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The North-West Mounted Police, in 1874-1889: A Statistical Study.

The author acknowledges the inspiration of Walter Hildebrand in the preparation of this paper. While writing a structural history of Fort Battleford for Parks Canada on contract, Hildebrand noted the potential value of a statistical study of the N.W.M.P.

Introduction

In 1874, a small force of 217 federal police marched westward along the international boundary into the heart of the vast prairie interior. Created by the Canadian Parliament to maintain the law, the force by their presence and subsequent actions ensured the peaceful occupation of the Canadian West.

This statistical study examines the North-West Mounted Police during their first fifteen years in Western Canada (1874-1889). It is an interesting sample period for within this period the territory was gradually transformed from a virgin wilderness to the beginnings of a settled and developed agricultural frontier. There were also several significant events -- namely, the sudden disappearance of the great buffalo herds, the coming of Canada's first transcontinental railway, the signing of treaties with Indians and their settlement onto reserves and the 1885 Saskatchewan Rebellion.

The data for this study was derived from the N.W.M.P. annual reports contained in the Sessional Papers. The manner in which this statistical information was presented, as well as what was actually reported, varied over the sample period and caused some minor tabulation problems. The tables, moreover, should not be taken by themselves because of unforeseen factors. They should be substantiated by research or used to verify existing information on the force. With these qualifications,



the study results are instructive.

Explanation of Tables

Table I is a listing of the divisional stations by year. Because the number of divisions and divisional postings varied over the sample period, it is an indispensable reference guide for the other tables.

The strength and distribution of the force by year is recorded in Tables II and III. Table II gives the divisional strengths by year. Table III records the police totals of 20 stations by year. Chosen because they were either original posts, along or near the C.P.R. main line, directly involved during the Rebellion or divisional headquarters over the sample period, they include:

Battleford, Calgary, Carlton, Edmonton, Kootenay, Lethbridge, Macleod, Maple Creek, Medicine Hat, Moose Jaw, Pitt, Prince Albert, Qu'Appelle, Regina (Depot), Saskatchewan, Shoal Lake, Swan River, Swift Current, Walsh, Wood Mountain.

To give the post figures greater meaning, the strength of the force each year is provided.

The force turnover by year is outlined in Table IV. Unfortunately the value of this table is limited. The data for several years had to be secured from the reports of various officers and these men seldom reported all of the information required for the table.

Table V denotes the distribution of horses (i.e., horses, ponies, mules, brood mares, colts) by division by year. In some years, horse statistics were only reported for certain posts and these post figures were consequently used for the divisional total. For reference purposes, the number of men by division, by year is given in brackets besides the corresponding horse figure.

The number of medical cases among force members is outlined in Table VI. These cases were classified into the disease categories that were employed by the force doctors in their annual reports:

general - fevers, rheumatism, debility, etc.
 nervous - neuralgia, lumbago, odontalgia, cephalgia, gastralgia, spinal anomia, sciatica, insanity, etc.
 respiratory - coughs, colds, sore throat, catarrh, pleurisy, bronchitis, diphtheria, etc.
 circulatory - heart disease, palpitation, varicose veins, etc.

digestive - colic, constipation, diarrhea, bilious,
hemorrhoids, dysentery, indigestion, etc.
glandular - orchitis, swollen glands, tonsillitis, etc.
skin - erythema, urticaria, boils, eczema, herpes zoster,
erysipelas, etc.
special sense - snow blindness, vertigo, ophthalmia,
etc.
urogenital - epididymis, chancroid, gleet, syphilis,
gonorrhea, bubo, stricture, nephritis,
bladder, etc.
surgery (includes minor surgery) - hernia, sprains, fractures,
contusions, dislocation, burn, frostbite, ulcers, wounds, etc.

Tabulation problems occurred when the reporting surgeon simply listed the cases treated and did not classify them. Did a particular case of syphilis or hemorrhoids warrant surgery? In such instances, the case was recorded under the disease category. Data was also collected each year on particular items of interest: fever (malarial, scarlet or typhoid), frostbite and venereal disease. To give all of these medical statistics a focal point, the number of men at the reporting stations for each year is included.

Table VII reports the criminal cases by year. Given the great diversity of cases heard before N.W.M.P. magistrates, several offences were combined under one heading for the table. The result was 30 categories:

1. murder - manslaughter
2. wounding - attempted murder
3. threatening to shoot (kill) - shooting with intent,
accessory to murder
4. assault -
5. indecent assault - rape
6. high treason -
7. treason felony -
8. felony -
9. obstructing police -
10. horse stealing -
11. cattle stealing - cattle killing, injury to cattle
12. injury to property -
13. arson - setting fire to prairie, leaving out fire
14. larceny - fraud, forgery, embezzlement
15. robbery - burglary, unlawful entry
16. stolen property - possession of stolen property,
receiving stolen property, smuggling
17. bringing stolen property into Canada -
18. illegally importing intoxicants -
19. illegal possession of intoxicants - operating a still

20. illegally selling intoxicants -
21. selling intoxicants to Indians -
22. drunk - drunk and disorderly
23. creating a disturbance -
24. vagrancy -
25. gambling -
26. prostitution -
27. lunatics -
28. non-payment of wages -
29. deserting employment -
30. miscellaneous -

Indian involvement is given in brackets beside each particular crime total. For example, in 1879, four of the thirteen assault incidents were committed by Indians. Métis crimes could not be tabulated, as the author would have to rely solely on names; a French name would not necessarily mean the individual was Métis.

