, which is the one now in use at Headquarters. Copy attached. The buffalo head in the former crest was not very clear, and Const. Skuce made a much better job of it in the new crest.

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In 1880, the buffalo had been practically exterminated on the Canadian plains.

---

The fire which destroyed our files in the West Block occurred on the 11th February, 1897.

---

There appears to be no Order-in-Council regarding the Police Crest.

---

There is nothing in the Regulations for 1889 dealing with cap badges or buttons, or the crest or motto of the Force.

It is pretty certain that collar badges came into force about the year 1900-1901.

---

- 2 -

On page 56 of the First Annual of Scarlet & Gold (Volume 1), there is a reproduction of an etching by Constable Rae in 1891, showing the new Police Barracks at Calgary, and it is noted that the buffalo head and the words "Maintiens le droit" were used, so that it would appear in 1891 that the Force used the buffalo head and the motto.

---

Insofar as the buttons are concerned, the North West Mounted Police simply had a buffalo head with the word "Canada" above surmounted by a crown. Under the buffalo head appeared a scroll with the letters "N.W.M.P."

The Royal North West Mounted Police had an almost exactly similar button except that the crown was a Tudor crown and the scroll bore the letters "R.N.W.M.P."

The present button (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) has the buffalo head and motto surmounted by the word "Canada", and a Tudor Crown above that. The scroll at the bottom contains the words "Royal Canadian Mounted Police", and the buffalo head motto are surrounded by maple leaves.

The only outstanding differences between the present button and the crest used on our stationery are in the maple leaves surrounding the crest and in the scroll bearing the words "Royal Canadian Mounted Police".

Ottawa,  
15-11-38.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE.

Ottawa, Ontario.  
16th November, 1938.

Memorandum.

R. C. M. Police Crest and Motto.

1. The only fyle so far found at this Headquarters, which is of much use in this question, is fyle 857 of 1894, which was afterwards numbered 303 of 1896.
2. In the above mentioned fyle the late Col. Fred White, by letter of the 16th of April, 1896, wrote to a correspondent - Mr. A. S. Hay, box 383, Peterborough, Ontario - telling him that the North West Mounted Police had no crest and motto for use on Departmental forms. He went on to explain that while we had nothing of the kind in connection with our official forms, nevertheless the Officers had a crest for their private papers, a copy of which was enclosed, which was apparently published by Messrs. Henry Birk and Sons, Montreal.
3. In 1901, fyle S.105 of 1901, shows that Messrs. Henry Birk and Sons of Montreal made collar badges, etc., for the use of the Force.
4. File S.105 of 1901, contains instructions regarding the change from the Victoria Crown to the Tudor Crown.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE.

OTTAWA, Ontario,  
16th November, 1938.

Memorandum.

R. C. M. Police Collar badges.

1. The North West Mounted Police Collar Badge (about 1900) had a Buffalo head, garter and Crown, and was shaped in somewhat the same way as the collar badge of today, except that it was slightly smaller and was not flat at the bottom, as it is today. The badge itself was almost circular, furthermore the garter bearing the motto was rounder than it is today. As a item of interest <sup>it may be noted</sup> the word "Maintien" was included, which is a wrong spelling. It should be "Maintiens".

There was also a black collar badge for the stable jacket.

2. The Royal North West Mounted Police collar badge (1904 onwards) was exactly the same as the 1900 badge, except that the scroll at the bottom bore the words "Royal North West Mounted Police", instead of "North West Mounted Police".

There was also a black badge for the stable jacket of the same type. The same mistake in the spelling "Maintiens" also occurred.

3. The present collar badge came into effect about 1922, and is more or less flat at the bottom where the scroll bearing the words "Royal Canadian Mounted Police" comes.

There were apparently no collar badges prior to 1900, but the buttons on the tunics of the members of the Force bore the Buffalo head with the word "Canada" on the scroll and the Victoria Crown above it. Below the Buffalo head was another scroll bearing the letters "N. W. M. P. written thereon.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE.

OTTAWA, Ontario.  
November 16th, 1938.

M e m o r a n d u m .

Questions regarding R.C.M. Police  
crest and motto.

1. A search of the Scarlet and Gold Magazine reveals no reference to the history of the crest and motto.
  
2. A search of the Annual Reports from 1874 to 1890 gives no further information.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

C.219-3

16th. November, 1938.

History of the R.C.M. Police Crest and motto.

Dear Sir,

1. I am having some research made with regard to the R.C.M. Police crest and motto which consists of a Buffalo head surrounded by a garter, bearing the motto "Maintiens le droit".
2. So far, it has not been possible to find very much from our records, largely, I believe, because those files which might have given valuable information concerning this matter were destroyed by fire in 1897 in the West Block.
3. It is pretty certain that in 1881 both the crest and motto, previously referred to, were well known in the Force, but it was not much used at that time, although the Buffalo head was likely shown on the brass button. The Officers utilized the full crest and motto on their writing paper in the 90's.
4. Will you kindly have your records searched, and let me know if you have any notation of either the crest or motto previously mentioned, in case either of them, or both, may have been authorized by Order-in-Council.
5. It is definite that the 1899 regulations of the Force did not mention either the crest or the motto, but, of course, subsequent regulations did.
6. It seems to me that it would be quite sufficient if the search in your records was confined to say, the years from 1875 to 1900. The Force was then known as the North West Mounted Police.
7. Anything which you find it possible to do in the matter will be very much appreciated.

Yours very truly,

The Clerk of the Privy Council,  
Privy Council,  
Ottawa, Ont.

S.T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

GE/AB

G.219-3.

November 16th, 1938.

The Officer Commanding,  
"Depot" Division,  
R.C.M. Police,  
Regina, Sask.

R.C.M. Police Crest and Motto  
-----

1. Will you please see if you have in the Museum at Regina a tunic of the early days for a member of the Force other than an Officer, and let me have a description of the button used at that time.

2. The North West Mounted Police, prior to 1904, wore a button bearing the buffalo head with a scroll above it with the word "Canada" surmounted by a Victoria Crown. Below the buffalo head appeared another scroll bearing the letters "N.W.M.P.", and I should like to know what kind of button was used before that, and an early tunic of any kind other than that of an Officer at Regina might provide this information.

3. If you are successful in finding a button, apart from the one bearing the buffalo head previously described, please furnish a rough sketch of it.

CH'RW.

S. T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

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G.291-1.

16th November, 1938.

Gentlemen:

1. Referring to my letter of November 14th, with respect to cap and collar badges worn by the North West Mounted Police in the old days.

2. I now find that as far back as 1896, your firm supplied stationery to Officers of this Force in the West, bearing the crest and motto of the Force. May I trouble you further to ask if by any chance you have a specimen of that particular crest.

Yours very truly,

G. T. Ham,  
Departmental Secretary.

Messrs. Henry Birk and Sons,  
Gold and Silvermiths,  
MONTREAL, Quebec.

CH/L.

000244

Personnel

6088. Marguerite St

Vancouver

23. Nov. 38

Dear Ham

I am afraid that I cannot give you definite information on the many questions you ask in your letter of 14<sup>th</sup> inst. I have searched through the few records which I have without much success.

I do not think that there was an O. in C. authorizing the crest.

The Commissioner in 1875 created the Department - that officers uniform was not clearly regulated and that officers were scarcely better dressed than the Constables. It is quite probable that as a result dress regulations were then adapted. I was told that the officers were consulted and agreed on the very elaborate uniform of that time. In a photograph I have, taken 1877, there is an officer in full dress. I have a snapshot of that date and on it

is a large crest, with beppala  
head in silver and the motto  
maintien le droit, not-maintiens

It is quite probable that it was  
designed by Col. Trench who as  
an Imperial Officer was familiar  
with Regimental Crests.

If you could find a copy of  
the dress regulations you would  
get some light on it.

Officers uniform was supplied  
by Messrs Hobson & Sons. 94  
St. Martins Lane. London. Eng

I cannot help you much with  
the buttons of which I have some  
samples. All bear the beppala head,  
crown, &c. but no motto.

I am ready to give you any  
information I have at any time.

With kind regards

Yrs sincerely  
A. S. Cunningham

Geo. Harner Esq  
Departmental Secretary

A. S. Cunningham  
A. S. Cunningham

G.291-1.  
O.44.

23rd November, 1938.

Dear General Perry:

1. May I refer to my letter of November 14th and particularly to the fifth paragraph thereof, dealing with buttons.

2. We have been able to largely dispose of the question regarding buttons, and therefore I should like to ask you not to bother answering that part of my letter, unless you care to do so.

3. However, we are not certain as to what kind of button the Force was using on its first march or even say in 1885, but we are attempting to secure this. I merely hasten to let you know that we shall likely secure this information, in order to prevent you from going to unnecessary trouble. If, however, you care to make any remarks, we shall, of course, be very glad to have them.

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Ham,  
Departmental Secretary.

Major General A. Bowen Perry, C.M.G.,  
6288 Marguerite Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C.

G.T.H.

25

G.219-3.  
0.52.

23rd November, 1938.

Dear Colonel Saunders:

1. You will hardly remember me, and I apologize for bothering you but my desire to get at the facts of the case is my excuse.
2. We are attempting, at this Headquarters, some research into the history of the adoption, by this Force, of the Buffalo head and the motto "Maintiens le droit", as its crest and motto.
3. The late Colonel Fred White, Comptroller at Ottawa, in 1896 informed a correspondent at Peterborough, that the North West Mounted Police, at that time, had no crest on its official forms or paper, but the Officers had a crest for their private paper.
5. We should, of course, like to establish who chose the Buffalo head and also the motto, and when, if it is possible, and if you can possibly furnish any information at all with respect to this, it will be very much appreciated.
6. The Commissioner is, of course, aware of the fact that I am writing you for this information, and therefore if you wouldn't mind giving us the benefit of your opinion we shall be grateful.

Yours faithfully,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Colonel G. E. Saunders, D.S.O.,  
3014 Glendoe Road,  
Calgary, Alberta.

11/11

26

G.219-3.

24th November, 1938.

Dear Colonel McGibbon:

1. You will hardly remember me, but I had the privilege of meeting you once in Regina, when you were Assistant Commissioner and I apologize for bothering you. My desire to get at the facts must plead my excuse.

2. We are attempting, at this Headquarters, some research into the history of the adoption, by this Force, of the Buffalo head and the motto "Maintiens le droit" as its crest and motto.

3. The late Colonel Fred White, Comptroller at Ottawa, in 1896 wrote a correspondent at Peterborough that the North West Mounted Police, at that time, had no crest on its official forms or paper, but the Officers had a crest for their private paper.

4. We are anxious, if we can, to establish who chose the Buffalo head and also the motto, and when the crest and motto were brought into issue, and if you can possibly furnish any information at all with respect to this, it will be sincerely appreciated.

5. The Commissioner is, of course, aware of the fact that I am writing you for this information, and therefore, if you will kindly give us the benefit of your opinion, we shall be most grateful.

Yours faithfully,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Lt. Col. J. A. McGibbon,  
1575 West 16th Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C.

CH/E

G.219-3

24th November, 1938.

Dear Major Moodie:

1. It is not likely that you will remember me, but I had the privilege of meeting you once in Ottawa when you came out from Hudsons Bay, many years ago, and I apologize for bothering you now, but my desire to get at the facts must plead my excuse.

2. We are attempting, at this Headquarters, some research into the history of the adoption, by this Force, of the Buffalo head and the motto "Maintiens le droit" as its crest and motto.

3. The late Colonel Fred White, Comptroller at Ottawa, in 1896 wrote a correspondent at Peterborough that the North West Mounted Police, at that time, had no crest on its official forms or paper, but the Officers had a crest for their private paper.

4. We are anxious, if we can, to establish who chose the Buffalo head and also the motto, and when the crest and motto were brought into issue, and if you can possibly furnish any information at all with respect to this, it will be sincerely appreciated.

5. The Commissioner, is, of course, aware of the fact that I am writing you for this information, and therefore, if you will kindly give us the benefit of your opinion, we shall be most grateful.

Yours faithfully,

G. T. Ham,  
Departmental Secretary.

Major J. D. Moodie,  
Box 238,  
Duncan, B.C.

GH/L.

G.219-3.

24th November, 1938.

Dear Major Pennefather:

1. I do not know if you will remember me, but I had the privilege of meeting you and Mrs. Pennefather at Lethbridge, many years ago, in company with the late Comptroller Fortescue, and many years later met you again at Ottawa. I apologize for troubling you now, but my desire to get at the facts must plead my excuse.

2. We are attempting, at this Headquarters, some research into the history of the adoption, by this Force, of the Buffalo head and the motto "Maintiens le droit" as its crest and motto.

3. The late Colonel Fred White, Comptroller at Ottawa, in 1896 wrote a correspondent at Peterborough that the North West Mounted Police, at that time, had no crest on its official forms or papers, but the Officers had a crest for their private paper.

4. We are anxious, if we can, to establish who chose the Buffalo head and also the motto, and when the crest and motto were brought into issue, and if you can possibly furnish any information at all with respect to this, it will be sincerely appreciated.

5. The Commissioner is, of course, aware of the fact that I am writing you for this information, and therefore, if you will kindly give us the benefit of your opinion, we shall be most grateful.

Yours faithfully,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Major P. W. Pennefather,  
Round Lake,  
Prince Albert, Sask.  
CIV/L

G.219-3

24th November, 1938.

Personal.  
-----

Dear Major Irvine:

1. I know you are a very busy man, and I hesitate to bother you, in this matter, but I shall appreciate it very much if you will kindly examine any sabretache which may be in the Museum - I believe Colonel Constantine gave us his father's and we sent it on to Regina - and see if there is any crest on it.

2. If so, will you kindly have a photograph taken of the crest and send it to me personally, as we are endeavouring to carry out some research with regard to the R.C.M. Police crest and motto. Of course, full recognition will be given to any assistance you can find time to give.

3. A good photograph of any crest and motto found on an Officer's sabretache would be extremely helpful, and if you will have this sent to me personally, I shall esteem it a personal favour.

4. Hoping you and yours are in the best of health, and with kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Superintendent T. H. Irvine,  
Officer Commanding,  
"Depot" Division,  
R. C. M. Police,  
Regina, Saskatchewan.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE.

Ottawa, Ont. 25th. Nov. 1938.

By Order-in-Council of the 28th April, 1876, the management of the Northwest Mounted Police was transferred from the Department of Justice to the Department of the Secretary of State (the Hon. R.W. Scott).

According to the history of the Force by Colonel Ernest Chambers, drastic changes in uniform, especially for the Officers, took place soon after the Force came under the Department of the Secretary of State. For example:- Soon after 1876, Officers, equipment and uniform resembled that of Hussar Officers. They had swords and sabretaches and a letter has been written to Regina to ascertain if the sabretache given us by Colonel Constantine has a crest and motto on it. If so, this will establish that the Officers were using the motto and crest of the Force soon after the year 1876.

The Right Honourable Sir Wilfred Laurier did not have charge of the Force until the year 1896, when he held it without interruption until 1910.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH/AB

15/11 Seey

31

L.H. 3A

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
"Depot" Division.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

DIV. FILE No.....

H. Q. FILE No. G. 219-3.....

Regina, Sask. Nov. 22nd, 1938.

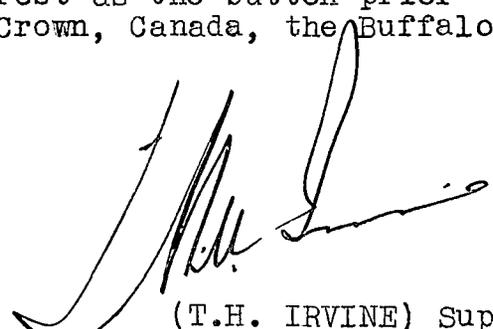
392428 NOV2538

The Commissioner,  
R. C. M. Police,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Sir: Re: R.C.M. Police Crest and Motto.  
-----

1. With reference to your memorandum of the 16th instant. I am enclosing herewith, three buttons--a large and small, both of the N.W.M.P. prior to 1904--and an earlier button marked "N.W.M.P. Canada" with a Queen's Crown in the centre. I think the latter is one of the original buttons.

2. Might I state that the shoulder button on the tunic of the late Commissioner French has the same crest as the button prior to 1904--the Queen's Crown, Canada, the Buffalo Head and N.W.M.P.



(T.H. IRVINE) Supt.  
Commanding "Depot" Division.

THI/D.

M E M O R A N D U M

G.219-3.

The undersigned spoke to Mr. H.W. Doyle (Telephone 2323) of the Department of the Secretary of State this morning with regard to the R.C.M. Police crest and motto. He kindly consented to have enquiries made in their records, and also in their library for any information they may have upon this matter.

The undersigned also informed Mr. Doyle that the Privy Council were doing the same thing from their point of view also.

Ottawa,  
26-11-38.

  
G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

4219-3

33



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL

Ottawa, 26th November, 1938.

Lieutenant Colonel S.T. Wood,  
Commissioner of the Royal  
Canadian Mounted Police,  
O t t a w a.

394692 NOV 28 1938

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 16th November duly reached me, and I have been having a comprehensive search made of the records of this Office to see if there is anything in the nature of an Order in Council dealing with the history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Crest and Motto, but regret to inform you that no such Order can be found.

Yours sincerely,

  
E.J. Lemaire,  
Clerk of the Privy Council.

000256

34

G.219-3.

November 28th, 1938.

Personal

Dear Major Hill:

We have been attempting some research work at this Headquarters with respect to the motto and crest of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and from a series of private letters and other means we are getting somewhere at last.

General Perry, who lives at 6288 Marguerite Street, Vancouver, has kindly informed me that he has an officer's sabretache of 1877 which bears the buffalo head in silver and the motto of the Force, although the first word is "Maintien" instead of "Maintiens".

I have asked General Perry if he would mind if you telephoned him to arrange to borrow the sabretache and then have one of your C.I.B. men take a photograph of the crest and motto, so that we may have it on record here.

I hesitate to bother you in this matter, but I shall appreciate it very much if you will kindly telephone the General

000257

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- 2 -

and endeavour to have the photograph taken  
and send it to me personally.

If there is any expense in  
connection with the matter, I shall be only  
too glad to refund it to you if you will let  
me know what it is.

I hope I shall be able to  
reciprocate on some future occasion.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Superintendent C.H. Hill, M.C.,  
Officer Commanding,  
"E" Division,  
R.C.M. Police,  
Vancouver, B.C.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH RW.

G.219-3.

November 28th, 1938.

Personal

Dear General Perry:

It was extremely kind of you to furnish me the information contained in your letter of the 23rd November, and which to my joy establishes definitely the point I was trying to make, and you have kindly shown that the crest and motto were in existence on the Officers' sabretache of 1877. I sincerely thank you also for the expression of opinion that it was quite probable that the motto and crest referred to was introduced by Colonel French who, as an Imperial Officer, was familiar with regimental crests.

