

realise that this is not really the explanation. The basis of law and order is not force. It is common sense. If our combative instinct does not make it necessary for us to assault our neighbours when they annoy us, still less does it make it necessary for us to dress up in uniforms and do our best to kill men who have never done us any harm, and who are quite unknown to us.

MR. G. M. KEYS (3YA).

WHEN Sir John Macdonald, by his Police Act in 1873, gave birth to this force of Mounted Riflemen, he was actuated by two main concerns. British Columbia had been promised the C.P.R. six years earlier; in fact the railway was worthless unless it crossed the plains and the Rockies, for British Columbia was its reason for existence. But not a rail had yet been laid on the plains, for the very obvious reason that across this 1000 miles of prairie and 500 miles of mountains, tribes of Redskins wandered uncontrolled, only too ready to destroy all evidence of the white man's progress and to scalp him into the bargain. They must first be subdued—hence the Police Act. But there was a second problem. Refugees from the late American Armies were pushing North. Bankrupts, outlaws, and rascally traders were prepared to rough it and risk it on the chance of being able to fleece the Indians of their horses, and hides and land. If no action were taken it might not be only the Indians who would lose the land. Canada might lose it forever. It was hoped that the force of Mounted Riflemen might solve these problems. But some rather senseless objections were raised immediately, particularly by United States' newspapers, who discussed this new "military move" and spoke of it as if Montana were to be invaded. Sir John, in anger, changed the name of his prospective force from "Mounted Rifles" to "Mounted Police" and the officers' titles from Major and Captain to Superintendent and Inspector, which terms are still used to-day. The title "N.W.M.P." was to change at a later date, because of Royal patronage, to the "R.N.W.M.P."; and still later to its present title of "R.C.M.P."

INTENSITY of training weeded out the unfit then, as it still does. The work in this first instance was particularly exacting, and the rumours of what lay ahead caused a few, the lazy and faint-hearted, to take "leg-bail." The remainder said, "Good riddance." Esprit de corps became established, and after a period of training, which seemed all too short in view of the work which lay to hand, the column moved out on its long march of 1000 miles into the prairies—a handful of scarlet-coated men, each troop on horses of a distinctive colour, followed by wagons, two field-guns and mortars, and a procession of ox-carts, agricultural implements and herds of cows and calves. It was a historic day for Canada, this 8th of July, 1874, when this expedition of young men from whom the waverers and the weaklings had been weeded, first invaded Indian land. The record of this first journey would in itself provide the material for several interesting talks, but the contrast between the conditions which this force encountered and the highlight of the sign-

ing of an important treaty with the Indians three years later, is surely eloquent testimony to the way in which they accomplished the work which they were sent out to do.

DONALD COWIE (3YA).

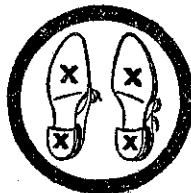
UNDOUBTEDLY the ranks of literary genius are thin at present; but for the consolation of the aspiring there still towers head and shoulders above most of his fellows one man—Rudyard Kipling—who, I am sure, will be regarded by the literary historian of the future as the true recorder of our age, a fine instrument who lived wholeheartedly in it, and then wrote down faithfully what he heard, saw, felt and thought. There has been much speculation as to the origin of Kipling's

queer Christian name, and for some time it was thought he had been named after a lake in the Midlands, where his parents had spent their honeymoon. Nothing so romantic is the fact, however. The boy, on good authority, was named in accordance with a grandmother's wish, after a London Square!

Kipling's was a precocious genius. At the age of 17 the young exile returned to his beloved India where, through the influence of his father he obtained a position on the staff of a Lahore newspaper. Almost immediately he began writing those fine short stories which in 1888 were published in the volume "Plain Tales from the Hills." At an age when most writers have still to cut their wisdom teeth Kipling was producing his best work.



WE NEED 4 SUPPORTS

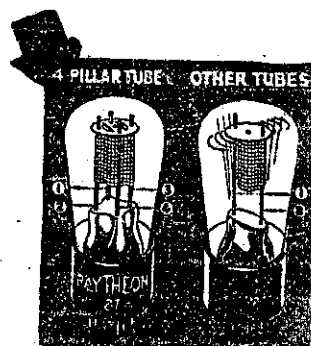


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