Table I

Divisional Stations by Year:

<u>1874</u>	<u>1875</u>	<u>1876</u>	<u>1877</u>
marching out state	no divisional postings provided	no divisional postings provided	no divisional postings provided

Table I

Divisional Stations by Year (cont'd)

<u>1878</u>	<u>1879</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1881</u>
A Saskatchewan	A Saskatchewan	A Saskatchewan	A Saskatchewan
B Walsh and outposts	B Wood Mountain East End Walsh	B Qu'Appelle Shoal Lake Swan River	B Walsh Qu'Appelle Shoal Lake Swan River
C Shoal Lake & outposts Prince Albert	C Macleod	C Macleod Calgary	C Macleod Blackfoot Crossing Calgary Blood Indian Reserve
E Macleod Calgary	D Shoal Lake Qu'Appelle Swan River Duck Lake Battleford Prince Albert	D Battleford Saskatchewan Prince Albert	D Battleford Saskatchewan Prince Albert
F Walsh	E Macleod Calgary Battleford Prince Albert Duck Lake	E Walsh	E Walsh
	F Walsh Milk River Shoal Lake	F Wood Mountain Walsh	F Walsh Wood Mountain

Table I

Divisional Stations by Year (cont'd)

<u>1882</u>	<u>1883</u>	<u>1884</u>	<u>1885</u>
A	A	A	A
Walsh	Maple Creek	Maple Creek	Maple Creek
on Command*	Medicine Hat	Medicine Hat	Medicine Hat
B	B	Swift Current	Swift Current
Regina	Regina	Mail Service	B
Qu'Appelle	Shoal Lake	B	Regina
Wood Mountain	Qu'Appelle	Regina	Fort Qu'Appelle
on Command*	Moose Jaw	Moose Jaw	Broadview
C	Moosomin	Moosomin	Moose Jaw
Macleod	Winnipeg	Qu'Appelle	Moosomin
D	Wood Mountain	Shoal Lake	Moose Mountain
Battleford	Pelly	Qu'Appelle Sta- tion	Mail Service
Prince Albert	C	Souris	Shoal Lake
Saskatchewan	Macleod	Winnipeg	Whitewood
E	Stand Off	Mail Service	C
Calgary	Kootenay	C	Fort Macleod
on Command*	Pincher Creek	Kootenay	Stand Off
*On Command	Piegan Reserve	Crow's Nest Pass	St. Mary's
Shoal Lake	St. Mary's	Piegan Reserve	Pincher Creek
Broadview	D	Whoop Up	Lethbridge
Moosomin	Battleford	St. Mary's	Piegan Reserve
Troy	Pitt	Ft. Macleod	D
Moose Jaw	Prince Albert	D	Battleford
Rosetta's	Saskatchewan	Battleford	on Command
Crossing	E	Carlton	E
Pelly	Calgary	Fort Pitt	Calgary
End of C.P.R.	End of C.P.R.	Prince Albert	Mail Service
Ten-Mile	Padmore	Frog Lake	F
Crossing	The Gap	E	Prince Albert
Crow's Nest Pass		Calgary	G
Whoop Up		Fort Sask.	Edmonton
Stand Off		Mail Service	Fort Sask.
Boundary Line		Kicking Horse	H
		1st Crossing,	Fort Macleod
		Columbia River	Chief Mountain
		Beaver Creek	Lethbridge
		Moberly House	Old Fort Macleod
		Laggan	on Command
		End of track	K
		Company's store,	Battleford
		siding	DEPOT
			Regina

Table I

Divisional Stations by Year (cont'd)

1886		1887	
A	G	A	G
Maple Creek	Fort Saskat-	Maple Creek	Fort Saskatchewan
Medicine Hat	chewan	Medicine Hat	Edmonton
Swift Current	Edmonton	Regina	Red Deer
East End Post	Red Deer	Swift Current	Peace Hills
Regina	H	Calgary	Regina
B	Pincher Creek	Detachments	Calgary
Regina	Stand Off	B	H
Broadview	St. Mary's	Regina	Fort Macleod
Fort Qu'Appelle	Piegan	Wood Mountain	Pincher Creek
Qu'Appelle	Reserve	Willow Bunch	Stand Off
Station	Kootenay	Moose Mt.	Kootenay
Moose Mountain	Leavings, Willow	Lagenburg	St. Mary's
Moosomin	Creek	Broadview	Regina
Town Station	Kipp	Qu'Appelle	Piegan Reserve
Wood Mountain	Regina	"Depot"	K
Willow Bunch	On Command	Maple Creek	Lethbridge
North-Western	Lethbridge	C	Battleford
Railway, Man.	Fort Macleod	Battleford	Fort Macleod
C	K	Regina	Kipp
Battleford	Battleford	Onion Lake	Pincher Creek
Onion Lake	Onion Lake	Prince Albert	DEPOT
Bresaylor	Settlement	Swift Current	Regina
60-Mile Bush	Mail Duty	Ranche Co.	Moosomin
D	Fort Macleod	D	Fort Qu'Appelle
Fort Macleod	Regina	Kootenay	Moose Jaw
Lethbridge	DEPOT	E	Wolseley
Battleford	Regina	Calgary	Whitewood
E	Whitewood	Regina	Broadview
Calgary	Fort	Banff	Qu'Appelle
Regina	Qu'Appelle	Gleichen	Town Station
Stinson's	Moose Jaw	High River	Battleford
Banff	Town Station	Scarlett's	Prince Albert
Scarlett's	Moosomin	F	Calgary
F	Manitoba and	Prince Albert	Lethbridge
Prince Albert	North-Western	Batoche	Wood Mountain
Batoche	Railway.	Touchwood	
Touchwood		Saskatoon	
Howse's		Special Duty	
Humboldt			