Unfortunately, we are unable to secure a copy of our Dress Regulations for any period prior to 1890.

The other information which you have furnished respecting Messrs. Hobson & Sons, of London, England, will also be another avenue we can explore, and I am ever so glad that we can place on our records that a former Commissioner of the Force had in his possession a sabretache of 1877 bearing the motto and crest.

May I go one step further, and ask you to be kind enough to allow Superintendent Hill at Vancouver to have one of his men photograph the crest and motto on the sabretache in question.

- 2 -

I am assuming that you will not mind his doing this, and I am writing him today asking him to telephone you at some convenient time when the sabretache might be borrowed and the crest and motto photographed, and the sabretache returned to you.

I am delighted with the information you have kindly furnished.

Yours very truly,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Major General A. Bowen Perry, C.M.G.,  
6288 Marguerite Street,  
Vancouver, B.C.

GH'RW.

Copy.

1 8 9 4.

No. 857.

503 of 1896.

NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

N. W. M. Police

Motto and Crest,

Information requested.

Re,

(Copy).

39

192.

Privy Council

(Seal)

Canada.

At the Government House at Ottawa,

Friday 24th day of January, 1890.

Present,

His Excellency,

The Governor General,

In Council.

His Excellency in virtue of the powers vested in him by Chapter 45 of the Revised Statutes, intituled ... An Act respecting the North West Mounted Police Force<sup>n</sup>, and by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, is pleased to make and prescribe the following Dress Regulations for Officers of the North West Mounted Police Force and the same are hereby made and prescribed accordingly.

Sgd. John J. McGee,

Clerk, Privy Council.

The Right Honourable,

The Minister of Railways and Canals.

(Copy)

40

Extracts Dress Regulations for Officers of the North-  
West Mounted Police.

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BUTTONS.

Gilt of special pattern - Buffalo head with "N.W.  
M.P." below and "Canada" above. The whole surmounted  
by a Crown.

Helmet.

.....Plate, N.W.M. Police, pattern (Same as  
ornament on undress pouch.

A zinc button covered with white cloth is worn on  
all occasions when the spike is not used.

Pouch.

Purple velvet, gold embroidered, N.W.M.P. pattern.

Forage cap for Field Service.

Blue cloth folding cap 4½ inches high with yellow  
top and blue side flaps four inches deep, to turn down  
when required. Gold French braid welts on cap and flaps  
and at the front and back seams. Gold embroidered badge  
of N. W. M. P. pattern on left side.

Waist Plate.

Circular gilt plate 1 1/8 inches diameter, with a  
Buffalo head in silver, burnished rim 1 7/8 inches in  
diameter with the words "N. W. Mounted Police, Canada,"  
on the outer circle in silver.

Pouch for Field Glass.

Black patent leather 5¼ by 2¾ inches on top, and 4  
inches deep, to hold binocular field glass, gilt mountings  
with the following gilt metal badge in centre of flap;  
a maple wreath with a ribbon bearing the word "Canada"  
surmounted by the crown above; the words "North West  
Mounted Police" below, within the wreath an oval bearing  
the words "Maintien le droit" encircling a Buffalo head  
in silver.

Sabretache and Slings.

Black patent leather with three slings ¾ inch wide  
to match the undress sword belt. N.W.M.P. badge in metal  
on the flap.

Medical Staff.

Waist Plate.

N.W.M.P. pattern.

- 2 -

(Medical Staff).

Pouch for Instruments.

Black Morocco leather with flap  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches deep with two stripes gold embroidery, each  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide round bottom and sides for the Senior Surgeon, one stripe for Assistant Surgeon, N.W.M.P. badge in metal on flap.

Veterinary Staff.

Waist Plate.

N.W.M.P. pattern.

Pouch for Instruments.

Black Morocco leather,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches long  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches deep N.W.M.P. badge in metal on flap.

42

Extract from the History of the  
Royal North West Mounted Police - -

By

Captain Ernest J. Chambers,  
(Corps of Guides)

Printed in 1906 - Pages  
150 and 151.

---

The original red coat of the Mounted Police as worn by the force under Colonel French, was of the loose frock or Norfolk jacket pattern in vogue in the army for some years after the Crimean War, with cloth belts. The broad-striped breeches, as at present, were worn, while the head-dress for full dress was the white helmet, for undress the small, round "pill-box" forage cap once universal in the mounted branches of the British service. The original issue of uniform also included long brown boots and a brown cotton fatigue suit.

The officers' uniforms differed only from those of the non-commissioned ranks in the addition of a light edging of gold lace to the "frocks" and the wearing of military rank badges.

In his confidential report on the force in 1875, Sir Selby Smith made the following reference to the uniform of the force:-

"I like the dress of the Mounted Police, scarlet frock, cord breeches, long brown boots and a brown cotton fatigue suit, (better cotton than linen)- the latter when wet causes chills and fevers; white helmet; the forage cap can be improved, and also I prefer the tunic shape to the frock, it is more 'dressy' and the men take some pride in looking smart. At present there is a want of uniformity in the dress. I am told the uniform lately sent is excellent, but I hardly concur in the system of allowing officers to wear the same as the men with the addition of gold lace - it may do for service but I think a neat full dress should be adopted, not costly but such as they could feel becoming their position in society. I believe the officers desire this improvement. I think the simpler the adornment of lace the better.

"It is suggested that the officers should wear swords (4) which have a great effect upon the Indian mind and a shoulder belt with a pouch for field glasses. Indeed I think Constables should have a field glass, they are absolutely necessary on the prairie; a great number of Indians and others now wear them, and the police are therefore at a disadvantage without this aid."

Shortly after this, while the Hon. R.W.Scott was the ministerial head of the department, at the request of the officers, the tunic pattern of "coat" was adopted for the

(2)

non-commissioned officers and men, a most elaborate officers' uniform being sanctioned at the same time. This included a very handsome tunic of the hussar pattern, but of course of scarlet cloth, and with the rich trimmings of gold lace and braid bestowed upon the familiar hussar officer's blue garment. Other striking features of this uniform were long drooping plumes of horse hair worn in the officers' helmets, and a sabretache literally covered with gold lace, the main ornament being the corp's badge, as at present consisting of a buffalo head surrounded by maple leaves, with a garter underneath inscribed with the corp's motto "Maintiens le Droit." Of course gold lace belts were also worn. At the time this uniform was adopted comment was made upon its exceptionally elaborate and expensive character, but it was represented by the officers that smartness is especially required in the early years of any corps to assist in the development of a proper feeling of corps pride, and furthermore, that in this case there was a special object to be considered in connection with the uniform of the Mounted Police, namely, the importance of creating a marked impression of the importance and authority of the officers of the force upon the receptive minds of the Indians. Owing to these arguments, and to the fact that the officers themselves, who would have to pay for the gold lace and plumes, had asked for them, the minister gave his sanction to the elaborate uniform which was so long worn by the officers.

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44

16th April, 1896.

Dear Sir:

In December last you sxnt me a Post card, which I regret to say got mislaid in one of my baskets, asking me to tell you whether the N.W.M. Police have a crest and motto for use on Departmental forms, and if so to forward you an impression of the die.

I am sorry to say that we have nothing of the kind in connection with our official forms, but the officers have a crest for their private paper, copy of which I enclose, but I would not suggest your including it in your design of a Military trophy for all arms in Canada, for the reason that the Police Force is not a Military organization, and I know from experience that many Militia Officers object to having the Mounted Police included in anything as being part of the Military organization of the country.

With apologies for delay in answering your Post Card.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

T. A. S. Hay, Esq.,  
Box 383,  
Peterborough, Ontario.

MEMORANDUM.

45

Peterborough, Ong.  
April 19th, 1896.

T.A.S. Hay, C.E.  
(Late Grand Trunk R'ly)  
Member Canadian Society of C.E.  
CONSULTING ENGINEER.

-----  
Office, Bank of Commerce Building,  
P.O.Box 383.

To Fred White, Esq.,  
Comptroller, N.W.M.P.  
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

I am very much obliged to you for your letter of 16th instant and crest enclosed.

I will note the suggestions contained in your letter. As I had already concluded not to consider the force as part of the Military organization of Canada. I have met with only fair success in collecting the crests of the different corps, as only a few have adopted a crest. Thanking you most sincerely.

Believe me, Yours truly,

Sgd. T. A. S. Hay.

COMMISSIONER PERRY'S SERVICE:-  
24TH. JANUARY 1882 TO 31st MARCH, 1923

-----  
MINISTER OF JUSTICE in 1874 & 1875.

HON. A.A. DORION.

IN 1876 & 1877 ONWARDS THE FORCE WAS UNDER  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
HON. R.W. SCOTT - SEE COL. CHAMBERS' BOOK.

-----  
FILE DEALING WITH CLOTHING, ETC. 541/1880 IS MISSING.

-----  
ACCORDING TO LETTER FROM BRIGADIER CONSTANTINE,  
27th. APRIL, 1934, FILE G.838-8, HIS FATHER'S  
DRESS, SWORD AND SABRETACHE WERE ABOUT 1888 PERIOD.  
THIS IS IN THE MUSEUM AT REGINA, SASK.

SERVICE OF LATE SUPT. CONSTANTINE:-  
20th. OCTOBER, 1886 to 5th May, 1912 (DIED).

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE.

G.219-3.

OTTAWA, November 29th, 1938.

M e m o r a n d u m .

1. Another fyle of interest, in this matter, is S.105 of 1901, entitled "Badges for service caps and felt hats - Henry Birks and Sons".
2. The correspondence, on this fyle, begins with a letter from Messrs. Henry Birks and Sons to the late Comptroller Fred White, dated June 3rd, 1901, forwarding three sketches of police badges, either for service caps or felt hats, but it is not clear which. The sketches are not now on the fyle, and the undersigned wrote to Messrs. Henry Birks and Sons hoping to get some information, but up to the present we have received no reply.
3. Later on, the correspondence deals with collar badges, but the fyle cover makes no mention of collar badges on the outside or back sheet.
4. A copy of the letter addressed to Mr. T. A. S. Hay at Peterborough, dated the 16th of April, 1896, is also on this fyle - see fyle No. 857 of 1894, which has been copied and is now on fyle G.219-3.
5. Fyle S.105 of 1901 begins in June of that year and ends in December of the same year.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH/L.

48

Memorandum regarding Crests and Mottoes  
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On page 56 of the first issue of "Scarlet & Gold" (1919), is an etching by Constable Rae, 1891. This etching shows the motto of the Force, and, also the buffalo head, but which has no maple leaves or anything of that nature surrounding it.

-----  
The following is an extract from the R.C.M. Police Quarterly for April, 1937, page 283:-

" In the days of pill-boxes it was a crime  
" to wear the stetson other than on fatigues or  
" a lone patrol away from castigating N.C.O.'s.  
" The pay was variously fifty cents a day, cut  
" to forty cents for a spell and later boosted  
" to the unheard of sum of seventy-five cents.  
" In 1897 helmet badges were issued for the  
" ~~first time - this~~ for the troop which attended  
" the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.  
" Distinguished visitors to Banff in those color-  
" ful days included Sir Henry Irving the actor,  
" the beloved Ellen Terry, and the Duke of  
" Connaught. "

-----  
Write to Messrs. Hobson & Sons, 94 St. Martin's Lane, London, England. This firm is believed to be the one which made the first Officers' badges and crests and mottoes for their sabretaches in 1877.

-----  
Write to the <sup>College</sup> Manager of Heralds, London, England, to ask if they have any registration or record of the R.C.M. Police Crest and Motto.

49

Extract from "Scarlet & Gold", Jubilee Edition (1938)  
Page 21

HOW THE BUFFALO HEAD CAME TO THE BADGE  
OF THE R. C. M. P.

One of the "Originals" who wintered at Fort Garry in his reminiscences said: "The following spring we started from Stone Fort (Lower Fort Garry) toward the Cypress Hills, and when north of them in mid-September saw thousands of buffalo." And the Assistant Commissioner (Macleod, Asst. Commissioner, June 1st, 1874) was so impressed that he said he thought it would be a splendid idea to have the buffalo head on our buttons. In his report that fall he made this recommendation, to Headquarters and it was adopted.

-----

50

EXTRACT regarding Uniform and Dress from "The Riders  
of the Plains", by A.L. Haydon, (Pages 342 & 343)

-----

The full-dress uniform as originally worn by the Police in 1874, and for many years after, was a very showy one. It was something like that of an English dragoon, consisting of scarlet tunic, of the loose Norfolk jacket pattern once in vogue in the army, and without facings, grey (later blue) cloth breeches with a broad yellow stripe down the side, long brown riding boots, and a white helmet with a glittering brass spike. For undress head-gear the trooper wore the smart-looking "pill-box" forage cap, which was at one time so popular in the regular service. There was also provided a brown duck fatigue suit for summer use, and for cold or wet weather a long blue cavalry cloak and cape. In the winter the regulation dress included fur cap, buckskin mitts, moosehide moccasins, and long woollen stockings. While on outdoor duty the Policeman was protected by a thick buffalo coat, until this was superseded by one of black Russian lambskin.

The officers' full dress was at first the same as that of the troopers, with the addition of gold lace. As a result of representations made to headquarters a more elaborate uniform was sanctioned. The commissioned ranks were now resplendent in a scarlet cloth tunic of the hussar pattern, with handsome trimmings of gold lace and braid, and a gold lace belt. On the helmet were long drooping plumes of horse-hair similar to those of a Lifeguardsman, while black "jack" boots, white gauntlets, a cavalry sword, and sabretache richly ornamented with gold lace heightened the effect. The sabretache was further adorned with the corps' badge, which consists of a buffalo's head encircled by maple leaves, and bearing the motto "Maintiens le Droit" beneath. The breeches were at first of yellow cord, then blue cloth, with a yellow stripe running down the side. At about the time the tunic coat was adopted, this pattern took the place of the "frock or Norfolk jacket" type worn by non-commissioned officers and men. It was considered to be smarter and neater in appearance.

G. T. Hann Esq.

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> 1938.

Departmental Secretary  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Dear Sir/

In reply to your letter (G. 219.3) of 23<sup>rd</sup> inst.,  
G. 52.  
far from being bothered by your inquiry, regarding  
the badge and motto of the Force, I was very much  
interested. It is the first time that I have heard  
the question raised as to its origin and who was  
the person ~~at~~ responsible. We always took it for  
granted.

At first my thoughts were led in a wrong  
direction by Para. 3 of your letter and I was trying  
to remember how it came to be used as a letter  
head, and it was not until I looked upon it  
as a Regimental or Corps Badge that I began  
to see daylight. The use of the Badge as a letter  
head came in to ~~being~~ <sup>being</sup> in the late sixties but I  
do not think it was ever used on official papers  
up to the time I left the Force in 1911.

The Regimental Badge and motto "Maintiens  
le Droit" undoubtedly dates from the very  
earliest days of the Force's existence and I  
am satisfied can safely be said to have been  
adopted during the regime of Major General Sir  
George French who resigned as Commissioner of the  
Force in July 1876.



Apt-104-975 Chilco St.  
VanCouver, B.C. 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 1938—

Dear Mr. Hanni—

Re—adoption by the H. W. M. D.  
of the Buffalo Head and the  
motto "Maintiens le droit" as  
its crest and motto—

I remember seeing it on paper  
as far back as 1885—but I do not  
know if it was on official paper—

About the Buffalo Head and  
Motto on the buttons of clothing—  
Prior to 1880 on the buttons was a  
Crown and H. W. M. D.

The uniform was changed both  
for Officers & Men about 1879—  
but the new issues were made in 1880—  
the buttons having the Buffalo Head  
and Motto—

I remember that on arrival of  
Front Walsh on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1880  
the old hands were incorporated  
in our uniform— Insp. Neal on the  
28<sup>th</sup> of May 1888 at Sarnia—but  
issued in our full kit.

There were I think 52 Recruits  
in the party (this was caused by  
the old hands leaving or the pay  
was reduced from 75<sup>¢</sup> per diem to  
40<sup>¢</sup> first year and 50<sup>¢</sup> for second  
& other years. 65<sup>¢</sup> for Corporals—

40<sup>cts</sup> per diem with - Bowbelly -  
hard tack and dried apples -

About the latter part of 1878 -  
I think Col. Macleod the Comm.  
went to England and chose what  
was the Uniform that the officers  
and men wore when I joined the force  
of 300 men N.W.M.P. in 1880 -

Col. Macleod must have been the  
one who chose the Buffalo Head -  
(that was his Indian name)

When I was a Sergeant my  
issues of x belt had the crest on  
the field glass pouch - that was  
in 1883 -

When an Inspector in 1885 my  
Sabretache had the crest on it  
(my son at Regina has it)

The uniform had no facings  
Collar & Cuffs were scarlet same  
as the tunic -

In answer to No 4. I would say  
that the Buffalo Head and the  
Motto for the N.W.M.P. was in the  
latter part of 1879 -

Maynard, Harris & Co, Leadenhall  
London Eng. made the officers  
uniforms at that time -

To G. Y. Haam, Esq. M.P. 2.

Departmental  
Secret. N.W.M.P.

Ottawa  
M

Yours truly  
J. G. MacGibbon

55  
Nov 23 8  
Winnipeg B.C.  
30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1938

Dear Mr. Hance,

I am sorry that I am unable to give you the information you ask for. My impression is that the "Buffalo Head" was chosen by Sgt. John A. McDonald but I can find nothing to back this. It is true that the official press & paper did not bear the crest as stated by the late Comptroller - Col. Fred. White - but the battalions & officers Sabre & the crest carried the crest in 1885 - I always credited that the crest was carried from the time of formation of the Force.

Yours sincerely  
H. Hoodie

56

G.219-3.

2nd December, 1938.

Dear Colonel Sanders:

1. It was extremely kind of you to send me your letter of November 29th, and I appreciate your co-operation and courtesy very much.

2. The details you have so kindly given, will be most helpful, and fills in some of the gaps, in our information.

3. I shall give your best regards to the Commissioner, and have already taken the necessary steps to rectify the error in the spelling of your name. I am sorry, and apologize for having misspelt it in my letter to you, although I knew the correct spelling. There should be no excuse in the future for misspelling it, either by me or anyone else.

4. Thanking you again, and hoping you will long be spared to enjoy your retirement, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Col. G. E. Sanders, C.M.G., D.S.O.,  
3014 Glencoe Road,  
Calgary, Alberta.

GTH

57

O.52  
P.32  
G.219-3.

2nd December, 1938.

Memorandum for,

Inspector Rivett-Carnac.  
-----

Dear Inspector Rivett-Carnac:

1. I quote below an extract from a personal letter recently received from Col. G. E. Sanders:

"I notice my name is usually misspelt in letters or references to me in the "Quarterly". Could you have this rectified. It is a trifle but the whim of an old man. My correct designation is Col. G. E. Sanders, C.M.G., D.S.O."

2. Will you kindly have this noted for future reference.

3. I am also sending a copy to the Chief Treasury Officer, so that any references to him on his pension file may be correct in future.

