

only on account of the interesting character of the immediate features of the subject, but also because of the possible gigantic eventualities liable to grow out of it in combination with other developments.

### THE CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE.

TRAVELERS who journey into Canada from either Montana or Western Dakota hear a good deal about the mounted police of the Dominion. This force is not very large, but it is one of the most valuable bodies in the public service of British America. It is composed of ten divisions of 100 men each, and fifty-two officers. The territory over which it maintains law and order extends from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains, and from the international boundary line on the south to a line 300 miles on the north. The area of this district is estimated at 270,000 square miles.

The country is but sparsely settled, though it is reckoned as a first-class grazing and pasturing region. The whole extent, however, is supposed to be patrolled once a week by the mounted police. They travel in bodies of two or three or four, just as the character of the country demands. Their chief duty is to protect law-abiding settlers, to prevent horse and cattle stealing, smuggling, and other offenses of that nature. They also must see that the Indians keep on their reservations, unless these Indians hold licenses to hunt. Their most difficult duty is the enforcement of the liquor prohibition law. The settlers endeavor to evade the law in every particular, and do not give any support, moral or legal, to the police.

The headquarters of the force are at Regina, where the chief commissioner and his staff reside, with about a contingent of 170 non-commissioned officers and men. In addition to headquarters there are fourteen stations from which patrolling is done, each under a commissioned or non-commissioned officer.

A high state of discipline is maintained. The men are thoroughly drilled in infantry, cavalry and artillery tactics. They are richly and gorgeously uniformed in scarlet tunics with yellow braid relief and yellow facings, and blue cloth riding trousers with yellow stripes. In winter, of course, they are clad entirely in furs and robes. They are armed with Winchesters, revolvers, and, where considered necessary, sabres.

In case of political troubles this organization can be utilized as a military force, and in 1865 was so used. Then the men proved themselves amenable

to strict military order, and on several occasions behaved as firmly and gravely as any cavalry regiment of the British army could do. The force is generally recruited from a superior class to that usually supplying bodies of this kind. Frequently the sons of wealthy and noble persons are sent into the service, hoping that the discipline and the isolation from the evils of civilized life will work an improvement in their wild characters.

In no instance has the desired effect been accomplished. On the contrary, it seems that the inclination to drunkenness and license of other kinds has become intensified by a sojourn in those wild, dreary, unsettled plains. There are, however, several members of English titled families in the force, and it is said they make excellent officers. But they took to the West rather from love of adventure and romance than from habits of an immoral nature.

### OF INCALCULABLE VALUE.

DEEPER boring in the gas wells north of this city, in Davis County, has given further hope that natural gas may be obtained in such volume as to supply Salt Lake with all that is necessary for light and fuel, whether in household, manufacturing or public uses. A full supply would work a great transformation here. It would not only cheapen the means for heating and illumination, but do away with a great deal of dust, smoke, and other offensive matter, and give an impetus to all kind of manufacturing interests that would lift the city, almost at a bound, into the position which has long been anticipated for it.

In cities where natural gas is in use, houses are lit by it at very small expense, and one has but to turn a tap and strike a match to kindle a fire which, for heating and cooking, is preferable in every way to that from ordinary fuel. Grates are filled with balls or lumps of white stone, and, when the gas is turned on, in a few minutes they become heated and throw out a warmth and a clear glow that is both pleasant and beautiful. It takes the place of coal for furnaces and engines, and great factories and works may be run with it at comparatively little cost.

If it shall turn out that the great subterranean veins or reservoirs of natural gas have been tapped near Lake Shore, it will not only be a vast fortune to the projectors of the enterprise, but of incalculable value to this city and incidentally to the whole Territory. The news seems almost too good to be true.

### "SALT LAKE CITY DID IT."

THE value and benefit of home manufactures to any community are thus commented upon under the above heading by the *Omaha World-Herald*:

"Perhaps the best illustration of the good effects of patronizing home industries is the growth of the city of Salt Lake. When the indefatigable Mormon leaders started their small colony in the now blossoming valley where the city of Salt Lake stands they were somewhat in the position of the Creator at the foundation of the world. They were not exactly called upon to build a city out of nothing, but they had very, very raw material to begin with. They had rocky mountains with gushing streams and sandy bottom lands with little vegetation. They were cut off from the civilized world by a great desert waste, uncrossed by any line of communication except an endless wagon trail.

"They were forced by circumstances, therefore, to do that very thing which Omaha should do from preference, namely, to build up a community within themselves by industry, energy and enterprise. There was work for everybody and every home industry was patronized, because Salt Lake was too isolated from the rest of the world to take her patronage elsewhere. It soon became the boast of Salt Lake City that her people could produce anything, from a horse shoe to the great pipe organ in the tabernacle. Quarries were opened and a city built. The mountain streams were seized upon and compelled to irrigate the desert valley until it became a garden. Agriculture and manufacture worked shoulder to shoulder. Trade and commerce with the surrounding regions quickly followed, and a great community thus grew up hundreds of miles from any other of importance and in the very midst of what had been a desert.

"In the strictest sense, Salt Lake City was built by the patronage of home industries. The spirit that animated the people was a spirit of fraternity, and the bold intelligence of Brigham Young and his Church gave an irresistible impulse to the movement to develop the community from within, and to utilize the energy and industry of every man in the community for the production of those things which the community needed.

"A great many industries have grown up in Omaha and a good deal of manufacturing is done here on a small scale. The more producers we can keep busy in this city the greater will its prosperity be. We cannot erect a city with consumers only or with trades people only. No community, however blessed by commerce, can pass beyond a certain point of development unless it produces and creates quantities of those goods which it annually consumes.

"Chicago's first growth was due to commerce, but her second greater growth has been due to manufactures, and so it must be with Omaha."

For several years the spirit of encouragement to home industries in this Territory seemed to be taking a rest. Mercantile enterprises became all the rage. Various speculations were started. Real estate dealing made a temporary boom. And so home manufactures dwindled, and it was as much as those who were interested in them could do, to keep them afloat with anything like fair returns.

But attention is now being returned to this important matter. The sugar