Table I

Divisional Stations by Year (cont'd)

1888

A		
Maple Creek	Sheep Creek	Flying patrol
Medicine Hat	Elbow	south
Swift Current	Little Bow	K
Saskatchewan Landing	Rosebud	Lethbridge
Dunmore	Gleichen	Kipp's Coulee
Bull's Head	Canmore	Milk River Ridge
Willow Creek	Laggan	Pendant d'Oreille
Graburn		Writing-on-Stone
Battle Creek	F	Many Berries Creek
Farwell Coulee	Prince Albert	Flying patrol
East End Post	On patrol	
	Batoche	DEPOT
	Saskatoon	Regina
B		
Wood Mountain	G	Moose Jaw
Willow Bunch	Saskatchewan	Qu'Appelle Station
Wood End	Edmonton	Qu'Appelle
Alameda	Red Deer	Whitewood
Short Creek	Peace Hills	Broadview
Cannington	St. Albert	Wolseley
C		
Battleford	Victoria	Moosomin
Onion Lake	On patrol	Touchwood
Bresayor	from Macleod	Langenburg
Sixty-Mile Bush	H	Regina Town
D		
Kootenay	Fort Macleod	Station
Kootenay Crossing	Pincher Creek	
Fairmont Landing	Crow's Nest	
Sam's Landing	St. Mary's	
McKay's Landing	Pot Hole	
Four-Mile Creek	Stand Off	
	Big Bend	
	Kipp	
	Leavings,	
	Willow Creek	
E		
Calgary	Dry Forks,	
Blackfoot Crossing	Kootenay	
Banff	Piegan Reserve	
High River	Flying patrol	
Scarlett's	north	
Morley		
Langdon		
High River		
(Mouth)		

Table I

Divisional Stations by Year (cont'd)1889

A

Maple Creek
 Medicine Hat
 Bull's Head
 Willow Creek
 Graburn
 Battle Creek
 Farwell
 East End
 Swift Current
 Dunmore

B

Wood Mountain
 Moose do
 Willow Bunch
 Manitoba

C

Battleford
 Onion Lake
 Sixty-Mile Bush

D

Fort Macleod
 Pincher Creek
 Stand Off
 St. Mary's
 Kootenay
 Kipp
 Milk River
 Leavings
 Crows's Nest

E

Calgary
 Banff
 Gleichen
 High River
 Morley
 Scarlett's
 Sheep Creek
 Industrial School

F

Prince Albert

Batoche
 Saskatoon
 St. Louis de Langevin

G

Saskatchewan
 Edmonton
 St. Albert
 Peace Hills
 Victoria
 Red Deer

H

Fort Macleod
 Pincher Creek
 Porcupine Hills
 Big Bend
 Lee's Creek
 Musquito Creek
 Crow's Nest

K

Lethbridge
 Fifteen Mile Lake
 Nine Mile Butte
 Milk River Ridge
 Writing-on-Stone
 Pendant d'Oreille
 Kennedy's Crossing
 Pot Hole
 Little Bow

DEPOT

Regina
 Moosomin
 Whitewood
 Broadview
 Wolseley
 Qu'Appelle
 Touchwood
 Moose Jaw
 Saltcoats
 Wapella

Table II

Strength and Distribution of Force by Division by Year

<u>Division</u>	<u>1874</u>	<u>1875</u>	<u>1876</u>	<u>1877</u>	<u>1878</u>	<u>1879</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1881</u>
A	Marching Out state	41	no divisional breakdown provided	no divisional breakdown provided	22	18	47	28
B		40			73	103	46	67
C		43			51	78	67	65
D		59			29	32	44	57
E		48			88	76	40	34
F		43			66	61	50	42
G								
H								
K								
Depot								
Other		69						
Total	217	343	335	329	329	334	299	293

Table II

Strength and Distribution by Force by Division by Year (cont'd)

<u>Division</u>	<u>1882</u>	<u>1883</u>	<u>1884</u>	<u>1885</u>	<u>1886</u>	<u>1887</u>	<u>1888</u> summer/fall	<u>1889</u> summer/fall
A	126	72	48	102	100	105	102/98	104/100
B	113	162	129	103	84	71	72/72	79/74
C	86	92	68	112	82	88	89/86	90/89
D	77	105	200	94	105	76	89/73	92/96
E	69	87	112	101	108	103	116/111	119/111
F				96	84	82	78/71	82/86
G				99	79	91	87/90	84/78
H				104	97	96	123/99	77/80
K				107	83	81	95/98	102/102
Depot				121	183	204	208/213	216/222
Other	3							
Total	474	518	557	1039	1005	997	1059/1011	1045/1038