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

G.319-3

2nd December, 1936.

Dear Major Bagley:-

1. We are making some research into the history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police crest and motto, and as you were one of the Originals who made the march across the prairies in 1874, may I ask you to kindly let me know if I am correct in the following matter:-

1) The button on the tunic issued to the Originals bore simply a crown in the centre of the button and the word "Canada" below it with the letters "N.S.M.P." above. *No Crown.*

2) Subsequently the buttons bore the buffalo head with the word "Canada" above surmounted by the Victoria Crown. Beneath the buffalo head appeared the letters "N.S.M.P."

3) Soon after 1904, when the prefix "Royal" was granted as a Coronation honour, the button remained the same with the exception that the letters underneath the buffalo head were changed to "R.N.S.M.P."

4) In 1920, when the name of the Force was changed to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the button bore the full crest of the Force, being the buffalo head, surrounded by a garter bearing the motto "Maintiens le Droit" surmounted by the word "Canada" and a Tudor Crown. The crest also was surmounted by maple leaves, and a scroll at the bottom contained the words "Royal Canadian Mounted Police", which is of course the crest today.

5) So much for the buttons of the Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables. I believe the buttons of the Officers were exactly the same as those of the men, except perhaps they may have been made of a little better material.

6) No collar badges were issued to the men for many years, although helmet badges had been in use in ~~1897~~ 1897.

7) As far as I have been able to ascertain here, the first of the collar badges were issued late in 1901, and were made by Henry Birks & Sons, of Montreal.

59

- 2 -

8) Insofar as the crest of the Force is concerned, we have information that an Officer's sabretache of 1677 was adorned by a buffalo head and the motto "Maintiens le Droit", and of course we have further information of the crest subsequent to that date. My chief object in writing you is to ask if you will kindly let me know whether you agree with my statements respecting the buttons and collar badges, and if you happen to have any information as to who drew up the crest or chose the buffalo head or the motto "Maintiens le Droit", which was used by Officers for many years on their stationery, uniform and kit.

2. Any details which you may be able to give in this matter will be sincerely appreciated.

Yours very truly,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Major F. Bagley,  
Banff, Alta.

GH/AB

60

G. 516-15.  
G. 219-3.

2nd December, 1938.

Dear Mr. Turner:

1. We have been carrying out some research work, in connection with the crest and motto of the Force, and without attempting to bother you too much, I shall appreciate it if you will kindly let me know if you have any idea as to who chose the Buffalo head and the motto "Maintiens le Droit".

2. I have gathered together some interesting information as to about when the crest was adopted by the Officers, but so far I have not been able to find anyone who has anything definite, as to who chose it.

3. Commissioner Perry suggests that Colonel French, who knew all about regimental crests was probably responsible for it.

4. It appears from information already in my hands that the crest formed an adornment on the Officer's sabretache in 1877.

5. I should much appreciate an expression of your opinion, *or any remarks*

Yours faithfully,

G. T. Hann, Jr.,  
Departmental Secretary.

John P. Turner, Esq.,  
117 Cooper Street,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

2872

000283

61

G.219-3.

3rd December, 1938.

Dear Colonel McGibbon:

1. It was very kind of you to write to me on November 29th, and to take the trouble to give the details you have kindly furnished.

2. These have very largely filled in the gap in our story of both the buttons and also of the crest of the Force.

3. I thank you once again for your kind help and co-operation, and hope that you will long be spared to enjoy your retirement.

Yours faithfully,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Lt. Col. J. A. McGibbon,  
Apartment 104,  
975 Chilco Street,  
Vancouver, B.C.

GG/L.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
"Depot" Division.

62

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

DIV. FILE No. ....

Regina, Sask. Dec. 3rd, 1938.

H. Q. FILE No. G. 219-3.

PERSONAL:

My dear George:

I received your personal letter of the 24th, and was indeed pleased to hear from the sanctum-sanctorum, and to know that you are getting along well.

These days we are all looking for news. Rumours are not so numerous as they once were, but we are all wondering who will take the Lord High Admiral's residence on the corner of the Square. Probably before receipt of this letter the news will be out.

I have had photographs taken of the sabretache, but the crest was all polished therefore did not come out very well in the photograph. I am having another one taken so that it will show all detail, and will forward the same to you the moment it is completed.

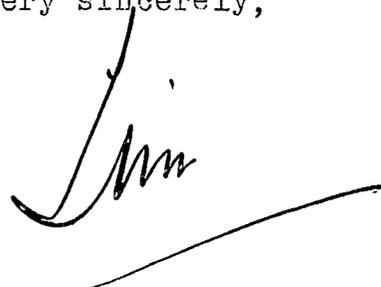
No doubt you received the three buttons I forwarded to you some time ago. One in particular, with the N.W.M.P, the Queen's Crown and *Canada* was very interesting.

I will look over a quantity of the stuff in the way of crests, have them photographed and sent to you for record.

Sir Frederick Haultain sent me some photographs just ~~lately~~, which I have put in the Museum. One he thought was a photograph of A/Commr. Herchmer, who is also wearing a sabre and sabretache, but on close examination under the glass, I find that the sabretache has an artillery crest upon it. Therefore I am afraid it is probably a photograph of a military officer during the Rebellion.

With best wishes to yourself, Mrs. Hann and the family.

Yours very sincerely,



G.T. Hann, Esq.,  
Departmental Secretary,  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

63

G. 219-3.

5th December, 1938.

Dear Major Hoodie:

1. It was very kind of you to send me your letter of November 30th, and I thank you sincerely for the information it contains, which will be of considerable assistance to me.

2. I trust that you will long be spared to enjoy your retirement, and I take this opportunity of wishing you a Merry Christmas and a most Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Major J. D. Hoodie,  
P. O. Box 238,  
Duncan, B.S.

GH/S.

64

G.219-3.

5th December, 1938.

Dear Sir:

1. We have been doing some research work into the history of the crest and motto of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a replica of which will be seen at the top of this letter.

2. It is considered more than likely, at this Headquarters, that the first Commissioner of the Force, Col. G. A. French, who afterwards became Major General Sir G. A. French, K.C.M.G., at the termination of his services in Australia, is the Officer who was responsible for drafting the crest, and selecting the motto, somewhere between the years 1874 and 1877.

3. If the surmise, in the preceding paragraph is correct, there is a possibility that Colonel French, either on his return to England in 1876 or thereabouts, may have asked the College of Arms or Heralds in London, to register the crest, or he may have written from Canada, making such a request.

4. We shall, therefore, very much appreciate it, if you can conveniently have an enquiry made at the above mentioned College to ascertain whether they have any record of the crest of the Force, which was then known as the North West Mounted Police.

5. If there is any record of registration, we should, of course, very much like to secure full particulars, and if there is any fee, will you kindly pay it, on behalf of this Force, and send me an account, in due course.

Yours very truly,

S. T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

The Secretary to the  
High Commissioner for Canada,  
Canada House,  
Trafalgar Square,  
London, England.

GN/L.

65

G.219-3

6th. December, 1938.

PERSONAL

Major T. H. Irvine,  
Officer Commanding,  
"Depot" Division,  
Regina, Sask.

Dear Major Irvine:-

It was very good of you indeed to write me on Dec. 3rd., and to so kindly have arranged to have the photographs of the crest of the Force on the sabretache at Regina, taken, and I shall look forward to receiving them later with great interest.

Yes, thank you very much, we received the buttons which you mention. These form a very important link in our chain of evidence.

I should like to make one more request of you, if I may, and that is: have you an old-time helmet at Regina, bearing a crest of the Force? If so, may I trouble you further to have it photographed also, and when that has been done, I think it will be the last trouble we shall put you to.

As far as our records go, it seems the first helmet badges were issued about 1897, and if we can secure a photograph of one, we shall indeed, be grateful.

By this time, you will know that Asst. Commissioner C. D. LaNauze is coming to you.

Thanking you for the trouble you have so kindly taken, and hoping that you will be able to furnish us with a photograph of a helmet badge.

With every good wish to Mrs. Irvine and yourself and family,

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
"Depot" Division.

L.H. 3A

66

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

DIV. FILE No.....

H. Q. FILE No. G. 219-3.....

Regina, Sask. Dec. 6th, 1938.

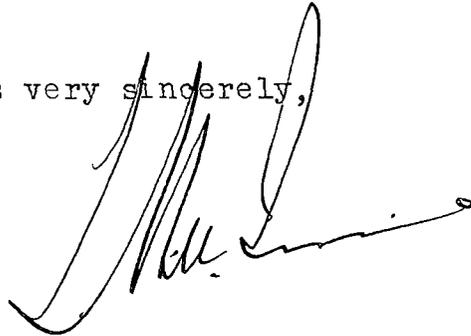
PERSONAL:

My dear George:

I am enclosing herewith, photographs of the crest on the sabretache, which is a considerable improvement over the first one I had taken and, as you see, gives all the details.

If you wish any more of these photographs, please let me know and I will have them completed.

Yours very sincerely,



G.T. Hann, Esq.,  
Departmental Secretary,  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

000289

67

G.219-3

7th. December, 1938.

Dear Sir,

1. Referring to my letter of the 5th. Dec., with respect to the history of the crest and motto of the R.C.M. Police.

2. I have been informed recently that Messrs. Hobson & Son, 94 Street, Martin Lane, London, Eng., is the firm which made the first Officers' badges and crests for their sabretaches in 1877, and it will be very much appreciated if you will kindly let me know if this firm is still in existence.

Yours very truly,

S. T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

The Secretary to the High  
Commissioner for Canada,  
Canada House,  
Trafalgar Square,  
London, Eng. GH/AB

000290

68

*Copied only*

G. 517-47.

7th December, 1938.

Dear Sir:

1. I thank you for your letter of December 4th, and for the efforts you made in keeping the picture "Heart of the North" within reasonable limits.

2. I quite understand that you cannot have your own way in every item of detail.

3. I wish you success in "Susannah of the Mounties".

4. With regard to the motto of the Force, "Maintiens le Droit", we are still having research made regarding the motto and crest of the Force, and at the present time I shall not say more than, it is known that the crest and motto of the Force practically as it is today, was worn by Officers of the Force on their sabretache and also on the field glass pouch, in ~~1877~~ 1877

5. As you no doubt know, collar badges, bearing the crest and motto of the Force, were not worn until about the year 1900.

6. Insofar as the helmet badge is concerned, we are endeavouring to secure a photographic copy of this, which was used for the first time in 1897. *by two men (officers had helped photo from the beginning according to Major Steele)*

7. I quite realize that this information is rather scanty, but it may fill your needs for the present.

8. Thanking you for your kind wishes for Christmas and the New Year, which are heartily reciprocated.

Yours very truly,

S. T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

H. Bruce C. Carruthers, Esq.,  
5155 So. Wilton Place,  
Los Angeles, California,  
U. S. A.  
CH L.

"E" DIVISION.  
C.I.B.

69  
L.H. 3A

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

DIV. FILE No.....

VANCOUVER, B.C.

H. Q. FILE No..... G.219-3.....

December 8th, 1938.....

PERSONAL:

G.T. Hann Esq., M.B.E.,  
Departmental Secretary,  
R.C.M. Police,  
OTTAWA, Ont.

Dear Mr. Hann:-

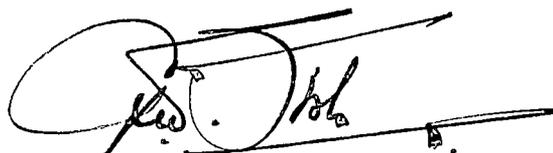
Superintendent Hill is at present absent from the City on duty. Before he left he shewed me your personal letter to him, and requested me to reply to same, when the photograph you asked for had been completed.

General Perry kindly loaned us the N.W.M.P. crest of 1877, taken from an officer's sabretache, and Corporal Haywood of the C.I.B. here, took a photograph of it.

Enclosed herewith are two prints from the negative, which shew the crest and motto very plainly, and I trust will be suitable for your purpose. The photo is approximately natural size.

No expense was incurred.

Yours sincerely,



(G.W. Fish), Insp.  
In Charge C.I.B.

70

C.219-3

9th. December, 1938.

PERSONAL

Major T. H. Irvine,  
Officer Commanding,  
R.C.M. Police,  
"Depot" Division,  
Regina, Sask.

My dear Major Irvine:-

I was delighted to received  
your letter of the 6th. enclosing three photo-  
graphs of the crest of the Force on the sabre-  
to che.

These photographs are very  
important, and I thank you sincerely for the  
trouble you have kindly taken.

If I can reciprocate at any  
time, I do hope you will not hesitate to ask.

With best wishes to you and  
Mrs. Irvine,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

71

G. 575-1.  
G. 219-3.

9th December, 1938.

Memorandum for,

Insp. W. W. Watson,  
Officer in charge,  
Finger Print Section.

Dear Inspector Watson:

1. I am doing some investigation for the Commissioner, respecting collar badges, etc.
2. Will you kindly have a negative made of each of the two collections of badges and buttons enclosed, herewith, and have six prints of each made, returning all to me in due course.
3. As the two collections of buttons enclosed, are not my property, but belong to Mr. Bertram Fauvel, it will be appreciated if you will take every care of them.
4. The Commissioner is aware of my making this request, and has approved of it.
5. If possible, I should like the photographs to be of the same size as the originals.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

72

C.219-3

12th. December, 1938.

Personal.

Dear Captain Fish,

I thank you sincerely for your letter of December 8th., forwarding me the photograph of the crest on the sabretache, now in the possession of General Perry.

I shall write to General Perry thanking him, and also to Superintendent Hill, and I shall appreciate very much if you will kindly thank Corporal Haywood for me.

Last, but not least, I thank you sincerely for all the trouble you have taken, and I hope that if I can reciprocate at any time, you will not fail to ask me.

Again, thanks very much.

Yours sincerely,

Captain G.W. Fish,  
R.C.M. Police,  
Vancouver, B.C.

GH/AB

Departmental Secretary.

73

G.219-3.

December 12th, 1938.

Dear General Perry:

We have now received the photograph of the motto and crest taken from the Officer's sabretache in your possession, and we are delighted with it, and in case you have not been furnished with a copy and would like to have it, I enclose one.

This is very much like the photograph of a similar crest secured from our Museum at Regina, but yours has the advantage of dating from 1877, only three years after the inception of the Force.

Thanking you again for all your kindness, and wishing you a very happy Christmas and a most prosperous New Year, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Major General A. Bowen Perry, C.M.G.,  
6288 Marguerite Street,  
Vancouver, B.C.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH:RW.

000296

74

G.219-3.

December 12th, 1938.

Personal

Dear Major Hill:

I want to thank you sincerely for being so kind as to ask Inspector Fish to arrange for the photograph of the crest and motto of the Force on the sabretache in the possession of General Perry, which dates back to 1877.

Captain Fish has kindly sent me the photographs, and they are excellent, and I have asked him to thank Corporal Haywood for his work. I am also much obliged to Captain Fish.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for your kindness in this matter, and if you ever find that I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to ask.

Again thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

J. H. Hill, M.C.,  
Deputy Commander,  
R.C.M. Police,  
Vancouver, B.C.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH:RW.

75

December 12th, 1938.

Memorandum for:

Inspector W. W. Watson,  
I/C Finger Print Section.

1. Attached are two photographs of the crest and motto of the Force, reproductions from actual crests on Officers' sabretaches of the old days.

2. In connection with the research we are carrying out for the Commissioner, I would like to secure new negatives for these photographs and one dozen prints of each.

GE'RW.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

76

C O P Y O F

F I L E 92 of 1880.

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Copy of File 92 of 1880

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Subject</u>
92	Supplies 1880-81	Uniform Buttons Messrs. Maynard Harris & Co. 30 gross large Buttons Buffalo Head 20 " Small " " 20 " " " " N. W.M. P.

78

Copy of File 92 of 1880

<u>Date of Letter &amp; Receipt, 1880</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Page on letter or Telegraph Book</u>
Feb. 23	Memo to Mr. Creighton asking what quantity of uniform buttons he has on hand.	302
" 25/26	Reply none but that he requires 6 gross for clothing already made up.	
" 26	Letter to Maynard Harris & Co. ordering buttons as per opposite page.	318
Mar. 10/24	Letter from Maynard & Co. acknowledging receipt.	
Apl. 12	20 gross buttons small N.W.M. Police received.	
" 13	Buttons sent to Mr. Creighton.	631
" 22 ) May 7 )	Invoice of balance of buttons received.	
Aug. 13	Bill of Exchange sent in payment of A/C.	466

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79

G.601-4.

M E M O R A N D U M

1. The following Departments of the Federal Government have kindly made searches for information respecting the Royal Canadian Mounted Police crest and motto:-

- (1) Privy Council - No evidence.
- (2) Archives - No evidence.
- (3) Secretary of State - No evidence.
- (4) Secretary of State Library - No evidence.
- (5) Department of National Defence - No evidence.

2. Most of these searches were made at the request of Mr. H.W. Doyle, of the Secretary of State Department, as a result of our letter to that Department.

3. Of course, the search in the Privy Council was made at the request of the Commissioner, but Mr. Doyle is responsible for those made in the Archives, the Secretary of State filing system, and the Secretary of State library, as well as in the Department of National Defence.

4. Mr. Doyle suggests that we might visit the Parliamentary Library, and ask them to let us see what records they have on the matter, if any.

5. We have already written to the College of Heralds in London.



G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

000302

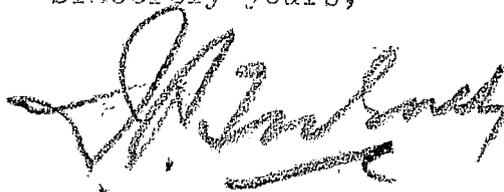
81

-2-

late 1874 and I would be inclined to think that the crest was adopted soon afterwards. At Christmas that year, Crozier ornamented the entrance to the barracks with a motto etc., and is it not possible that a suitable crest may have come up for discussion at that time? Crozier's Christmas motto read: "The Pioneers Of A Glorious Future."

I am indeed sorry that I cannot throw more light on the subject. Such little as I have been able to give above is for the use of the Force records only. I find that considerable valuable information given to the late Sir James MacBrian was used by Featherstonhaugh in the book he published a year ago.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. P. Turner', written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

J. P. Turner.

JPT/GM

000303

82

G.219-3.

14th December, 1938.

Dear Sir:

1. It was very kind of you to send me your letter of the 13th December, in connection with the motto and crest of the Force, and I sincerely thank you for the trouble you have taken.

2. The opinions of Commissioner Perry and Colonel Sanders and others differ with that expressed by you, and I think you will agree that if the crest was adopted soon after 1874, which is what we think, it then would have been during Colonel French's commissionership.

3. Some time when you have a few minutes to spare and you are coming this way, I should esteem it a favour if you would tell me what information you mean was disclosed to Mr. Fetherstonhaugh.