Table IIIStrength and Distribution of Force by Post by Year
(total force strength in brackets)

<u>Post</u>	<u>1874</u> (217)	<u>1875</u> (343)	<u>1876</u> (335)	<u>1877</u> (329)	<u>1878</u> (329)
Battleford	no breakdown	no breakdown	12	14	33
Calgary	by post	by post	37	27	55 (includes Macleod)
Carlton					
Edmonton					
Kootenay					
Lethbridge					
Macleod			112	113	51 (see Calgary)
Maple Creek					
Medicine Hat					
Moose Jaw					
Pitt					
Prince Albert					8
Ft. Qu'Appelle			5	6	
Regina (Depot)					
Saskatchewan			22	23	22
Shoal Lake			8	7	21
Swan River			33	24	
Swift Current					
Walsh			102	89	139
Wood Mountain				17	

Table III

Strength and Distribution of Force by Post by Year (cont'd)
(total force strength in brackets)

Post	1879 (334)	1880 (229)	1881 (293)	1882 (474)	1883 (518)	1884 (557)
Battleford	24	26	43	58	42	103
Calgary	13	4	8	64	76	66
Carlton						49
Edmonton						
Kootenay					4	2
Lethbridge						
Macleod	89	63	40	86	78	57
Maple Creek					55	35
Medicine Hat					17	10
Moose Jaw					2	1
Pitt					26	20
Prince Albert	4	8	2	3	11	23
Fort Qu'Appelle	6	39	47	17	5	4
Regina (Depot)				56	140	96
Saskatchewan	18	10	12	16	26	19
Shoal Lake	21	4	4		2	1
Swan River	2	3	3			
Swift Current						1
Walsh	142	112	97	103		
Wood Mountain	23	30	20	9	1	

Table IIIStrength and Distribution of Force by Post by Year (cont'd)
(total force strength in brackets)

<u>Post</u>	<u>1885</u> (1039)	<u>1886</u> (1005)	<u>1887</u> (997)	<u>1888</u> summer/fall (1059)/(1011)	<u>1889</u> summer/fall (1045)/(1038)
Battleford	197	141	80	76/80	80/81
Calgary	100	99	67	58/74	80/83
Carlton					
Edmonton	80	20	21	13/12	15/10
Kootenay		4	80	76/4	3/3
Lethbridge	11	32	75	62/74	62/72
Macleod	161	134	73	57/112	111/136
Maple Creek	(new fort) 51	74	55	44/61	50/61
Medicine Hat	48	17	17	18/26	19/28
Moose Jaw	3	2	2	2/1	2/2
Pitt					
Prince Albert	94	63	63	15/59	71/76
Ft. Qu'Appelle	5	4	4	/2	/3
Regina (Depot)	78 (119)	62 (169)	50 (171)	(176)/37(168)	(187)/35(189)
Saskatchewan	19	41	60	42/63	56/60
Shoal Lake	1				
Swan River					
Swift Current	2	4	4	2/4	3/3
Walsh					
Wood Mountain		6	6	42/6	41/9

Table IV

Men Discharged, Re-Engaged and New Recruits by Year
(total force strength in brackets)

	<u>1874</u>	<u>1875*</u>	<u>1876</u>	<u>1877</u>	<u>1878</u>
		(343)	(335)	(329)	(329)
Expiration of term of service	marching out state	*incomplete	39	82	no figures given
Order in council					
Specially permitted					
Discharge purchased			2	2	
Invalided			18	9	
Deaths			1	1	
Deserters		31	1	2	
Dismissed			7	5	
Total			68	101	
Re-engaged			18	32	
Recruits			63	97	
Total			81	129	

Table IV

Men Discharged, Re-Engaged, and New Recruits by Year (cont'd)
 (total force strength in brackets)

	1879 (334)	1880 (229)	1881 (293)	1882* (474)	1883 (518)	1884 (557)
Expiration of term of service	46	97	60	*incomplete	5	5
Order in council		39				
Specially permitted			9		16	
Discharge purchased						8
Invalided	4	6	15	9	27	26
Deaths	1	2		2	2	1
Deserters	7	10	16		25	31
Dismissed		3	3			3
TOTAL	88	157	103		75	107
Re-engaged	30	22	20		9	40
Recruits	90	105	101	250	110	131
TOTAL	120	127	121		119	171

Table IV

Men Discharged, Re-Engaged and New Recruits by Year (cont'd)
(total force strength in brackets)

	1885* (1039)	1886* (1005)	1887*	1888*	1889*
Expiration of term of service	*incom- plete	*incom- plete 2	*incom- plete 94	*incom- plete	*incom- plete 33
Order in council					
Specially permitted			1		
Discharge purchased			18		39
Invalided	18	24	18	21	12
Deaths	12 (8) (rebel- lion)	12	5	5	3
Deserters		19	46	45	47
Dismissed			3	4	12
TOTAL					
Re-engaged		2	13	71	
Recruits	608		157	133	
TOTAL					