4. Thanking you once again for your kindness and hoping that if I can be of any service to you, you will not fail to ask me.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

J. P. Turner, Esq.,  
117 Copper St.,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Banff. Alberta.

83

Your Ref.No.-G.219-3

15th.December.1938

From Fred A.Bagley  
To G.T.Hann,Esq.,M.B.E.  
R.C.M.P.,Ottawa.Ont.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of recent date asking for information re buttons, etc., worn by the "originals" of the Force, I beg to say that it is rather difficult to remember all the little details of the uniforms of nearly 65 years ago.

However; attached hereto is a description of the uniforms, etc., issued in 1873 and 1874, which, I hope, may be of some use to you.

You, of course, have access to the files in the record office, and I have no doubt that your statement as to changes in the crest, collar badges, and motto of the Force, etc., is correct - except that, as we were at that time under the Militia Department for administration purposes, our buttons were all of "Canada Militia" pattern.

I cannot say, at this late date, when the first "N.W.M.P." buttons were issued.

I have been under the impression that the "Tudor" crown was taken in to use before I left the Force in 1899, but I am, most likely, wrong in this.

Helmet plates were issued, and worn for the first time, by the Diamond Jubilee Contingent in London England in the year 1897.

In those old days of '73 and '74 very little attention was given to the matter of smart uniforms, the apparent policy of the authorities being to unload their surplus Militia uniforms and equipment on to us.

The completion of the '74 march found our 000305

uniforms little better than rags and tatters, and we were under the necessity of buying clothes for ourselves at the H.B.Co's trading posts, and later on of making our own from deer skins purchased from Indians.

(1)

You may, perhaps, find the undermentioned copies of entries in my diary both interesting and amusing:-

" 14th. NOVEMBER, 1874 (Sat.) - I rode out to the hay field (from camp on Snake Creek) this morning and had dinner there. After dinner Sergt. C. Thompson and I walked several miles, through deep snow, from camp to Barracks(?) On arrival there found that my toes were frozen. 28 degrees below zero. Tough on the men cutting hay in the snow covered swamps. The "uniform" of Trumpeter Fred A. Bagley, of the North West Mounted Police Force at the present moment consists of rough red shirt; with moleskin (barndoor) trousers; brogan shoes, and long stockings all miles too big for him, topped off with a disreputable helmet. Ichabod. The glory has departed".

(2)

" 7th. JULY. 1875 - General parade of "E" Troop for inspection by Colonel French. The Troop, for this parade, donned their best "uniforms", which consisted largely of deer skin jackets and trousers, all profusely befringed; large fur (fox) caps, the fox tails hanging down the backs of the men wearing the caps; with here and there through the ranks a remnant of a scarlet tunic showing.

Colonel French rides to the parade ground, accosts one who appears to be the chief bandit, and indicating the "E" Troop ragamuffins enquires :- "What is this Captain Carvell ? ", and is answered with "My Troop Sir, paraded, as per your orders, for inspection by you ." One fierce look, and a hasty "Good G-D-" from the Colonel, and then whirling his thoroughbred mare he is off like a shot. The parade is immediately dismissed."

I am sorry that I cannot add very much to the knowledge already possessed by you.

Yours faithfully

*Fred A. Bagley*

N.W.M.P.1874.

Bagley (3)

85

Dress of Officers & other ranks.

In the year 1874 there did not appear to be any distinctive dress or uniform for Officers. Many of them wore the uniforms of the various Militia units in which they had served prior to joining the Force, and they presented a slightly nondescript appearance: on parade: For instance:-Major Walsh wore a short, dark blue cavalry jacket trimmed (frogged) with braid. After 1874 (I do not remember the exact date) a scarlet Hussar uniform was prescribed for Officers; the tunic trimmed (frogged) with gold braid; the sword belt and slings thereof, and the cross belt and pouches richly gold embroidered. (The sabretache was of black patent leather, with a silver buffalo head, and the motto of the Force thereon.) This was topped off by a white helmet with plumes of various colours - according to rank. The undress uniform for Officers consisted of scarlet patrol jacket trimmed back and front with gold braid. The forage cap ("pill box") was of blue cloth, trimmed with gold braid.

N.C.O's and men.

TUNIC:- Scarlet "Norfolk" jacket, without facings or trimmings, with open, roll collar, two breast pockets, and two skirt pockets lined with heavy moleskin. White collar and black tie.

FORAGE CAP:- Blue cloth ("pill box") with white band and button. No gold lace (except chevrons and rank badges) was worn by N.C.O's in 1874.

HELMET:- Cork. White. No spike or front badge. Leather chin strap.

PUGRI:- Of yellowish, muslin like material, wound several times around the helmet, with loose ends hanging behind the head.

OVERALLS:- Dark blue cloth, with double white stripes down the outside seams. (Military Train.)

CLOAK & CAPE:- Dark blue cloth, lined with scarlet serge. English cavalry style.

FATIGUE JACKET:- Of unbleached cotton, with "Canada Militia" brass buttons.

SADDLE:- "Universal", British Army pattern.

CARBINE:- Short Snider Enfield.

SIDEARMS:- Adams Revolver.

LANCES:- A special Troop, organised temporarily, carried lances during part of the march across the Great Plains in order, apparently, to impress any Indians we might meet.

FLINT & STEEL:- Nearly every man carried flints and steel in his "fire bag" during the early days of the Force. This was not an "issue", and was voluntary on the part of the men.

NOTE:- We '74 men wore "Norfolk" jackets - as stated above - but when we arrived at Dufferin we found the '73 men ("A" "B" & "C" Troops) wearing scarlet serge frocks with dark blue cuffs and collars, with "Canada Militia" brass buttons. This was the uniform of the Toronto Military School. During a few years immediately following the year 1874 we were issued, at various times riding breeches of (1) grey tweed; (2) Buckskin; (3) Bedford cord; (4) Moleskin. Also, at one time our overalls were of Horse Artillery pattern, with broad red stripes, and black leather strapping.

86

G.219-3.

December 16th, 1938.

Memorandum for:

Inspector W.W. Watson,  
I/C Finger Print Section,  
Ottawa.

1. I enclose sample of buttons and crests of the Force which the Commissioner desires to have photographed.
2. Will you please have a negative made and furnish twelve prints of about the same size as the attached sample.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH:BB.

000308

87



*Decy 15-11*

*G 219-3*

OFFICE OF THE R. 267/HC/38.  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA,  
CANADA HOUSE,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

19th December, 1938.

Dear Sir,

430673 DEC3138

I have received your letter dated 5th December No. 110692 reference G.219-3 regarding research into the history of the Crest and Motto of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In reply I may say that I have had pleasure in taking up the question raised in your letter with the College of Arms in London and I shall forward any information received from that authority.

Yours very truly,

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Secretary.

The Commissioner,  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
OTTAWA,  
C A N A D A.

G.219-3

20th. December, 1938.

Dear Major Bagley:

1. It was very kind of you, indeed, to take all the trouble you did in sending me your letter of December 15th.

2. I appreciate your kind assistance very much, and the details you have so kindly furnished will fill in large gaps in our records.

3. You have particularly cleared up the question of the helmet which has assisted me very much.

4. Wishing you a very happy Christmas and a most prosperous 1939. Thanking you once again, and hoping that you will long be spared to enjoy your retirement.

Yours faithfully,

Major F. A. Bagley,  
Barr, Alta. (P.O. Box 435)

G.T. Hanna,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH/EB

89

*Handwritten:* 15-11



*Handwritten:* 9219-3

OFFICE OF THE R. 267/HC/38.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA,

CANADA HOUSE,

LONDON, S.W.1.

22nd December, 1938.

Dear Sir,

1186 JAN 3-39

In reply to your letter dated 7th December No. 111914 ref.No.G.219-3 regarding the history of the Crest and Motto of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, I may say that the firm of Messrs.Hobson & Son formerly of 94 Martin Lane, London, is still in existence and is now known as Messrs.Hobson and Son (London) Ltd., Head Office 154-164 Tooley Street, London Bridge, S.E.1.

This Company which was founded in 1850 is well-known as a firm of Army, Navy and Police Clothing Contractors, Hat and Accoutrement Manufacturers etc., and has a West End Branch at 1-5 Lexington Street, Golden Square, London, W. (Telegrams : "Embroidance, Piccy, London").

/Messrs.

The Commissioner,  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
C A N A D A.

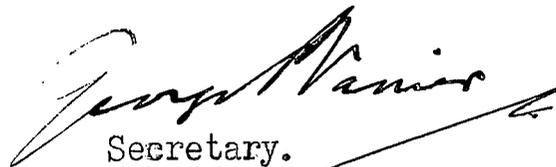
90

- 2 -

Messrs. Hobson & Sons are on the War,  
Admiralty and Air Force Lists as Government  
Contractors.

Mr. Donald Brown of Messrs Hobson & Son  
advises me that his firm left their Martin Lane  
premises in 1879 and after making some search for the  
records of the supply of Badges and Crests for the use  
of officers of the Royal North West Mounted Police  
in 1877, Mr. Brown regretted that he could not find  
particulars of this order.

Yours faithfully,

  
Secretary.

91

G.219-3.  
S.F.247.

29th December, 1938.

Dear Major Bagley:

1. Mr. G. T. Hann, the Departmental Secretary, informs me that you have kindly assisted him, recently, in connection with the early history of the Force, particularly dealing with the crest and motto of the Force.
2. Hann mentioned that you sent him a couple of interesting extracts from your diary, which you kept during your service in the Force.
3. From a historical point of view your diary, particularly of the early days, I am sure must be intensely interesting and I am wondering if you would be willing to loan it to us in order that we might make a typewritten copy of it for our Museum at Regina.
4. If you can see your way to comply with our request, I will ask the Officer Commanding at Calgary to interview you and to send the diary to me by registered mail and I could return it in the same manner, as soon as it has been copied. I shall very much appreciate hearing from you when you have had time to consider the matter.
5. Wishing you a most prosperous New Year and trusting that you will still have many years yet in which to enjoy your retirement.

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

Major F. A. Bagley,  
P.O. Box 435,  
Banff, Alberta.

92

G.219-3.

30th December, 1938.

Memorandum for,

Inspector W. W. Watson.  
-----

1. The Commissioner desires to have a photograph of the attached crest. If you could have it magnified about half as much again, it would be very much clearer.
2. Will you please furnish me with the negative and about 12 prints, and greatly oblige.

Yours very truly,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GW/T.



Mont-Edwards Apt  
Diaperia B C  
30 Dec 1985

My dear Hans

You told me you had me here, but came away from the CDA for a change, as I had spent 55 weeks in the West without seeing a woman. Besides I thought a change was in order and I must say I am enjoying it.

I remember your great letter and was very pleased to hear from you. Anything touching with the past always appeals to me. I am sorry to say in this instance I am unable to be any service to you. I do not know anything about it and cannot find out anything from the I have asked, but expected by this time you have got the information as I saw in Scoble's & Co's some reference to it.

I have not seen ex Capt. Moffat yet but when I do I will ask him about it. I think he is the ideal one to see about the retired officers also. I think his home address was bought by the government and is now the City of Regina.

Wishing you a happy & prosperous New Year  
Yours sincerely  
Robert Macpherson

94

*Copy*

G. 838-8

31st December, 1938.

The Officer Commanding,  
"Depot" Division,  
R. C. M. Police,  
Regina, Sask.

Old General Orders.  
-----

1. The oldest extant General Orders here do not go back earlier than 1885.
2. It has occurred to me that you may have some earlier volume or volumes at Regina. If so, will you please let me know what they are and how far back they go.
3. It is presumed that any you may now have are likely in the Museum there.

S. T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

GH/L.



95

G.219-3

4th. January, 1938. <sup>9</sup>

Dear Sir:-

1. I am very much obliged to you for your letter of the 22nd. December, 1938 - your fyle R.267/HC/38 - dealing with the firm of Messrs. Hobson & Son, formerly of 94 Martin Lane, London, England, and now known as Messrs. Hobson and Son (London) Ltd., Head Office 154-164 Tooley Street, London Bridge, S.E.1. England.

2. The trouble you have taken to endeavour to have this firm trace previous correspondence with respect to Crests for Officers of the Northwest Mounted Police about the year 1877, is very much appreciated.

3. It is also desired to thank you for your letter of the 19th. December, in which you kindly state that you have already taken up with the College of Arms in London the question of research for the Crests and Mottos of this Force, and which I referred to in my letter of the 5th. December last.

Yours very truly,

The Secretary,  
High Commissioner for Canada,  
Canada House,  
London, S.W.1.  
England.

ST/AB

S.T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

96

G.219-3.

5th January, 1939.

Dear Major Pennefather:

1. It was very kind of you to write to me on the 30th of December, 1938, and although you have no personal knowledge of the matters I mentioned, nevertheless, I desire to thank you sincerely for having mentioned Ex-Superintendent Moffatt, as I had not thought of him. I shall, therefore, write to him, today.

2. Thank you also for your kind wishes for 1939, which are fully and heartily reciprocated for you and yours.

3. I trust you will continue to enjoy your stay in British Columbia, and that you will retain your good health. Thanking you again.

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Major G. W. Pennefather,  
Mount Edward Apartment,  
VICTORIA, B.C.

GH, L.

97

G.21903.  
P.31.

5th January, 1939.

Dear Mr. Moffatt:

1. I sincerely trust that you will forgive me for bothering you, but lately I have been conducting some research into the origin of the Mounted Police crest and motto, and am writing to as many of the retired officers as I can.
2. The general opinion is that the crest and motto of the Force were instituted during the regime of the first Commissioner, Colonel George French.
3. It is not known who actually chose the Buffalo head or the motto, and I shall much appreciate it if you will kindly express an opinion, or tell me what you may have heard, regarding these matters, in the past.
4. I am also anxious to secure a photograph of the helmet plate formerly used by the Officers of the Force on their white helmets. I quite realize that there were no helmet plates for a number of years, but if by chance you have a photograph which shows the helmet plate, I should be most grateful if you will kindly lend it to me, and I will see that it is returned to you by registered mail.
5. The Non-Commissioned Officers and men did not wear helmet plates or badges until about 1897, and then only had them for a few years, and if you also happen to have a photograph showing the men's helmet badge or plate, I should appreciate it very much if you will kindly lend that, also, to me.
6. The Commissioner of the Force knows that I am writing to you in this matter, and as you are one of the oldest, if not the oldest Officer alive, I hope you will be able to spare the time to give me the information I have asked for, or to let me know your opinion.
7. I should like to add that I hope you will continue in good health for many years to come, and to send best wishes for a most prosperous 1939. Apologizing for troubling you.

G. B. Moffatt, Esq.,  
931 Transit Road,  
Victoria, B.C.

Yours faithfully,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

98

9219-3 -

*Janey 15-11*



OFFICE OF THE R. 267/HC/38.  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA,  
CANADA HOUSE,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

13th January, 1939.

20540 JAN 23 39 (3)

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter dated 5th December regarding research work into the history of the Crest and Motto of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as given at the top of your letter, I may say that I have now received a letter from the Somerset Herald and Registrar of the College of Arms, London, informing me that there appears to be no record in the College of Arms of your Badge.

The Registrar adds that -

"It is not very heraldic in character and I do not think it was designed here. Perhaps if any alteration in the design is anticipated, I could be of assistance. Registration in the College of Arms might also be effected."

Yours faithfully,

*J M Pearson*  
Secretary.

The Commissioner,  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
C A N A D A.

k

99

931 Transit Road,  
Victoria, B.C.  
14th January, 1939.

The Commissioner,  
R.C. Mounted Police,  
Ottawa.

Sir,

Referring to your letter C 219-3, P.31,  
I regret that I am unable to give you any definite  
information concerning the matters referred to  
therein.

The crest and motto of the Force must, I think,  
have been decided upon and adopted at the time of its  
organization, for when I enlisted in 1878 I remember  
that the sabretaches and field glass cases of the  
officers bore them. I believe that the helmets of the  
officers in the beginning had a plate and also a plume  
but I do not remember even having seen an officer in  
full dress uniform during my three years ' service in  
the ranks, nor did I know of helmet plates being in  
use by other officers or N.C.O's & men during my service  
as a commissioned Officer.

Yours truly,

Geo. B. Moffatt.

100

L.H. 3A

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
"Depot" Division.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

DIV. FILE No.....

H. Q. FILE No..G.219-3.....

..Regina, Sask. Jan. 16th, 1939.

PERSONAL:

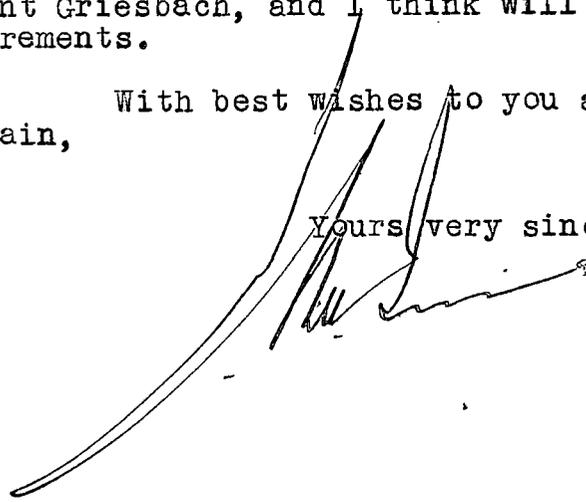
George T. Hann, Esq.,  
Departmental Secretary,  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

My dear George:

With further reference to your letter of December 6th, 1938. I enclose herewith, photographs of an early police Officer's Helmet and Badge. This was the Helmet of the late Superintendent Griesbach, and I think will fill your requirements.

With best wishes to you and your family,  
I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over the typed name 'Yours very sincerely,'. The signature is cursive and appears to be 'W. J. ...'.

000322

101

G.219-3  
P.31

18th. January, 1939 .

Dear Mr. Moffatt:-

1. It was very kind of you to send us your letter of the 14th. January, with respect to the crest and motto of the Force and of your recollections regarding their use.
2. Your letter has helped to establish what other Officers have already stated, and we are grateful to you for the information.
3. I trust you will long be spared to continue to enjoy your retirement, and that you will forgive me for troubling you.

Yours faithfully,

G. B. Moffatt, Esq.,  
931 Transit Road,  
Victoria, B.C.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH/3B

000323

102

G.219-3.

January 19th, 1939.

Personal

Dear Colonel Irvine:

I was very glad to receive your letter of January 16th, forwarding a photograph of the helmet of the late Superintendent Griesbach, etc.

Your kindness and assistance in this matter is very much appreciated and helps to fill in gaps which would otherwise have had to be left blank.

Thanking you again,  
and with best wishes to you and yours,

Yours very sincerely,

Lt. Colonel T.H. Irvine,  
Officer Commanding,  
"Depot" Division,  
R.C.M. Police,  
Regina, Sask.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH'RW.

103

G.219-3.

January 19th, 1939.