Table V

Horses by Division by Year

(divisional strength in brackets)

Division	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878
A	marching out state	56 (41)	no divisional breakdown provided	no divisional breakdown provided	14 (22)
B		41 (40)			61 (73)
C		50 (43)			115 (51)
D		61 (59)			24 (29)
E		49 (48)			70 (88)
F		51 (43)			68 (66)
G					
H					
K					
DEPOT					
OTHER		28 (69)			
TOTAL	244 (217)	336 (343)	287 (335)	315 (329)	352 (329)

Table V

Horses by Division by Year (cont'd)

(divisional strength in brackets)

	<u>1879</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1881</u>	<u>1882</u>	<u>1883</u>	<u>1884</u>
Division						
A	11 (18)	40 (47)	47 (28)	71 (126)	48 (72)	46 (48)
B	76 (103)	48 (46)	46 (67)	56 (113)	56 (162)	57 (129)
C	78 (50)	152 (67)	180 (65)	127 (86)	117 (92)	73 (68)
D	32 (33)	58 (44)	86 (57)	60 (77)	56 (105)	107 (200)
E	76 (77)	30 (44)	40 (34)	47 (69)	78 (87)	78 (112)
F	61 (81)	26 (55)	29 (42)			
G						
H						
K						
DEPOT						
OTHER						
TOTAL	334 (362)	354 (299)	428 (293)	361 (474)	355 (518)	359 (557)

Table V

Horses by Division by Year (cont'd)

(divisional strength in brackets)

Division	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889
				summer/fall	summer/fall
A	no statistics given	90 (100)	101 (105)	103/102 (102/98)	98/95 (104/100)
B		110 (84)	87 (71)	82/80 (72/72)	79/76 (79/74)
C		91 (82)	75 (88)	66/66 (89/73)	67/70 (90/89)
D		75 (105)	91 (76)	96/90 (89/73)	85/101 (92/96)
E		83 (108)	85 (103)	101/96 (116/111)	95/103 (119/111)
F		70 (84)	73 (82)	79/72 (78/71)	82/78 (82/86)
G		72 (79)	73 (91)	66/66 (87/90)	78/64 (84/78)
H		95 (97)	105 (96)	109/102 (123/99)	102/104 (77/80)
K		61 (83)	101 (81)	100/92 (95/98)	80/96 (102/102)
DEPOT		97 (183)	130 (204)	123/113 (208/213)	127/131 (216/222)
OTHER					
TOTAL		845 (1005)	996 (997)	925/879 (1059/1011)	893/918 (1045/1038)

Table VI

N.W.M.P. Sick Report by Year

(number of men of reporting stations in brackets)

		1874	1875	1876	1877	1878
Disease						
GENERAL	32	no statistics given for the 1874-78 period				
NERVOUS	4	21	48	39	197	181
RESPIRATORY	24	122	124	104	202	152
CIRCULATORY				1		
DIGESTIVE	11	63	79	142	702	444
GLANDULAR	2	12	22	16	2	1
SKIN	9	13	12	20	78	77
SPECIAL SENSE	2	12	10	4	13	14
UROGENITAL	38	46		7	58	101
SURGERY	23	49	90	73	316	216
TOTAL	221	483	422	417	2142	2497
FEVER	21	13		1		
FROSTBITE		1	3	2		
VENEREAL DISEASE	22	33		2		

Table VI

N.W.M.P. Sick Report by Year (cont'd)

(number of men of reporting stations in brackets)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>1879</u> (231)	<u>1880</u> (112)	<u>1881</u> (117)	<u>1882</u> (103)	<u>1883</u>
GENERAL	27	37	64	32	no Statistics given
NERVOUS	39	48	51	4	
RESPIRATORY	104	124	155	24	
CIRCULATORY	1				
DIGESTIVE	142	79	69	11	
GLANDULAR		22	21	2	
SKIN	20	12	13	9	
SPECIAL SENSE	4	10	15	9	
UROGENITAL	7		46	38	
SURGERY	73	90	49	27	
TOTAL	417	422	483	156	
FEVER	1		13	15	
FROSTBITE	2	3	1		
VENEREAL DISEASE	2		33	22	

Table VI

N.W.M.P. Sick Report by Year (cont'd)

(number of men of reporting stations in brackets)

	<u>1884</u>	<u>1885</u>	<u>1886</u>	<u>1887</u>	<u>1888</u>	<u>1889</u>
	(400)	(555)	(674)	(584)	(649)	(985)
Disease						
GENERAL	149	154	420	171	197	180
NERVOUS	74	96	201	179	206	253
RESPIRATORY	232	228	580	508	642	664
CIRCULATORY	11	7	8	10	16	18
DIGESTIVE	222	395	734	538	507	543
GLANDULAR	25	61	50	16	21	87
SKIN	88	104	127	87	75	95
SPECIAL SENSE	14	26	50	28	63	41
UROGENITAL	276	160	55	59	55	106
SURGERY	233	301	589	416	635	510
TOTAL	1324	1532	2814	2012	2417	2497
FEVER	2	57	40	27	22	7
FROSTBITE	6	10	20	25	21	9
VENEREAL DISEASE	131	98		39		57