Dear Major Bagley:

1. I wonder if I may bother you once more. I have a good photograph of an Officer's helmet badge used in the early days, but I have been unable to secure one of any helmet badge used by Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables, which as you know were worn and issued for the first time by the Diamond Jubilee Contingent. Have you by any chance a photograph of any kind which shows the helmet badge on a helmet worn by any Non-Commissioned Officer around 1897, which you would be kind enough to loan me for reproduction.

2. Apologizing for troubling you again,

Yours faithfully,

Major F.A. Bagley,  
P.O. Box 435,  
Banff, Alta.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH'RW.

000325

104

G.575-1.

January 19th, 1939.

Memorandum for:

Inspector W.W. Watson,  
I/C Finger Print Section,  
R.C.M. Police Headquarters.

1. I attach four photographs showing an Officer's helmet and helmet plate of the old days, which have been received from the R.C.M. Police Museum at Regina.

2. I desire new negatives to be taken of these photographs and to be reproduced exactly the same size. One dozen prints of each is required, together with the new negatives. It is also desired that the type-written information at the bottom of each photograph be included in the new negative and prints.

GH:RW.

S. T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

000326

105

G. 575-1

19th. January, 1939.

Memo. for Inspector W.W. Watson,  
In charge of the Finger Print Section.  
-----

1. The Departmental Secretary is bringing you an Officer's cap for the purpose of having the cap badge photographed.
2. It is desired that Special Constable Dickson photograph this cap badge at close range, but not having any greater dimensions than 4 inches wide.
3. I should also like to have a photograph of the cap and badge with the camera at a greater distance from the object, but placed in such a manner as to give the details of the badge.
4. Please furnish a negative and 12 prints of each position.
5. I attach slips of paper which I should like to be included in the photographs.

GH/AB

S.T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

G.219-3.  
S.235-2.

January 25th, 1939.

Dear Sir:

1. For sometime I have been doing some research in connection with the crest and motto of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

2. In my enquiries I have noticed that for many years now the Officer's cap badge of this Force has not contained the motto of the Force, namely, "Maintiens le droit".

3. I am under the impression that this state of affairs has existed for many years, and I have wondered if you would be so kind as to search your records to see if you ever furnished cap badges to Officers of this Force which contained the motto above mentioned, and if so, when the change to the present cap badge, without the motto, took place, if possible.

Yours very truly,

The General Superintendent,  
Messrs. J.R. Gaunt & Son,  
616 LaGauchetiere St., W.,  
Montreal, P.Q.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GE'RW.

107

G.219-3.

January 27th, 1939.

Personal

Dear Colonel Irvine:

I hesitate to be of any further trouble to you, but I have one more question to ask, and it is possible that you may be able to supply the information. It has to do with the Officer's cap badge (non-metallic) which was worn on the wedge-shaped Officer's field cap of the old days. As far as I can see from photographs, this badge did not bear the full crest and motto of the Force, but was very much like the present Officer's cap badge which, as you know, does not bear the motto "Maintiens le droit".

It seems to me that in the old days the Officer's cap badge bore no motto, and this has been repeated all down the Force's history.

I wondered if you had any non-metallic Officer's cap badge in the Museum at Regina, particularly one on an Officer's field service cap of the old days. If so, will you tell me if it bears the motto. There is no need to photograph it.

I am sorry to bother you again, but I would like to clear up this point if it is at all possible.

With kindest regards and apologizing for troubling you further,

Yours sincerely,

Lt. Col. T.H. Irvine,  
Officer Commanding,  
"Depot" Division,  
Regina, Sask.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH'RW.

108

Memorandum re Officers' Cap Badges  
-----

So far we have not been able to definitely establish whether the old time Officers wore a cap badge with a full crest, including the motto on their forage caps.

The photographs at R.C.M. Police Headquarters usually show the pictures of the badge at a tangent, and it is difficult to see whether the motto of the Force is included in the badge. At first glance, it certainly seems that those worn by Commissioner Herchmer and Commissioner Irvine did not have any motto, and certainly those worn in the photograph of Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Starnes and General Sir James MacBrien had no motto.

In the Rules and Regulations of 1938, 1928, and 1909, the Officer's cap badge is described but in each case the garter with the motto "Maintiens le droit" is not mentioned.

This badge, of course, is the only non-metallic badge bearing the crest of the Force, and the motto was either omitted in the early days and has simply been repeated ever since, or the motto was omitted for a purpose. Perhaps the question of cost, although the Master Tailor, S/Sergt. Hay, seems to think the garter containing the motto would not add very much to the cost of the Officer's cap badge.

-----  
GH'RW.



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109

# J. R. GAUNT & SON (CANADA) COMPANY, LIMITED

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MANUFACTURING SILVERSMITHS AND ART METAL WORKERS

27th January 1939.

G.T. Hann, Esq.,  
Departmental Secretary,  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,

Your Reference Nos. G.219-3. & S.235-2.

Replying to your favour of the 25th instant, we beg to say that on September 29th 1933 we were requested by Mr. Zivian, your Purchasing Agent, to go into the question of a new design for the cap badge, and during October of that year we submitted two designs, the one selected, and approved in November of that year, being our No. 08066.

This design was similar to the old badge, except that the circular shaped buffalo head was replaced by an oval bearing the motto of the Force, and with a more prominent buffalo head. Since that time, any badges we have supplied have been of the new design:

We are aware that some of the old pattern badges are still in use, and this information is gained from caps sent to be altered, or to have the peaks changed when a change in rank has taken place.

Samples of both badges can be forwarded for your further information, if so desired.

Yours faithfully,

J. R. GAUNT & SON (CANADA) CO. LIMITED.

GFF/B

110

G.219-3.

28th January, 1939.

Dear Sir:

1. Please accept my thanks for your letter of the 27th of January, with respect to the Officer's cap badge. This is just the information I desired and I appreciate your kind co-operation very much.

2. Mr. Zivian will likely be asking you to let us have one of the new badges on loan.

3. Thanking you again.

Yours very truly,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

G. F. Howles, Esq.,  
Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son Co., Ltd.,  
616 LaSalle Street, West,  
Montreal, Quebec.

G.219-3.

28th January, 1939

Personal.

Dear Colonel Irvine:

1. Since writing you on January 27th, I now find that in 1933 a new Officer's cap badge was designed by Messrs. J. R. Gaunt and Son of Montreal, which bears the motto of the Force and has a more prominent Buffalo head, and I thought I should let you know this in order to prevent you from doing too much research in Regina. All I would like to know now is whether the Officer's field cap badge of the old days, and which was non-metallic, bore the motto of the Force.

2. Apologizing for giving you all this trouble.

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Mann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Lt. Col. T. H. Irvine,  
Officer Commanding,  
"Depot" Division,  
R.C.M. Police,  
Regina, Saskatchewan.

Happy and we are going to  
send them back Shidei Nam  
H — and in good spirit  
believe me.

Don't be afraid to  
ask for anything from the  
Museum. we are all  
interested in the work  
and do not consider it  
hard to interest others.

With (4) classes of recruits. (2) of  
the mounted section. (1) 7. div  
refresher class. 22<sup>nd</sup> instruction class  
and the trainees it will  
keep us busy until the K and  
Q have been and gone.

The navy arrived  
yesterday and commenced  
work this morning with the  
'Land lubbers' each being  
detailed to a hammock for  
shore work. Ah; Ah;

However they are all

I have a F. S. Cap  
badges Officers and will  
supply you with all information



The Barracks.  
Regina. Sask.  
30/1/39.

Remember me kindly to  
Mrs Anna & family  
Anarcheta joins me in sending  
our best regards.

Yours Sincerely  
Jim

My dear George.

Very many thanks for  
your kind felicitations, and  
don't think I was not pleased  
to receive the Commissioner's  
wire.

We are exceptionally busy  
these days in depot. There is  
a full day from morning to  
night to keep every piece of the  
machinery working.

114

1st February, 1939.

Memorandum for,

Inspector W.W. Watson,  
i/c Finger Print Section.  
-----

1. I am sending you one new Officer's cap badge, 1933.

2. Will you please have this cap badge photographed and send me a negative and 12 prints. I attach a small typewritten strip which I should like to have included in the photograph, placed under the badge.

S. T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

S.T.W.

15/11/38  
Seery

Banff. Alberta.

115

29th. January. 1939.

Your Ref: G.219-3

32048 FEB - 339

Dear Sir:-

I regret very much that I cannot let you have a helmet badge such as was issued to Non Coms and Constables in the year 1897.

There was one in my possession a few years ago but some admirer of the R.C.M.P. seems to have "swiped" it from me.

Yours faithfully

G.T.Hann, Esquire. O.B.E.  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Ottawa. Ont.

*Fred a. Ogley*

116

G.219-3.

6th February, 1939.

Dear Major Bagley:

1. Please accept my thanks for your letter of January 29th, with respect to the helmet badge worn by Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables in the year 1897.

2. It is to be regretted that we are unable to locate a copy of this badge, but nevertheless, I thank you sincerely for the trouble you have taken.

Yours faithfully,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Major F. A. Bagley,  
P. O. Box 435,  
Banff, Alberta.

GH/L.

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G.219-3.

20th February, 1939.

Dear Col. Irvine:

1. I hesitate to bother you further, but if you have an Officer's field service cap badge in the Museum at Regina, will you be so good as to have it photographed and send me the negative and a couple of prints, or if this is too much, just send me one print, without the negative, and I will have a new negative made here.

2. I know you are very busy, and I am sorry to have to make this further request, but I do think that this will be my last request regarding cap badges.

3. With kindest regards and apologizing for troubling you again.

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Colonel T. H. Irvine,  
Officer Commanding,  
"Depot" Division,  
Regina, Sask.

118

L.H. 3

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
"Depot" Division.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

DIV. FILE No. \_\_\_\_\_

Regina, Sask. Feb. 25th, 1939.

H. Q. FILE No. G.219-3.

PERSONAL:

My dear George:

We certainly are busy here, but we are building up a place that does the eyes good, and is greatly appreciated by everybody; yet we are not too busy to attend to these requests that you are forwarding.

It is a pleasure to me at the present time to search into this stuff, as it is encouraging, by demonstrating to us the value of our Museum, which is increasing daily.

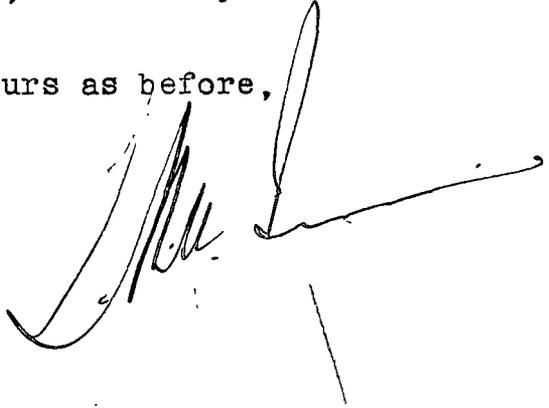
For your information, we have added two new show cases in the last month.

The field service badges, Officers, which we have are metal badges with silver centres. We have none of the gold bullion badges.

These badges are very similar in size to those used on the helmets. However, I will have one photographed and send you a copy with the negative. This is the badge which was donated by the family of the late Asst-Commissioner Wilson.

With best regards, and don't discontinue writing but, "ask and ye shall receive".

Yours as before,



G. T. Hann, Esq.,  
Departmental Secretary,  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

119

G.219-3.

28th February, 1939.

Personal.

Dear Colonel Irvine:

Many thanks for your letter of February 25th, and for your promise to photograph one of the Officer's field service cap badges, and being the one donated by the family of the late Assistant Commissioner Wilson. I am sorry I have been such a bother, but thank you sincerely for your kindness.

With kindest regards to you all.

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

Assistant Commissioner T. H. Irvine,  
"Depot" Division,  
R. C. M. Police,  
Regina, Saskatchewan.

GW/L.

120

G.219-3

16th. March, 1939.

PERSONAL

Asst. Commissioner T. H. Irvine,  
R.C.M. Police,  
Regina, Sask.

Dear Colonel Irvine:

I wonder if you have had time to take the photograph of the Officers' Field Service Cap Badge to which you refer in your letter of February 25th.

You will remember that the one you had in mind was that of the late Asst. Commissioner Wilson.

I much regret being such a nuisance, but I hope you won't mind.

Yours sincerely,

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH/AS

121

L.H. 3A

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
"Depot" Division.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

DIV. FILE No.....

H. Q. FILE No. G. 219-3.....

Regina, Sask. March 25th, 1939.

PERSONAL:

My dear George:

I am enclosing herewith, photographs of the Field Service Cap Badge which was presented to the Museum by the family of the late Assistant-Commissioner Wilson.

The picture has not come out very well as the Badge is pretty well worn through continuous cleaning, although the Buffalo head is just as it appears, which is more like the head of a pomeranian poodle than a buffalo, and is silver soldered into the brass badge.

The circle round the Buffalo head is not a garter, but just a circle with, "North West Mounted Police, Canada.". On the garter underneath are the words, "Maintien le Droit".

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

G.T. Hann, Esq.,  
Departmental Secretary,  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
Ottawa, Ontario.



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G.219-3.

March 28th, 1939.

Personal

Dear Colonel Irvine:

I sincerely appreciate your kindness in sending me the photographs of the field service cap badge which accompanied your kind letter of March 25th.

It is strange to note the idea some Englishmen had of a buffalo head in making some of the badges for this Force.

With kindest regards and best wishes, and once more thanking you for all the trouble you have taken,

Yours sincerely,

Colonel T. H. Irvine,  
Officer Commanding,  
"Depot" Division,  
R.C.M. Police,  
Regina, Sask.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH:RW.

123

G.219-3.

March 28th, 1939.

Memorandum for:

Inspector W. W. Watson,  
I/C Finger Print Section.

1. Attached hereto is a negative of an Officer's cap badge taken from the field service cap of the late Assistant Commissioner Wilson, which is now in the Regina Museum.
2. Please furnish the Secretary with one dozen prints of this badge, which I feel certain could be enlarged a little.
3. If these could be supplied at an early date, it will be much appreciated.

GE'RS.

S. T. Wood,  
Commissioner.

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G.219-3.

28th March, 1939.

Dear General Perry:-

1. May I trouble you with one more question. You were appointed to the Force in January, 1882, and about that time Officers were wearing field service caps which bore a badge, a photograph of which I have, but I should like to know definitely if you can recall whether the field service cap for Officers was in use at the time you joined the Force, if not, can you tell me approximately when this field service cap, for Officers, was first introduced.

2. I am sorry to bother you again in this matter, but I am very anxious to clear up this point, if you will kindly help me.

With kindest regards, and with best wishes to yourself and Mrs. Perry, believe me,

Yours sincerely,



G. T. Hahn,  
Departmental Secretary.

Major General A. Bowen Perry, C.M.G.,  
6288 Marguerite Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C.

G/L.

31 Mar 39

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ATTACHED HERETO IS  
A STORY OF  
THE R.C.M.POLICE CREST  
AND MOTTO,  
GIVING CONSIDERABLE DETAILS  
WITH REGARD THERETO

( U N A B R I D G E D )



G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary

126

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

When did the Force adopt its Crest and Motto?  
-----

This was a question asked of Royal Canadian Mounted Police Headquarters recently, and strange as it may seem, it was not possible to give an immediate and accurate reply, for the reason that the files which would have afforded the most valuable information on this subject were unfortunately destroyed in a fire which occurred in the West Block at Ottawa on the 11th February, 1897.

### Search of early Records

Most of the books and publications dealing with the history of the Force have of course been scrutinized, but with very few exceptions they do not help very much with respect to the question asked. However, there are one or two notable exceptions to this general rule - the history of the Royal North West Mounted Police by Colonel E. J. Chambers, and the book entitled "Riders of the Plains", by A. L. Haydon, which give some details.

The staff of the Central Registry at Headquarters were most diligent and eager in their efforts to locate something of value on this particular subject, but even their hearty co-operation brought very meager results.

### Evidence from Rules and Regulations of the Force

There is no mention whatever of the crest and motto in the very early Rules & Regulations or in the Dress Regulations for either Officers or men. Even "The Regulations and Orders of the North West Mounted Police", dated as late as 1889, include no dress regulations, and consequently give no description of the crest and motto of the Force.

However, in 1890, an Order-in-Council was passed on the 24th January, laying down Dress Regulations for Officers, and which describes the crest and motto in adequate terms, and this will be referred to again later. At this time, the Force had been in existence some 16 years, and up to 1890 matters of dress had been attended to by Departmental Order and by General Order of the Commissioner.

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- 2 -

### General Orders

Unfortunately, there is no copy at this Headquarters of any General Orders of the Commissioner prior to the year 1880. Neither are there any earlier ones at Regina, Sask. Therefore it has not been possible to make as detailed an investigation of this source of information as it had been hoped.

In the opinion of several officers now serving, including the present Commissioner, Brigadier S. T. Wood, who have made research into all existing General Orders for other information, and have earnestly sought for copies of early General Orders in many quarters, there is not now much likelihood of any General Orders being available anywhere for the period from 1874 to 1879.

### Information from other Sources

In these circumstances, it has been necessary to make enquiries covering a fairly extensive field, and it may be of interest to set down in writing, for future reference, what information is now available, and how and where it was obtained.

In the first place, it was considered wise to ask for the co-operation of several Departments of the Federal Government, particularly the Privy Council, Secretary of State, the Public Archives, National Defence, the Parliamentary Library, etc., in order that searches might be made for information leading to some document which might possibly give the desired details, but here again the results secured were disappointing.

### Assistance from R.C.M. Police Museum, Regina, and Ex-members of the Force and others.

There was therefore nothing left but to consult such Commissioned Officers and other members of the Force of the early days as are still alive, and those who, while perhaps not on the original or first march in 1874, had served close enough to it to have often heard the early history of the Force discussed first-hand.

Requests for assistance and information were therefore sent to such stalwarts as:-

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~~3~~

Major General A. Bowen Perry, C.M.G., former  
Commissioner of the Force,  
Ex-Assistant Commissioner J.A. McGibbon,  
Colonel G.E. Sanders, C.M.G., D.S.O. - Ex-Superintendent,  
Major J.D. Moodie, Ex-Superintendent,  
Ex-Superintendent G.B. Moffatt,  
Ex-Superintendent P.W. Pennefather,  
Major F.A. Bagley, who was a trumpeter on the Original  
March,  
Mr. J.P. Turner, of Ottawa, who is exceedingly well  
acquainted with the early history of the Force,

and to several other sources, and all were kind enough  
to furnish valuable information, or to direct attention  
to someone who would be able to help. Certain Military  
Tailors and stationery printers were also communicated with.

Simultaneously, the Officer Commanding  
"Depot" Division, Regina, Sask. - Superintendent T.H.  
Irvine<sup>(from Post-Comm. Bureau)</sup> - was also asked for his kind co-operation in  
furnishing certain details from the Royal Canadian  
Mounted Police Museum at that point, and from these  
two general sources have come the main part of our  
present information.