Table VII

Criminal Cases by Year (Indian Cases in brackets)

	<u>1874</u>	<u>1875</u>	<u>1876</u>	<u>1877</u>	<u>1878 (southern district only)</u>
Murder	no statistics given for the				
Wounding	1874-1878 period				
Threatening to shoot					2 (1)
Assault					4
Indecent Assault					
High Treason					
Treason felony					
Felony					
Obstructing police					
Horse Stealing					5
Cattle stealing					
Injury to property					
Arson					
Larceny					2 (2)
Robbery					
Stolen property into Canada					
Importing Intox.					2
Possession Intox.					
Selling intox. to Indians					
Drunk					
Disturbance					
Vagrancy					
Gambling					
Prostitution					
Lunatics					
Non-payment wages					
Deserting employ.					
Misc					1 (1)
Total.					16 (4)

Table VII

Criminal Cases by Year (cont'd)

(Indian cases in brackets)

	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883
Murder	1(1)	2(2)		3(1)	1
Wounding	1(1)		3		
Threatening to Shoot		1	2(2)		4(2)
Assault	13(4)	16(2)	4	28(6)	29(1)
Indecent Assault	2(2)			3(1)	
High Treason					
Treason felony					
Felony	1(1)				
Obstructing police					1
Horse Stealing	5(3)	13(3)	12(7)	16(10)	12(5)
Cattle stealing	3(3)	9(9)	1(1)	2	13(7)
Injury to property	4(3)			18	4(2)
Arson	1	3			
Larceny	13(8)	10(3)	9(6)	42(20)	28(8)
Robbery	3	1	6(1)		8
Stolen property into Canada	1	4(4)	1	11(11)	17(14)
Importing Intox.	7			39(3)	
Possession Intox.	5	17	3	52(1)	66(2)
Selling Intox.	7	4	2		13
to Indians		2	6		
Drunk	1		1		22(1)
Disturbance					
Vagrancy					
Gambling			27	31	29
Prostitution					
Lunatics	1	1(1)	1(1)	2	1
Nonpayment wages	4	2	1		97
Deserting employ.	1				
Misc.	8	13(3)	5(1)	31(6)	38(2)
Total	82(26)	98(24)	84(19)	278(59)	386(44)

Table VII

Criminal Cases by Year (cont'd)
 (Indian cases in brackets)

	<u>1884</u>	<u>1885</u>	<u>1886</u>	<u>1887</u>	<u>1888</u>	<u>1889</u>
Murder	3	17(17)	1(1)	7(2)	3	1
Wounding		4(4)		3(2)	6	1(1)
Threatening to shoot	1	3	6(1)	2(1)	3	3
Assault	42(4)	53(6)	58	44(7)	50(5)	80(8)
Indecent Assault	3	2		2	2(1)	3(1)
High treason		7(5)				
Treason felony		92(49)				
Felony		12(9)	1		1(1)	1
Obstructing police	3	1	2	5(5)		7(5)
Horse Stealing	31(5)	48(29)	12(5)	9(3)	17(4)	21(15)
Cattle stealing	2(1)	9(7)	1	7(3)	7	8
Injury to property	4(4)	4(1)	2	1		8(1)
Arson	6	6(5)	10(2)	3(1)	22	39(1)
Larceny	62(10)	66(19)	51	50(6)	30(1)	57(8)
Robbery	15(7)	2(2)	19	2	12(3)	23(5)
Stolen property into Canada	3	14(5)	8	4	1	9(2)
	15(13)	1	6(2)		2	9(6)
Importing Intox.			6	3	3	2
Possession intox.	114(1)	79	102	68(3)	70	56(2)
Selling intox.	33	29	74	24	33	39
to Indians	4	10(1)	10	2	12	16
Drunk	61	50(2)	85(2)	58(12)	61(22)	98(33)
Disturbance			18	17(1)	16	26
Vagrancy	35(4)	6(1)	14	14	6(1)	39(3)
Gambling	25(2)	17	10	11	1	27
Prostitution	10(1)	1(1)				2
Lunatics	20	8(1)	9(1)	11(1)	13(2)	9
Nonpayment of wages	72	4	37	22	7	8
Deserting employ.	3		13	3	6	5
Misc.	29	46(31)	47(1)	50	33(1)	63(7)
Total.	596(52)	612(194)	602(15)	422(47)	417(41)	660(95)

Discussion of Tables

Table II

Strength and Distribution of Force by Division by Year

Table II totals reveal an increase in the total strength of the force over the sample period in stages. From 1875 to 1881, inclusive, the force approximated 300 men, consisting of six divisions designated A to F. In 1882, the force was reduced to five divisions but increased by roughly 200 men. The force was increased again in 1885 to 1,000 men which were distributed among nine divisions (A-K) and the Depot.

From 1875 to 1881, the strength of the divisions varied greatly, except for 1875 and 1880 when the six divisions closely approximated 50 men. By taking those divisions with the most men and referring to table I, areas of police concentration emerge. In 1878, Divisions E, B, and F (88, 73 and 66 men) were stationed at Macleod and Calgary, Walsh and outposts and Walsh respectively. This focus of divisional strength in the southern district continued in 1879 and 1881.

When the force strength was 500 men (1882-1884), divisional totals varied to a greater extent. The numerically stronger divisions, however, suggest greater police efforts in the Regina, Battleford and Saskatchewan districts, as well as the southern region. This expansion of the N.W.M.P. network is demonstrated by the data for 1884-1889 when the force was at its peak strength. The nine divisions closely approximated 100 men each and were distributed throughout the territory.

Table III

Strength and Distribution of Force by Division by Year

The trend of initial police concentration in the southern district followed by expansion over much of the Canadian West is corroborated by Table III. The table also demonstrates how the stationing of the force was affected by certain concerns and events.

From their initial penetration of the western interior until 1881, the police were heavily concentrated near the international boundary.

	<u>1876</u>	<u>1877</u>	<u>1878</u>	<u>1879</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1881</u>
number of men						
at: Calgary,	251	246	245	267	209	165
Macleod, Walsh						
Wood Mt.						
total force	335	329	329	334	229	293
strength						

Table VII

	<u>1876</u>	<u>1877</u>	<u>1878</u>	<u>1879</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1881</u>
percentage of force in southern district	75%	75%	75%	80%	91%	56%

Post figures for this period indicate that the force was not worried about existing white settlement along the so-called fertile belt and viewed its proposed base of operations at Swan River as unrealistic. Their major concern was clearly with the Plains Indians in the southern district. The rise in police concentration and eventual decline in the fall of 1881 is probably accountable to Sitting Bull's period of refuge in Canadian territory.

The data for the 1882-1884 period reveals the force's strategy to the coming of the transcontinental railway. As the CPR mainline was pushed westward from Winnipeg in 1882, police postings were adjusted accordingly. Regina was designated the new force headquarters, Walsh was abandoned, Calgary's strength increased substantially, and detachments of varying size were stationed along the route. In 1883, the men at Regina, Maple Creek, Medicine Hat and Calgary represented 56% of the total force strength. Such reorganization was probably undertaken to guarantee the security of the vital new rail link, control the often times, unruly railway navvies and prepare for future settlement along the line.

The situation in central Saskatchewan had a similar effect on N.W.M.P. distribution. Indian/Métis unrest in the early 1880s resulted in a gradual rise in the force at Battleford, such that it quadrupled from 1880 to 1884. Indeed, the police were so uneasy that 35 per cent or one-third of the total police force was stationed in this region (Battleford, Carlton, Pitt, Prince Albert) in 1884.

For the period 1885-1889, the table suggests a growing decentralization of the force into centres of future concentration of settlement. The summer/fall statistics for 1888-1889, moreover, indicate that some stations (such as Wood Mountain) were more active in summer and that the men tended to congregate at major posts over the winter.

Table IV

Men Discharged, Re-Engaged and New Recruits by Year

Because of incomplete returns, the conclusions that could be drawn from this table were few and should be treated with relative caution.

Examination of table IV indicates that the annual turnover rate was determined by several factors and could not be predicted with any element of certainty. The number of men who were entitled to and took their discharge varied over the sample period. Those men who could not wait until their term expired and purchased their discharge were negligible, except during the latter part of the sample period. There seems to be no direct relationship between the number of men who bought their way out of the force and those who deserted.

The 'invalided' data is somewhat cyclical in nature. In 1876, shortly after the creation of the force, there were a relatively high number of men dismissed for medical reasons. This figure gradually decreased until the force strength was increased in 1883 and a greater number of men (probably new recruits) invalided the following year. Thereafter the number declined until the force was again increased in 1885 and the cycle repeated itself.

The number of policemen who died each year increased proportionately with the increase in force strength, except during the Rebellion. The fact that there were relatively few deaths is a testimony to the success of the force. The number of men who deserted also increased proportionately (approximately per cent) with the increase in force strength. Not surprisingly, however, there were a high number of desertions immediately after the force arrived in Western Canada. The number of men dismissed was generally constant over the sample period.

Finally, the annual number of recruits remained at approximately 100-150 men, except during those years when the force strength was increased.

Table V

Horses by Division by Year

In his 1885 report, N.W.M.P. Commissioner Irvine declared that "the usefulness of the force depends on its mobility." The comparison between horses and men provided in table V is therefore particularly enlightening.

During the force's initial phase at 300 men (1874-1881), the proportion between the number of horses and men was relatively equal (except 1881 when there were 1.5 horses per man). In 1874, 1878 and 1880, there were slightly more horses than men, whereas in 1875, 1876, 1877 and 1879, the situation was reversed. When the force was enlarged by 200 men, the number of horses noticeably lagged behind the increase in manpower. In 1882, 1883, and 1884, there were .76, .69 and .64 horses per man respectively. When the force was increased to 1,000 men (1885-1889), the number of horses again lagged behind but to a lesser extent.

As for the distribution of horses by division, 'C' Division or Macleod had the greatest number of horses from 1878 to 1883.

	<u>1878</u>	<u>1879</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1881</u>	<u>1882</u>	<u>1883</u>
percentage of total horses at Macleod	33%	23%	43%	42%	35%	33%
number of horses per man at Macleod	2.3	1.6	2.7	2.8	1.5	1.3

The number of horses at Macleod is to a large extent accountable by the fact that it was a prime grazing area. It is an interesting coincidence, however, that during the late 1870s and 1880s the force not only concentrated its manpower in the southern district but the police in this region had the greatest number of horses at their disposal. The significance of this coincidence is underlined by the fact that Division 'D' (Battleford, Prince Albert, Pitt, Carlton, Frog Lake) had the greatest number of horses in 1884.