Romance and legend are closely bound up  
with the crest and motto of the Force. It is, however,  
the almost unanimous opinion of those ex-officers and  
others, who are the best judges in this matter, that  
the crest and motto were selected and in use early in  
the Force's history, and certainly within the regime  
of its first Commissioner, Lieut.-Colonel G.A. French  
(1874-1876), and who afterwards became Major General  
Sir George French, K.C.M.G., and while this opinion  
has not been fully substantiated by the present research,  
nevertheless, the evidence gathered so far certainly  
leads to that conclusion, which we shall see later.

It is also the opinion of the senior  
Officers and others now living who have been consulted,  
as previously mentioned, that the crest and motto, if  
not actually chosen by the first Commissioner, was in  
all probability designed and approved by him. He was  
an Imperial Officer, and was familiar with regimental  
crests.

#### First Definition by Order-in-Council

As already mentioned, there is no early  
Order-in-Council dealing with the crest and motto of  
the Force, and it is strange that none of the very  
early Rules and Regulations mention them. We have  
already noted that the first Order-in-Council to  
definitely mention the crest of the Force is that  
dated the 24th January, 1890. This sets out the dress  
regulations for Officers, and describes the crest and  
motto in the following words:-

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Photograph of crest and motto on an  
1877 Officer's sabretache, now in the  
possession of Major General A. Bowen  
Perry, C.M.G., Vancouver, B.C.

130 7

" Pouch for Field Glass  
 " ..... with the following gilt  
 " metal badge in centre of flap:- a maple  
 " wreath with a ribbon bearing the word  
 " "Canada" surmounted by the Crown above;  
 " and the words "North West Mounted Police"  
 " below; within the wreath an oval bearing  
 " the words "Maintiens le droit", encircl-  
 " ing a Buffalo head in silver. "

Colonel Chambers' History

In contrast to this late date (1890), however, Colonel Ernest Chambers, who had had the advantage of discussing the matter with the first Comptroller of the Force, the late Colonel Fred White, C.M.G., remarks in his history as follows, on pages 150 and 151:-

" Shortly after this (1876) while the  
 " Hon. R.W. Scott was the Ministerial head  
 " of the Department, at the request of the  
 " Officers, the tunic pattern of "Coat" was  
 " adopted for the Non-Commissioned Officers  
 " and men, a most elaborate Officer's uniform  
 " being sanctioned at the same time. This  
 " included a very handsome tunic of the  
 " hussar pattern, but of course of Scarlet  
 " cloth, and with rich trimmings of gold  
 " lace and braid bestowed upon the familiar  
 " hussar Officer's blue garment. Other  
 " striking features of this uniform were  
 " long drooping plumes of horse hair worn  
 " in the Officers' helmets, and a sabretache  
 " literally covered with gold lace, the  
 " main ornament being the Corps' badge, as  
 " at present, consisting of a buffalo head  
 " surrounded by maple leaves, with a garter  
 " underneath inscribed with the Corps' motto  
 " "Maintiens le droit". "

Information from Commissioner Perry

The investigation regarding the crest and motto had proceeded about this far when replies from ex-Officers and other members of the Force began to be received, which contained valuable information, and amongst the several surprises, was a communication from the fifth Commissioner of the Force, Major General A. Bowen Perry, C.M.G., who is still hale and hearty, to the effect that he has in his possession an Officer's sabretache, which dates back and was in use in 1877. This indeed was great news, and a photograph of the crest and motto found on this sabretache will be seen on page (-2-). This was taken through the courtesy and assistance of Superintendent C.H. Hill, M.C., Vancouver. (Now Asst. Commissioner)

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8



Photograph of crest and motto on the  
sabretache of the late Superintendent  
C. Constantine, 1886-1912, now in the  
R.C.M. Police Museum, Regina, Sask., -  
through the courtesy of Superintendent  
T. H. Irvine, Officer Commanding  
"Depot" Division.

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9

The sabretache in the possession of General Perry goes a long way to substantiate the opinion that the crest and motto were adopted during the regime of the first Commissioner - 1874 to 1876 - for the reasons that before this particular sabretache could have been worn in 1877, the crest and motto had to be designed, and had to be sent to the Military Tailors in London, England, for manufacture, and when it is also borne in mind that, being a new design; the usual delays of correction, etc., would occur. It is therefore only reasonable to assume that the design was decided upon prior to 1877.

Search at the College of Arms

As there was just a possibility that the first Commissioner (Colonel French) may have had the crest and motto registered at the College of Arms in London, England, an enquiry was made there, through the good offices of the High Commissioner for Canada in Great Britain, but the Registrar reports there appears to be no record of it in the College of Arms.

Sabretache of the late Supt. C. Constantine

Attention has already been drawn to the crest and motto on the sabretache in the possession of Major General Perry. It now may be of interest to mention the sabretache in the Museum at Regina, which was presented by Brigadier General C. Constantine, son of the late Superintendent Constantine (1886-1912), and on page (-B-) a photograph of the crest and motto on the sabretache of that Officer is shown. This photograph was taken through the kindness of Superintendent T. H. <sup>(now) (late) (Comm. of Arms)</sup> Irvine, Officer Commanding "Depot" Division.

Information from Old Photographs

At R.C.M. Police Headquarters, there is extant a group photograph of Colonel Macleod, C.M.G., Inspector Clarke and Surgeon Kittson. This picture shows clearly the police crest on these officers' sabretaches, and is dated 1878. The number of the photograph in the Departmental Collection is G-3-84 (Negative #107).

Unfortunately we have only one photograph of Commissioner French in the Departmental Collection of Photographs at Ottawa, and this shows him wearing his "C.M.G.". This photograph was very likely taken after his return to England.

- 6 -

### The Buffalo Head

Just how the buffalo head came to be chosen for the crest, it is not now possible to say with accuracy, but the following may certainly have largely contributed to its choice:-

(a) These animals were so numerous on the Prairies in 1874 that one herd seen is alleged to have included 80,000 head.

(b) The buffalo was of very great assistance in augmenting the rations of the Force on its first great march from Fort Garry to the shadows of the Rockies in 1874, but at the same time was a considerable source of anxiety to Colonel French and his Officers, in that at many points the buffalo had eaten every blade of grass and practically ruined many water holes. Colonel French's diary from the 7th July, 1874 to the 8th November, 1874 shows his anxiety with regard to the condition of the horses due to lack of feed and water, largely caused by the great herds of buffalo.

(c) Over-coats from buffalo skins were also of great use to the Force in the early days, and although they were abandoned for a time have recently been adopted again.

(d) Page 21 of the 1938 issue of "Scarlet & Gold", the annual publication of the R.N.W.M. Police Veterans, contains the following story:-

" One of the "Originals" who wintered at  
" Fort Garry in his reminiscences said:- 'The  
" following Spring, we started from Stone Fort  
" (Lower Fort Garry) towards the Cypress Hills,  
" and when north of them in mid-September saw  
" thousands of buffalo.' 'And the Assistant  
" Commissioner (Macleod, Asst. Commissioner,  
" June 1st, 1874) was so impressed that he  
" said he thought it would be a splendid idea  
" to have the buffalo head on our buttons. In  
" his report that Fall he made this recommend-  
" ation to Headquarters, and it was adopted.' "

It is also interesting to note that the Indian name of Stum-ach-so-to-kan given to Colonel Macleod by the Blackfeet Indians means "Buffalo Head".

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13

~~7~~

THE MOTTO

It is now time to give some attention to the motto of the Force, "Maintiens le droit".

Here again it is not known who actually chose this, but after seeing what was expected of the Force in the West, the Officers who were consulted in this matter, doubtless were of opinion that it would be well to have a motto which would include some precept to be used as a foundation upon which to build a reputation for honesty and fair dealing. If that was to be the guiding principle of the Force, then why not make an early beginning in the motto itself, and state it in such a way as to secure the attention and enthusiasm not only of the English-speaking members of the Force, but of all French-speaking compatriots by embracing it in their language.

If these considerations were not actually discussed, it is submitted that something very close to it was, for the following reasons, which are either little known or are continually overlooked:-

- (a) There have always been French-speaking Canadians in the Force.
- (b) The first two Ministers to control the Force were the Honourable A.A. Dorion and the Honourable T. Fournier, during the years 1874 to early in 1876, and they were the Ministers of Justice during that period.
- (c) The first reports of the first Commissioner were addressed to the Minister of Justice, and by Order-in-Council of the 28th April, 1876, the management of the Force was transferred from the Department of Justice to the Department of the Secretary of State. (The Honourable R. W. Scott).

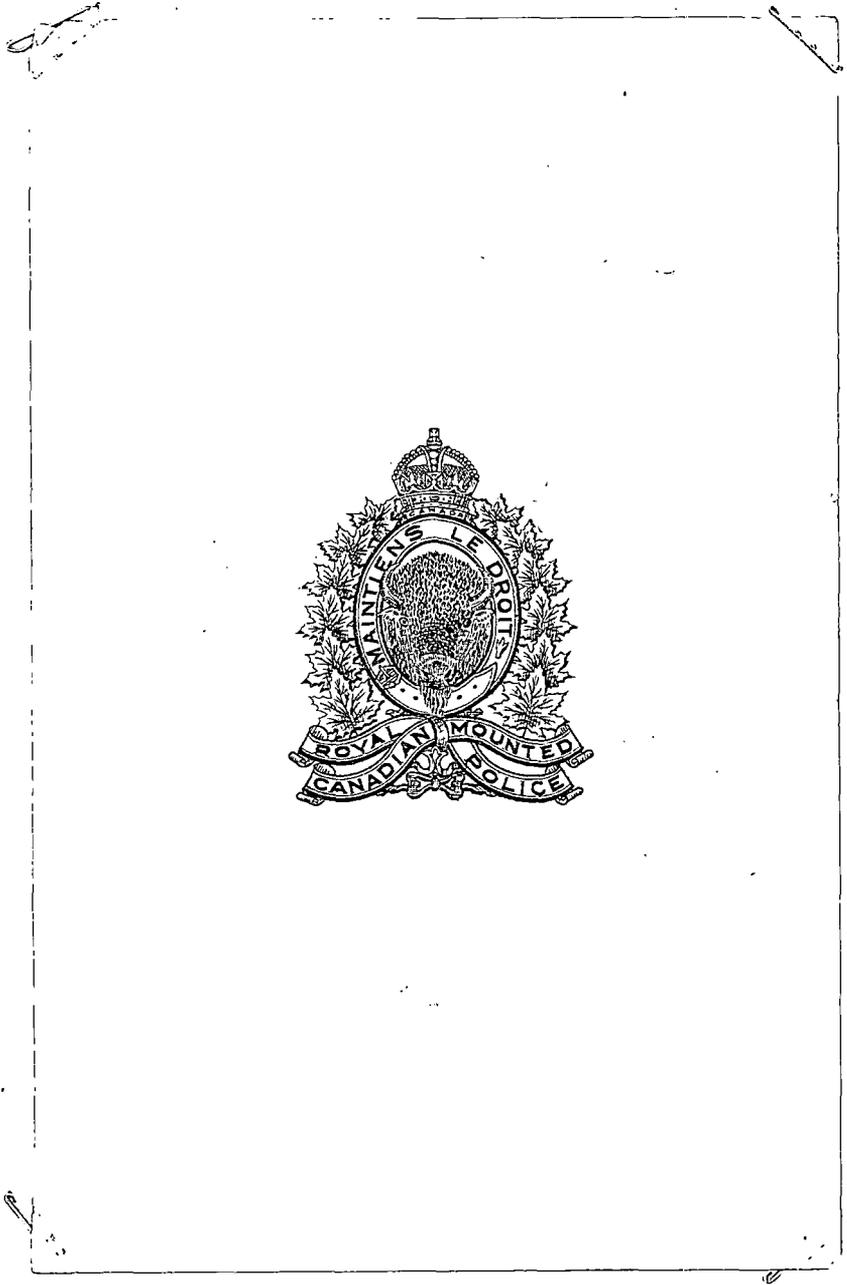
In these circumstances, it would have been singular if some recognition of the controlling influence had not been given in the selection of the crest and motto.

How well those concerned with the motto chose, and, what is equally important, how well it was lived up to, there is no need for me to attempt to relate, but perhaps it is permissible to remark that not even the most sanguine of those who had a part in the selection dared dream of a Force whose prestige was to be known the world over and whose present activities are more "national" in scope than ever.

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14

ENLARGED COPY OF CREST ON R.C.M.POLICE  
HEADQUARTERS OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD PAPER



136

### A Slip in Spelling

A glance at the picture on page (---) will show that there was a small mistake in the first word of the motto as used in the early days, as it appeared in the crest on the Officer's sabretache. This mistake remained for many years in the actual crests, although the official quotations of the motto are correct. For example, the quotation given in the Order-in-Council of the 24th of January, 1890, spells it "Maintiens", which is correct. Colonel Chambers' history and "The Riders of the Plains" also quote it accurately.

It remained for an Officer, about the year 1912, (Ex-Inspector Rheault) to point out the inaccuracy in the police cap and collar badges, which bore the full crest.

This mistake in spelling, although small, may or may not have special significance. It may indicate that the motto was chosen by someone of English descent, as no Officer of French parentage would have made the slip, or it may merely mean that the motto when sent in to the Military Tailor, or badge manufacturer, was accurate, and some English artisan did not exercise sufficient care in executing the design and the mistake was repeated for over thirty-five years. In the early days, all Officers' uniforms were made in England.

### Use of full Crest and Motto on Official Stationery

It may be of interest here to mention that a file was discovered at Headquarters in which by letter of the 16th April, 1896, the late Colonel Fred White, C.M.G., first Comptroller of the Force at Ottawa, had written to a correspondent in Peterborough, Ontario, stating that the North West Mounted Police had no crest and motto on its official forms, but that the Officers had a crest for their private papers, a copy of which he enclosed to his correspondent. This private note paper had been in use from about the year 1880.

However, it was not until the year 1935 that the crest and motto of the Force appeared on the official stationery of this Headquarters. It had been used for personal correspondence for many years, of course.

In February, 1935, Major General J. H. MacBrien, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who was then Commissioner of the Force, gave orders to have the crest used on all Headquarters official letterhead paper. The Deputy Commissioner at that time was Colonel J. W. Spalding, and he arranged with Reg.No.11123 Constable W. W. Skuce, of the Headquarters Staff, to draw a new crest, a copy of which will be found on page (14). Hitherto, the buffalo head had not been very clear and Constable Skuce made a much better job of it.

~~7~~

THE MOTTO

It is now time to give some attention to the motto of the Force, "Maintiens le droit".

Here again it is not known who actually chose this, but after seeing what was expected of the Force in the West, the Officers who were consulted in this matter, doubtless were of opinion that it would be well to have a motto which would include some precept to be used as a foundation upon which to build a reputation for honesty and fair dealing. If that was to be the guiding principle of the Force, then why not make an early beginning in the motto itself, and state it in such a way as to secure the attention and enthusiasm not only of the English-speaking members of the Force, but of all French-speaking compatriots by embracing it in their language.

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- (c) The first reports of the first Commissioner were addressed to the Minister of Justice, and by Order-in-Council of the 28th April, 1876, the management of the Force was transferred from the Department of Justice to the Department of the Secretary of State. (The Honourable R. W. Scott).

In these circumstances, it would have been singular if some recognition of the controlling influence had not been given in the selection of the crest and motto.

How well those concerned with the motto chose, and, what is equally important, how well it was lived up to, there is no need for me to attempt to relate, but perhaps it is permissible to remark that not even the most sanguine of those who had a part in the selection dared dream of a Force whose prestige was to be known the world over and whose present activities are more "national" in scope than ever.

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14

ENLARGED COPY OF CREST ON R.C.M.POLICE  
HEADQUARTERS OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD PAPER



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16

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF TYPES OF BUTTONS AND  
BADGES.

BUTTONS.

COLLAR BADGES.

N.W.M.P.

Type of  
first button  
1874 - 1879.



1874-1900 (a) Officers wore  
badges of rank on  
collar.  
(b) N.C.O.'s & men  
had no collar  
badge during this  
period.

N.W.M.P.

Type used,  
1880 - 1903.



N.W.M.P.

Type used by  
all ranks,  
1900 - 1903.



R.N.W.M.P.

Type for  
period -  
1904 - 1919.



R.N.W.M.P.

Type for  
period -  
1904 - 1919.  
(All ranks).



R.C.M.P.

Type used  
from 1920  
to date



R.C.M.P.

Type from  
1920 to  
date



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## CRESTS ON BUTTONS AND BADGES

This article would not be complete unless some attention was given to the history of the crest and motto now worn on buttons, collar and cap badges, etc. This will be done as briefly as possible.

### BUTTONS

#### First Button

In dealing with the buttons worn by the Force, it should be borne in mind that the Officers wore buttons of the same design as the other ranks. The material of which the button was made was perhaps of better quality in the case of Officers, but that is the only difference.

It was not likely that the buttons on the uniforms of the members of the Force who took part in the first long patrol from Fort Garry to the West, in 1874, were distinguished by the letters "N.W.M.P.", and according to Major F.A. Bagley, who served on this march as a Trumpeter, and is still alive, most of the uniforms had buttons of brass bearing the words "Canada - Militia".

Major Bagley kept a diary and has given the writer a vivid description of his uniform towards the end of 1874, after the famous march, which, to say the least, was illuminating in more sense than one.

#### First "N.W.M.P." Button (Without Buffalo Head)

However, soon after the famous march of 1874, previously referred to, buttons worn by members of the Force were of the type depicted at the top left hand corner of the photograph on page (16--). This button was of brass, and it will be noted bears a Victoria Crown in the centre surmounted by the letters "N.W.M.P.", and the word "Canada" below. This type of button may have been worn on the first march, but according to the best judges, this is very doubtful. However, in 1874, supplies of this button were received from a manufacturer in Birmingham, England, and were worn on N.W.M. Police uniforms up to about 1879.

#### Second "N.W.M.P." Button (Bearing Buffalo Head)

We have already seen that one of the "originals" has stated that Assistant Commissioner Macleod had suggested that the buffalo head be used

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PHOTOGRAPH OF OFFICER'S METAL CAP  
BADGE (FIELD SERVICE CAP) 1884 - THROUGH  
THE COURTESY OF ASST. COMMISSIONER T.H. IRVINE,  
OFFICER COMMANDING "DEPOT" DIVISION, REGINA, SASK.



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- 10 -

on the buttons of the Force, and while this recommendation is alleged to have been made very early in the Force's history, it was not until 1880 that such a button was issued to all members of the Force.

Ex-Assistant Commissioner McGibbon, who joined in that year, has given valuable and definite information on that point. A photograph of a sample of the first button, bearing the buffalo head in the centre with the Victoria Crown above and the letters "N.W.M.P." below, may be seen on page (-16-), the second one from the top of the left hand column. It was made of brass and was used from about 1880 to 1903.

Before closing this account of the first "Buffalo Head" button, it might be well to recall that the Blackfeet Indians had given the name of "Buffalo Head" to Assistant Commissioner Macleod.

Third Button "R.N.W.M.P."  
(With Buffalo Head)

This button is very much like the one described in the previous paragraph, except that it has a Tudor Crown and came into use when the Force received the honour of becoming "Royal". The letters used below the buffalo head in the centre are "R.N.W.M.P.". This button was used from about 1904 to 1919, is made of brass, and a photograph of it can be seen on page (-16-), the third from the top in the left hand column.

It will be observed from what has already been written concerning buttons that up to 1919 no full-crested button had yet been in use. This came when the Force changed its name to "Royal Canadian Mounted Police" in 1920.

Fourth Button - "Royal Canadian Mounted Police"  
(Full Crest)

This button, which is still being used (1938), was adopted in 1920, and bears the full crest and motto of the Force, as well as the full name "Royal Canadian Mounted Police" - not the initial letters only - as in buttons previously referred to. A photograph of this button will be found at the bottom of the left hand column on page (-16-). It is made of brass, of course.

11A 20



TYPE OF OFFICERS CAP BADGE  
WORN FOR MANY YEARS  
PRIOR TO 1933.

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COLLAR BADGES

As present-day collar badges bear the full crest and motto of the Force, it may also be interesting to briefly survey the history of the use of collar badges by members of the Force, for purposes of record.

No collar badges, bearing the crest and motto of the Force, were worn by either Officers or men for many years after the inception of the N.W.M. Police, but from the earliest times Officers wore badges of rank on the collars of their uniforms.

The N.C.O.'s and men had no collar badges at all until about the year 1900. We have already seen that they wore buttons with the buffalo head from 1880 up to 1919. In the case of Officers the badges of rank worn on the collars were as follows:-

- Commissioner - Crown and Star
- Assistant Commissioner - Crown
- Superintendent - Two stars
- Inspector - One star
- Senior Surgeon - Two stars
- Assistant Surgeon - One star
- Veterinary Surgeon - One star.

Badges of rank were worn on the shoulder strap on the Officers' great coats, but this was the only exception to the general rule.

*Handwritten initials*

First Collar Badges  
(North West Mounted Police)

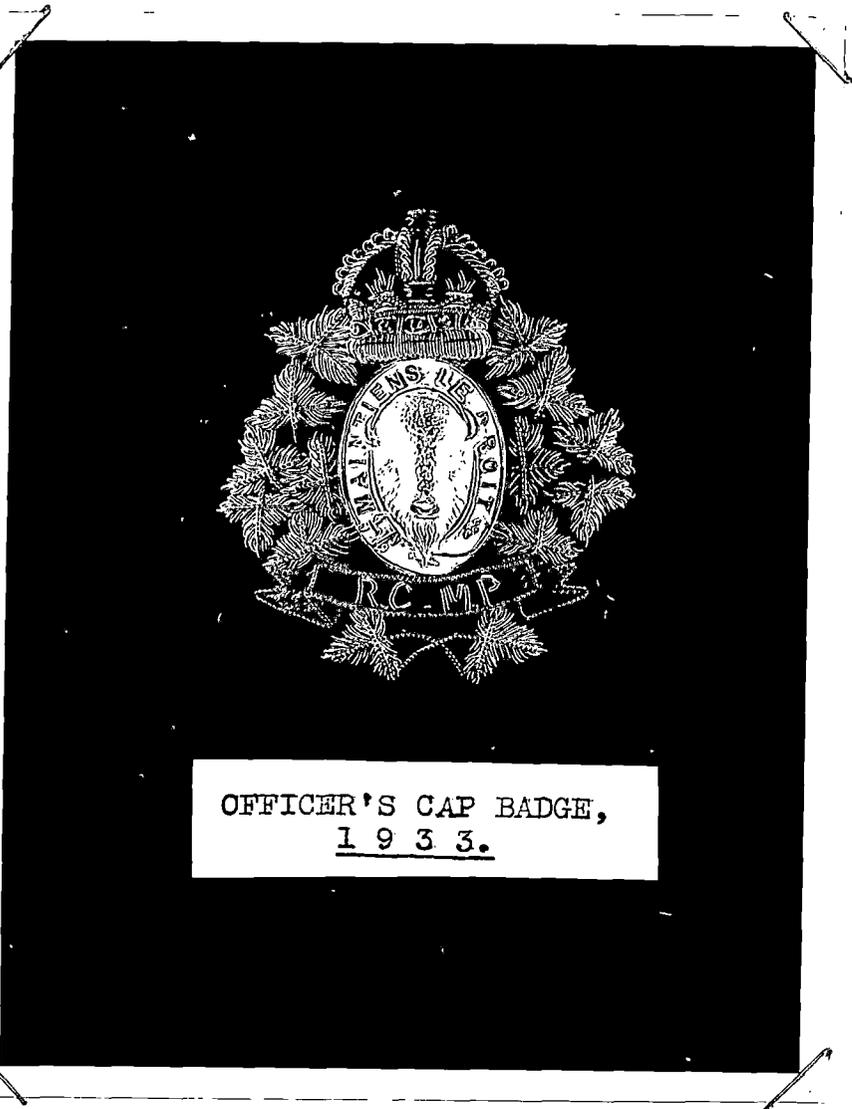
The first collar badges bore the full crest of the Force and were issued to Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables in 1900. They were also worn by Officers from that time. They were made of brass or gilt metal, and were sometimes issued in imitation gun-metal (for the stable jacket). The words below the buffalo head were "North West Mounted Police". They were in use from 1900 to 1903 or 1904. - See photograph on page (-16-). Note the mis-spelling in the motto.

Second type of Collar Badge  
(Royal North West Mounted Police)

This collar badge came into use in 1904, and is similar to the one previously referred to, except that it bears the words "Royal North West Mounted Police" below the buffalo head. It was used from 1904 to 1919, and was made of gilt metal and sometimes was issued in imitation gun metal (black) for stable jackets. See photograph on page (-16-). Note the error in the spelling of the first word of the motto.

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OFFICER'S CAP BADGE,  
1933.

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Present-day Type  
(Royal Canadian Mounted Police)

A photograph of the present-day collar badge will also be seen on page (-16-). It is made of gilt metal. No black badges are now necessary or used.

To complete this article, it is now necessary to refer very briefly to cap badges and helmet plates.

CAP BADGES

(1) Officers

As the Officers of the Force have worn cap badges from early times, it was necessary to make a full investigation into this matter. It is definite that cap badges were worn by Officers from about the year 1884 onwards, as we have a photograph of Commissioner A. G. Irvine taken then wearing a field service cap, which bears an Officer's cap badge. A photograph of one of the Officer's cap badges of the early days will be found on page (-18-).

From this photograph it will be noted that the buffalo head is surrounded by the words "North West Mounted Police", and the motto of the Force appears at the bottom. The error in the spelling of "Maintiens" is noticeable. The photograph shown is that of a metal badge, which was received through the courtesy of Superintendent T. H. Irvine (now Assistant Commissioner), the Officer Commanding "Depot" Division, and being a photograph of a badge now in the Museum at Regina.

It will be seen from the above that from 1884, at all events, the Officers' cap badges bore the motto of the Force, but for some unexplained reason the gold embroidery, or "bullion", cap badges for Officers, which came into use after the year 1890, did not bear the motto of the Force as well as the buffalo head, notwithstanding the fact that the full crest and motto were worn on the Officers' sabretaches and also on collar badges.

The photograph of the cap badge for Officers, which was worn for many years prior to 1933, will be found on page (-20-). This is a gold embroidery, or "bullion", badge.

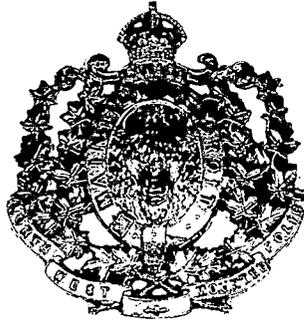
In 1933, the design of the Officers' cap badge was changed to include the full crest and motto of the Force, and a photograph of the new cap badge will be found on page (-22-).

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CAP BADGES - NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS & CONSTABLES

North West Mounted Police



Type  
used  
1901  
to  
1903

Royal North West Mounted Police



Type  
used  
1904  
to  
1919

Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Type  
used  
from  
1920  
to  
date

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There is only one other distinction to be noted in connection with the Officers' cap badge from all other badges, and that is that for many years now the initials only of the name of the Force have been used on these badges. The present badge is, of course, a "bullion" badge, and incidentally is wrongly described in the present Rules and Regulations.

(2) Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables

Metal cap badges were first issued to Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables about the year 1901.

The three types used from that year onwards very closely resemble the collar badges in design which have already been described. They are, of course of larger size than the collar badge. A photograph of the different types of metal cap badges which have been used by Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables since 1901 will be found on page (-24-). Note the mis-spelling of the first word of the motto in the first two badges shown.

HELMET BADGES

*Optional article of headgear for Men.*  
The Force does not now use helmets, except as an

The Officers and men wore white helmets on their first patrol to the West in 1874, but insofar as the Non-Commissioned Officers and men are concerned, they bore no helmet plate or badge until the year 1897.

The Officers do not appear to have had helmet plates during the early days either, but in 1890, they had them as they are described in the Dress Regulations for that year as follows:-

"Plate, N.W.M. Police pattern (same as ornament on undress pouch)."

A photograph of the helmet plate worn by Officers on their white helmets will be found on page (-24-). The white helmet was discarded about the year 1899 or 1900.

*[Handwritten signature]*

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Photograph of helmet plate of the late Ex-Superintendent A.H. Griesbach (1873 to 1903) now in the R.C.M. Police Museum at Regina, Sask., - through the courtesy of Assistant Commissioner T.H. Irvine, Officer Commanding "Depot" Division.

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In 1920, the former Dominion Police were wearing blue helmets, and when that Force was absorbed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in that year, a special R.C.M. Police helmet plate was made for "A" Division, as the former Dominion Police were then known. A photograph of this plate will be found on page (48).

We have been unsuccessful in securing a photograph of the helmet plate first issued to Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the North West Mounted Police in 1897, and this is the only badge of any importance which we have been unable to locate.

#### CREST AND MOTTO ON DRUMS OF R.C.M. POLICE BAND

It may be of interest to remark that the drums of the R.C.M. Police Band, which was organized by the present Commissioner in 1938, under the leadership of Staff Sergeant J. T. Brown, bear the full crest and motto of the Force, and the workmanship, design and colouring are excellent.

#### CONCLUSION

No attempt has been made in this article to describe every collar, cap or other badge used by or issued to the Force. There were several variations, and small differences from time to time, according to change of contractor or manufacturer. Our effort has been confined to tracing the history of the crest and motto of the Force, and how and when they were adopted in the different articles of equipment, buttons and badges worn.

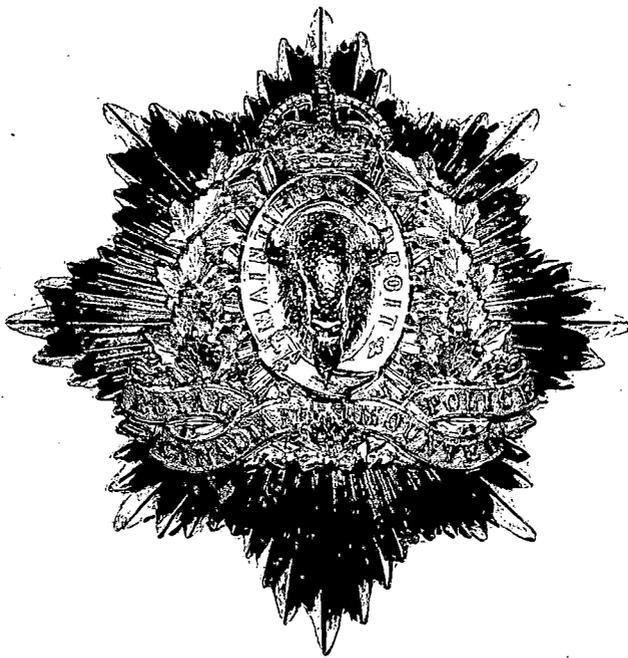
For purposes of reference, it may be helpful to summarize what has been discovered in this search. The writer considers it can be fairly assumed that:-

- (1) While it is not definitely known who actually chose the crest and motto, it is certain that it was worn by Officers on their sabretaches as far back as 1877, and it is therefore more than likely that the crest itself was designed during the regime of the first Commissioner, (1874-1876).
- (2) The Buffalo Head was worn on all buttons from 1880 onwards, and is believed to have been suggested by Assistant Commissioner J. F. Macleod in 1874.

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Badge for blue helmet  
"A" Division, 1920 to 1935.

R.C.M.POLICE.



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- (3) Officers of the Force have worn cap badges since the year 1884, and the first cap badge contained the full crest and motto of the Force. The crest on Officers' sabretaches, pouches for Field Glasses, etc., were also complete from 1877 onwards, and while the Officers' cap badge from 1933 onwards has borne the full crest and motto of the Force, there was a period from about 1890 to 1932 in which the Officers' cap badge contained no motto.
- (4) The full crest (on collar badges) has been worn by all ranks since 1900.
- (5) The full crest (on buttons) has been worn by all ranks since 1920.
- (6) The full crest was used by Officers on private note paper and stationery from about 1880.
- (7) The crest of the Force was not used on official forms or letter head paper in the early days, and did not come into official use at R.C.M. Police Headquarters until the year 1935.

The research into the history of the crest and motto of the Force has been most interesting work. My task, insofar as buttons and badges are concerned, was greatly facilitated by Mr. Bertram Fauvel, of the Treasury Staff at this Headquarters, who kindly placed his entire collection at my disposal. The Assistant Supply Officer - Superintendent P. R. Forde - and Mr. I. Zivian, the Purchasing Agent, also extended help and kindnesses in this matter which are very much appreciated.

The writer's sincere gratitude is also extended to all Officers still serving, those who are retired and who have been previously mentioned, and all others who have kindly furnished information and assistance in recording these particulars for the use of those whose curiosity may have been aroused by the question raised at the heading of this article.

Respectfully submitted.

*G. T. Hann*

Ottawa, Ont.,  
31st March, 1939.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

6288. Marguerite St-<sup>151</sup>

Van Lanen

4. Apr. 39

Dear Ham

With regard to field  
Service caps I cannot give  
you the exact date when it  
was first used. I think about  
1888. It was not worn when

I joined.

With kind regards

Yr Sincerely

Geo Ham Esq

Marguerite St-<sup>151</sup>  
Van Lanen

cc O Ham

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G.219-3.

April 8th, 1939.

Dear General Perry:

Thank you very much indeed  
for your kindness in answering my question with  
regard to the field service cap.

Eastertide.

I wish you a most happy

Yours sincerely,

Major General A. Bowen Perry, C.M.G.,  
6288 Marguerite Street,  
Vancouver, B.C.

G. T. Hann,  
Departmental Secretary.

GH'RW.

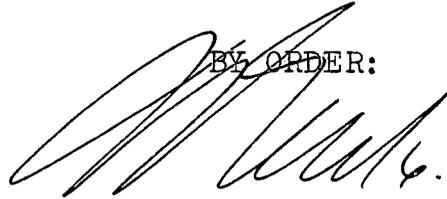
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Memorandum to:

The Editor,  
R.C.M.P. Quarterly,  
OTTAWA.

1. An extremely interesting report on the R.C.M.P. Crests and Badges, Mottoes, etc., prepared by Mr. Hann, is, by direction of the Commissioner, transmitted to you; as it is thought that a very interesting article might be made up for the Quarterly from the same.

BY ORDER:



(F.A. Blake) A/Supt.,  
Adjutant.

Ottawa.  
19-4-39

000377

*Source  
he wrote on  
collected by  
See July 1939 Quarterly 154*

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THE CREST AND MOTTO OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

- by -

G. T. Hann, Esq., M.B.E.

*See July 1939 Quarterly*

When did the Force adopt its Crest and Motto? This was a question asked of Royal Canadian Mounted Police Headquarters recently, and strange as it may seem, it was not possible to give an immediate and accurate reply, for the reason that the files which would have afforded the most valuable information on this subject were unfortunately destroyed in a fire which occurred in the West Block at Ottawa on the 11th February, <sup>1897</sup> ~~1897~~.

Search of early Records

Most of the books and publications dealing with the history of the Force have of course been scrutinized, but with very few exceptions they do not help very much with respect to the question asked. However, there are one or two notable exceptions to this general rule - the history of the Royal North West Mounted Police by Colonel

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E.J. Chambers, and the book entitled "Riders of the Plains", by A.L. Haydon, which give some details.

The staff of the Central Registry at Headquarters were most diligent and eager in their efforts to locate something of value on this particular subject, but even their hearty co-operation brought very meagre results.

Evidence from Rules and Regulations of the Force

There is no mention whatever of the crest and motto in the very early Rules and Regulations or in the Dress Regulations for either Officers or men. Even the "Regulations and Orders of the North West Mounted Police", dated as late as 1889, include no dress regulations, and consequently give no description of the crest and motto of the Force.

However, in 1890, an Order-in-Council was passed on the 24th January, laying down Dress Regulations for Officers, and which describes the crest and motto in adequate terms, and this will be referred to again later. At this time, the Force had been in existence for some 16 years, and up to 1890 matters of dress had been attended to by Departmental Order and by General Order of the Commissioner.

General Orders

Unfortunately, there is no copy at this Headquarters of any General Orders of the Commissioner prior to the year 1880. Neither are there any earlier ones at Regina, Sask. Therefore it has not been possible to make as detailed an investigation of this source of information as it had been hoped.

In the opinion of several officers now serving,

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including Commissioner S.T.Wood, who have made research into all existing General Orders for other information, and have earnestly sought for copies of early General Orders in many quarters, there is not now much likelihood of any General Orders being available anywhere for the period from 1874 to 1879.

Information from other Sources

In these circumstances, it has been necessary to make enquiries covering a fairly extensive field, and it may be of interest to set down in writing, for future reference, what information is now available, and how and where it was obtained.

In the first place, it was considered wise to ask for the co-operation of several Departments of the Federal Government, particularly the Privy Council, Secretary of State, the Public Archives, National Defence, the Parliamentary Library, etc., in order that searches might be made for information leading to some document which might possibly give the desired details, but here again the results secured were disappointing.

Assistance from R.C.M. Police Museum, Regina, ex-members of the Force, and others.

There was therefor nothing left but to consult such Commissioned Officers and other members of the Force of the early days as are still alive, and those who, while perhaps not on the original or first march in 1874, had served close enough to it to have often heard the early history of the Force discussed first-hand.