It should be noted that the table fails to give any idea of the demands that the care of these animals made upon force personnel.

Table VI

Sick Report by Year

The general health of the N.W.M.P. as outlined in table VI widely varied and was seldom good.

	<u>1879</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1881</u>	<u>1882</u>	<u>1883</u>	
cases per	1.8	3.8	4.1	1.5*	—	
man	<u>1884</u>	<u>1885</u>	<u>1886</u>	<u>1887</u>	<u>1888</u>	<u>1889</u>
	3.3	2.8	4.2	3.4	3.7	2.5

The 'cases per man' figures can only be explained by a careful study of the circumstances at each reporting station—namely, nutrition, sanitary and living conditions, climate, nature of work and external factors. Yet, it would not be too bold to suggest that the high figure for 1886 is partly attributable to the Rebellion and the doubling of force strength to one thousand men.

The number of cases per disease tended to rise gradually with the increase in the number of men at the reporting stations. The high nervous figure for 1886, the high digestive figures for 1879 and 1886, the high urogenital figures for 1884 and 1885 and the generally low figures for all categories in 1882 are the major exceptions. 60 to 80 per cent of the cases over the sample period were either general, respiratory, digestive or surgical in nature.

The incidence of fever (malaria, typhoid, scarlet) was sporadic, affecting 10 to 15 per cent and 5 to 10 per cent of the reporting stations in 1881-1882 and 1885-1886 respectively. Frostbite remained relatively constant over the sample period at two per cent of the men. Finally, venereal disease became a serious problem in the early 1880s but declined sharply thereafter.

	<u>1879</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1881</u>	<u>1882</u>	<u>1883</u>	<u>1884</u>
number of men at reporting stations	231	112	117	103	-	400
number of reported cases of V.D.	2	-	33	22	-	131
number of men affected	.9%	-	28%	21%	-	33%

	<u>1885</u>	<u>1886</u>	<u>1887</u>	<u>1888</u>	<u>1889</u>
number of men at reporting stations	555	674	584	649	985
number of reported cases of V.D.	98	-	39	-	57
number of men affected	18%	-	7%	-	6%

The lack of a single reported case of venereal disease for 1886 and 1888 is suspect.

(*Although 1882 had the lowest cases per man figure, 37% of the men at the reporting stations suffered from venereal disease or fever).

Table VII

Criminal Cases by Year

The overall crime totals of table VII are largely a reflection of the events and trends of the sample period and not police strength. Relatively stable from 1879 to 1881, criminal offences rose substantially with the arrival of the CPR main line, eventually peaking during the Saskatchewan Rebellion. After 1885, the number of cases declined rather significantly (and unexpectedly given the doubling of force strength) and then peaked again as the region became increasingly opened up and developed.

This situation is confirmed by the individual crime statistics. Data from the railway era (1882-1884) indicates a rapid rise in assault, horse stealing, larceny, liquor, gambling and prostitution offences, as well as disputes over the payment of wages. The Rebellion is reflected by the crimes of treason, treason felony and felony. The kind of crimes that accompany settlement and the beginnings of urbanization are prominent in the final few years of the sample period. The statistics reveal a steady growth in assault, liquor and gambling offences. Robbery, vagrancy, arson (setting fire to prairie) and creating a disturbance also assumed significance.

By far the largest number of cases over the sample period involved liquor (illegally importing intoxicants; illegal possession of intoxicants; illegally selling intoxicants; selling intoxicants to Indians; drunk).

	<u>1878*</u>	<u>1879</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1881</u>	<u>1882</u>	<u>1883</u>
percentage of cases involving liquor	13%	24%	23%	14%	32%	26%
*southern district only						
	<u>1884</u>	<u>1885</u>	<u>1886</u>	<u>1887</u>	<u>1888</u>	<u>1889</u>
	36%	27%	46%	36%	42%	31%

Intoxicants were the major concern of the police probably because they had a direct bearing on the behaviour of whites and Indians alike.

The percentage of total crimes committed by Indians varied over the sample period. The effect of the Rebellion prosecutions on Indian behaviour is undeniable in 1886.

	<u>1878</u>	<u>1879</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1881</u>	<u>1882</u>	<u>1883</u>
percentage of crimes committed by Indians	25%	32%	24%	23%	21%	11%

	<u>1884</u>	<u>1885</u>	<u>1886</u>	<u>1887</u>	<u>1888</u>	<u>1889</u>
percentage of crimes committed by Indians	9%	32%	3%	11%	10%	14%

Generally half of the horse stealing offences tried over the sample period were committed by Indians. Most of the cases for bringing stolen property into Canada involved Indians who had usually secured horses from American tribes. Significantly, all of the offences involving cattle in 1879 and 1880 were committed by Indians. These statistics correspond with the years of starvation among Indian tribes. Finally, the growing percentage of Indians arrested for drunkenness at the end of the sample period is noteworthy.

W.A. Waiser
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

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