Requests for assistance and information were therefore sent to such stalwarts as:-

Major General A.Bowen Perry, C.M.G., former Commissioner of the Force, *now in*

Ex-Assistant Commissioner J.A.McGibbon, *now in* 000380

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Colonel G.E.Sanders, C.M.G., D.S.O., Ex-Superintendent,  
Major J.D.Moodie, Ex-Superintendent, *name in*  
Ex-Superintendent G.B.Moffatt, *name in*  
Ex-Superintendent P.W.Pennefather, *name in*  
Major F.A.Bagley, who was a trumpeter on the  
original March, *name in*  
Mr. J.P.Turner, of Ottawa, who is exceedingly well  
acquainted with the early history of the Force,  
and several other sources, and all were kind enough  
to furnish valuable information, or to direct attention  
to someone who would be able to help. Certain Military  
Tailors and stationery printers were also communicated  
with.

Simultaneously, the Officer Commanding "Depot"  
Division, Regina, Sask. - Superintendent T.H. Irvine  
(now Asst. Commissioner) - was also asked for his kind  
co-operation in furnishing certain details from the  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police Museum at that point,  
and from these two general sources have come the main  
part of our present information.

Romance and legend are closely bound up with  
the crest and motto of the Force. It is, however, the  
almost unanimous opinion of those ex-officers and  
others, who are the best judges in this matter, that  
the crest and motto were selected and in use early in  
the Force's history, and certainly within the regime  
of its first Commissioner, Lieut. Colonel G.A.French  
(1874-1876), and who afterwards became Major General  
Sir George French, K.C.M.G., and while this opinion  
has not been fully substantiated by the present re-  
search, nevertheless, the evidence gathered so far  
certainly leads to that conclusion, which we shall  
see later.

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It is also the opinion of the senior Officers and others now living who have been consulted, as previously mentioned, that the crest and motto, if not actually chosen by the first Commissioner, was in all probability designed and approved by him. He was an Imperial Officer, and was familiar with regimental crests.

First Definition by Order-in-Council.

As already mentioned, there is no early Order-in-Council dealing with the crest and motto of the Force, and it is strange that none of the very early Rules and Regulations mention them. We have already noted that the first Order-in-Council to definitely mention the crest of the Force is that dated the 24th January, 1890. This sets out the dress regulations for Officers, and describes the crest and motto in the following words:-

Pouch for Field Glass

".....with the following gilt metal badge in centre of flap: - a maple wreath with a ribbon bearing the word "Canada" surmounted by the Crown above; and the words "North West Mounted Police" below; within the wreath an oval bearing the words "Maintiens le droit", encircling a Buffalo head in silver."

Colonel Chambers' History.

In contrast to this late date (1890), however, Colonel Ernest Chambers, who had had the advantage of discussing the matter with the first Comptroller of the Force, the late Colonel Fred White, C.M.G., remarks in his history as follows, on pages 150 and 151:-

" Shortly after this (1876) while the Hon. R.W.Scott was the Ministerial head of the Department, at the request of the Officers, the tunic pattern of "Coat" was adopted for the Non-

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Commissioned Officers and men, a most elaborate Officer's uniform being sanctioned at the same time. This included a very handsome tunic of the hussar pattern, but of course of Scarlet cloth, and with rich trimmings of gold lace and braid bestowed upon the familiar hussar Officer's blue garment. Other striking features of this uniform were long drooping plumes of horse hair worn in the Officers' helmets, and a sabretache literally covered with gold lace, the main ornament being the Corps' badge, as at present, consisting of a buffalo head surrounded by maple leaves, with a garter underneath inscribed with the Corps' motto "Maintiens le droit".

Information from Commissioner Perry.

The Investigation regarding the crest and motto had proceeded about this far when replies from ex-Officers and other members of the Force began to be received, which contained valuable information, and amongst the several surprises, was a communication from the fifth Commissioner of the Force, Major General A. Bowen Perry, C.M.G., who is still hale and hearty, to the effect that he has in his possession an Officer's sabretache, which dates back and was in use in 1877. This indeed was great news, and a photograph of the crest and motto found on this sabretache will be seen on (FIG. 1) This was taken through the courtesy and assistance of Superintendent C.H. Hill, M.C., Vancouver (Now Asst. Commissioner).

The sabretache in the possession of General Perry goes a long way to substantiate the opinion that the crest and motto were adopted during the regime of the first Commissioner - 1874 to 1876 -

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for the reasons that before this particular sabretache could have been worn in 1877, the crest and motto had to be designed, and had to be sent to the Military Tailors in London, England, for manufacture, and when it is also borne in mind that, being a new design, the usual delays of correction, etc., would occur. It is therefore only reasonable to assume that the design was decided upon prior to 1877.

Search at the College of Arms.

As there was just a possibility that the first Commissioner (Colonel French) may have had the crest and motto registered at the College of Arms in London, England, an enquiry was made there, through the good offices of the High Commissioner for Canada in Great Britain, but the Registrar reports there appears to be no record of it in the College of Arms.

Sabretache of the late Supt. C. Constantine.

Attention has already been drawn to the crest and motto on the sabretache in the possession of Major General Perry. It now may be of interest to mention the sabretache in the Museum at Regina, which was presented by Brigadier General C. Constantine, son of the late Superintendent Constantine (1886-1912),

4

*A photograph of the crest & motto on the and on F.T.G. a photograph of the crest and motto Sabretache will be found in Fig. 3.*  
~~on the sabretache of that Officer is shown. This~~

~~photograph was taken through the kindness of Superintendent T.H. Irvine (now Asst. Commissioner), Officer Commanding "Depot" Division.~~

Information from Old Photographs.

At R.C.M. Police Headquarters, there is extant a group photograph of Colonel MacLeod, C.M.G., Inspector Clarke and Surgeon Kittson. This picture shows clearly the police crest on these Officers' sabretaches, and is dated 1878. The number of the photograph in the Departmental Collection is G-3-84 Negative #107.

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Unfortunately, we have only one photograph of Commissioner French in the Departmental Collection of Photographs at Ottawa, and this shows him wearing his "C.M.G.", This photograph was very likely taken after his return to England.

The Buffalo Head.

Just how the buffalo head came to be chosen for the crest, it is not now possible to say with accuracy, but the following may certainly have largely contributed to its choice:-

(a) These animals were so numerous on the Prairies in 1874 that one herd seen is alleged to have included 80,000 head.

(b) The buffalo was of very great assistance in augmenting the rations of the Force on its first great march from Fort Garry to the shadows of the Rockies in 1874, but at the same time was a considerable source of anxiety to Colonel French and his Officers, in that at many points the buffalo had eaten every blade of grass and practically ruined many water holes. Colonel French's diary from the 7th July, 1874 to the 8th November, 1874 shows his anxiety with regard to the condition of the horses due to lack of feed and water, largely caused by the great herds of buffalo.

(c) Over-coats from buffalo skins were also of great use to the Force in the early days, and although they were abandoned for a time have recently been adopted again.

(d) Page 21 of the 1938 issue of "Scarlet & Gold", the annual publication of the R.N.W.M. Police Veterans, contains the following story:-

"One of the "Originals" who wintered at Fort Garry ~~in his reminiscences said that the following Spring he~~

in his reminiscences said:- 'The following Spring, we started from Stone Fort (Lower Fort Garry) towards the Cypress Hills, and when north of them in mid-September saw thousands of buffalo.' 'And the Assistant Commissioner (MacLeod, Asst. Commissioner, June 1st, 1874) was so impressed that he said he thought it would be a splendid idea to have the buffalo head on our buttons. In his report that Fall he made this recommendation to Headquarters, and it was adopted.' "

It is also interesting to note that the Indian name of Stum-ach-so-to-kan given to Colonel MacLeod by the Blackfeet Indian means "Buffalo Head".

#### The Motto.

It is now time to give some attention to the motto of the Force, "Maintiens le droit".

Here again it is not known who actually chose this, but after seeing what was expected of the Force in the West, the Officers who were consulted in this matter doubtless were of the opinion that it would be well to have a motto which would include some precept to be used as a foundation upon which to build a reputation for honesty and fair dealing. If that was to be the guiding principle of the Force, then why not make an early beginning in the motto itself, and state it in such a way as to secure the attention and enthusiasm not only of the English-speaking members of the Force, but of all French-speaking compatriots by embracing it in their language.

If these considerations were not actually discussed, it is submitted that something very close

to it was, for the following reasons, which are either little known or are continually overlooked:-

- (a) There have always been French-speaking Canadians in the Force.
- (b) The first two Ministers to control the Force were the Honourable A.A.Dorion and the Honourable T.Fournier, during the years 1874 to early in 1876, and they were the Ministers of Justice during that period.
- (c) The first reports of the first Commissioner were addressed to the Minister of Justice, and by Order-in-Council of the 28th April, 1876, the management of the Force was transferred from the Department of Justice to the Department of the Secretary of State. (The Honourable R.W.Scott).

In these circumstances, it would have been singular if some recognition of the controlling influence had not been given in the selection of the crest and motto."

How well those concerned with the motto chose, and, what is equally important, how well it was lived up to, there is no need for me to attempt to relate, but perhaps it is permissible to remark that not even the most sanguine of those who had a part in the selection dared dream of a Force whose prestige was to be known the world over and whose present activities are more "national" in scope than ever.

#### A Slip in Spelling.

A glance at the picture on FIG.   /   will show that there was a small mistake in the first word of the motto as used in the early days, as it

appeared in the crest on the Officer's sabretache. This mistake remained for many years in the actual crests, although the official quotations of the motto are correct. For example, the quotation given in the Order-in-Council of the 24th of January, 1890, spells it "Maintiens", which is correct. Colonel Chambers' history and "The Riders of the Plains" also quote it accurately.

It remained for an Officer, about the year 1912, (Ex-Inspector Rheault) to point out the inaccuracy in the police cap and collar badges, which bore the full crest.

This mistake in spelling, although small, may or may not have special significance. It may indicate that the motto was chosen by someone of English descent, as no Officer of French parentage would have made the slip, or it may merely mean that the motto when sent in to the Military Tailor, or badge manufacturer, was accurate, and some English artisan did not exercise sufficient care in executing the design and the mistake was repeated for over thirty-five years. In the early days, all Officers' uniforms were made in England.

Use of full Crest and Motto on Official Stationery.

It may be of interest here to mention that a file was discovered at Headquarters in which by letter of the 16th April, 1896, the late Colonel Fred White, C.M.G., first Comptroller of the Force at Ottawa, had written to a correspondent in Peterborough, Ontario, stating that the North West Mounted Police had no crest and motto on its official forms, but that the Officers had a crest for their private papers, a copy of which he enclosed to his correspondent. This private note paper had been in use from about the year 1880.

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However, it was not until the year 1935 that the crest and motto of the Force appeared on the official stationery of this Headquarters. It had been used for personal correspondence for many years, of course.

In February, 1935, Major General J.H. MacBrien, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who was then Commissioner of the Force, gave orders to have the crest used on all Headquarters official letterhead paper. The Deputy Commissioner at that time was Colonel J.W. Spalding, and he arranged with Reg. No. 11123 Constable W.W. Skuce, of the Headquarters Staff, to draw a new crest, ~~a copy of which will be found on~~ ~~FIG.~~. Hitherto, the buffalo head had not been very clear and Constable Skuce made a much better job of it.

#### Crests on Buttons and Badges.

The writer made somewhat extensive enquires into the history of the R.C.M. Police buttons and badges, but it is not necessary for the purposes of this article to do more than mention a few points of interest as to when the crest was first used on these.

In dealing with buttons, it is interesting to note that those worn on the uniforms of members of the Force who took part in the first long march from Fort Garry to the West in 1874 had no distinguishing mark, except the words "Canada - Militia".

Major F.A. Bagley, who was then a bugler with the Force kept a diary on this patrol, and has given the writer a vivid description of his uniform towards the end of 1874, after the famous march, which, to say the least, was illuminating in more sense than one.

However, soon after the famous march of 1874, previously referred to, a special button for the Force was made, which bore a Victoria Crown in the centre

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surmounted by the letters "N.W.M.P." and the word "Canada" below. A photograph of this button may be seen on (FIG. 2). This type of button was worn until about the year 1879.

We have already seen that one of the "Originals" has stated that Assistant Commissioner Macleod had suggested that the buffalo head be used on the buttons of the Force, and while this recommendation is alleged to have been made very early in the Force's history, it was not until 1880 that such a button was issued to all members of the Force.

Ex-Assistant Commissioner McGibbon, who joined in that year, has given valuable and definite information on that point. A photograph of a sample of the first button bearing the buffalo head in the centre with the Victoria Crown above and the letters "N.W.M.P." below may be seen on (FIG. 4). This button was used from about the year 1880 to 1903.

The button was changed again in 1904 to provide for the new initials "R.N.W.M.P.", and in 1920, the full crested button was used, and has been ever since.

Collar Badges.

No collar badges bearing the crest and motto of the Force were worn by Officers or men for many years after the inception of the North West Mounted Police, but from the earliest times, Officers wore badges of rank on the collars of their uniforms as follows:-

Commissioner	Crown and Star
Assistant Commissioner	Crown
Superintendent	Two Stars
Inspector	One Star
Senior Surgeon	Two Stars
Assistant Surgeon	One Star
Veterinary Surgeon	One Star

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In the case of Officers, badges of rank were worn on the shoulder straps of great coats, but this was the only exception to the general rule.

The Non-Commissioned Officers and men had no collar badges at all until about the year 1900, and these bore the full crest of the Force.

During the same year, the Officers' badges of rank were worn on the shoulder straps, instead of their collars, and full crested collar badges have been worn by all ranks since that time. The mis-spelling of the word "Maintiens" occurred in these collar badges up until about the year 1912.

#### CAP BADGES

##### (1) Officers

As the Officers of the Force have worn cap badges from early times, it was necessary to make a full investigation into this matter. It is definite that cap badges were worn by Officers from about the year 1884 onwards, as we have a photograph of Commissioner A.G.Irvine taken then wearing a field service cap, which bears an Officer's cap badge. A photograph of one of the Officer's cap badges of the early days will be found on FIG. ~~1~~ 5.

From this photograph it will be noted that the buffalo head is surrounded by the words "North West Mounted Police", and the motto of the Force appears at the bottom. The error in the spelling of "Maintiens" is noticeable. The photograph shown is that of a metal badge, which was received through the courtesy of Superintendent T.H.Irvine (now Assistant Commissioner), the Officer Commanding "Depot" Division, and being a photograph of a badge now in the Museum at Regina.

It will be seen from the above that from 1884 at all events the Officers cap badges bore the motto

of the Force, but for some unexplained reason the gold embroidery, or "bullion", cap badges for Officers, which came into use after the year 1890, did not bear the motto of the Force as well as the buffalo head, notwithstanding the fact that the full crest and motto were worn on the Officers' sabretaches and also on collar badges.

The photograph of the cap badge for Officers, which was worn for many years prior to 1933, will be found on (FIG. ~~7~~ 7). This is a gold embroidery, or "bullion", badge.

In 1933, the design of the Officers' cap badge was changed to include the full crest and motto of the Force, and a photograph of the new cap badge will be found on FIG. 6.

There is only one other distinction to be noted in connection with the Officers' cap badge from all other badges, and that is that for many years now the initials only of the name of the Force have been used on these badges. The present badge is, of course, a "bullion" badge, and incidentally is wrongly described in the present Rules and Regulations.

(2) Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables.

Metal cap badges were first issued to Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables about the year 1901, and these very closely resemble the collar badges in design, which we have already seen contain the full crest and motto. The mis-spelling of the first word of the motto was repeated in this case also.

Helmet Plates.

The Force does not now use helmets, except as an optional article of headgear for officers.

The Officers and men wore white helmets on their first patrol to the West in 1874, but neither Officers or men appear to have had helmet plates at that time.

In 1890, the Officers' helmet plate was described as follows:-

"Plate, N.W.M. Police pattern (same as ornament on undress pouch)."

~~A photograph of the helmet plate worn by Officers on their white helmets will be found on page FIG. 4.~~ *remembered that shown in fig. 5 but was more oval in shape.* The white helmet was discarded about the year 1899 or 1900.

Helmet plates were not worn by Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables until the year 1897, but we have been unsuccessful in securing a photograph of the plate first issued to them.

In 1920, the former Dominion Police were wearing blue helmets, and when that Force was absorbed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in that year, a special R.C.M. Police helmet plate was made for "A" Division, as the former Dominion Police were then known. This plate, of course, bore the full crest and motto of the Force.

Crest and Motto on Drums of R.C.M. Police Band.

It may be of interest to remark that the drums of the R.C.M. Police Band, which was organized by the present Commissioner in 1938, under the leadership of Staff Sergeant J.T. Brown, bear the full crest and motto of the Force, and the workmanship, design and colouring are excellent.

Conclusion.

Our effort in this article is an attempt to trace the history of the crest and motto of the Force, and to show how and when they were adopted on the different articles of equipment, buttons and badges worn, but we have not endeavoured to describe every collar badge or other badge used or issued to the Force, as there were several variations and small differences from time to time which had very little

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bearing on the subject under discussion.

For purposes of reference, it may be helpful now to summarize what has been discovered in this search. The writer considers it can be fairly assumed that:-

- (1) While it is not definitely known who actually chose the crest and motto, it is certain that it was worn by Officers on their sabretaches as far back as 1877, and it is therefore more than likely that the crest itself was designed during the regime of the first Commissioner, (1874-1876).
- (2) The Buffalo Head was worn on all buttons from 1880 onwards, and is believed to have been suggested by Assistant Commissioner J.F. Macleod in 1874.
- (3) Officers of the Force have worn cap badges since the year 1884, and the first cap badge contained the full crest and motto of the Force. The crest on Officers' sabretaches, pouches for Field Glasses, etc., were also complete from 1877 onwards, and while the Officers' cap badge from 1933 onwards has borne the full crest and motto of the Force, there was a period from about 1890 to 1932 in which the Officers' cap badge contained no motto.
- (4) The full crest (on collar badges) has been worn by all ranks since 1900.
- (5) The full crest (on buttons) has been worn by all ranks since 1920.
- (6) The full crest was used by Officers on private note paper and stationery from about 1880.

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(7) The crest of the Force was not used on official forms or letter head paper in the early days, and did not come into official use at R.C.M. Police Headquarters until the year 1935.

The research into the history of the crest and motto of the Force has been most interesting. ~~work~~. My task, insofar as buttons and badges are concerned, was greatly facilitated by Mr. Bertram Fauvel, of the Treasury Staff at this Headquarters, who kindly placed his entire collection at my disposal. The Assistant Supply Officer - Superintendent P.R. Forde - and Mr. I. Zivian, the Purchasing Agent, also extended help and kindnesses in this matter which are very much appreciated.

The writer's sincere gratitude is also extended to all Officers still serving, those who are retired and who have been previously mentioned, and all others who have kindly furnished information and assistance in recording these particulars for the use of those whose curiosity may have been aroused by the question raised <sup>in the first sentence</sup> at the heading of this article.

Respectfully submitted. *Q*

*GH* Ottawa, Ont.

31st March, 1939.

G. T. Hann, *L*

Departmental Secretary. *A*