

THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

The Riders of the Plains.

Ottawa Journal:—Numbering at present a few over 900 officers and men, the Royal Northwest Mounted Police have come through another year of splendid work. Besides the old responsibilities of peace times, they have had many added duties owing to Canada's relation to the war; but the annual report of the Commissioner, Lieut.-Col. Perry, shows that nothing was lacking in the conduct and achievement of the force. After the war broke out, so many of the R.N.W.M.P. enlisted, and so much additional work had to be done, and so much uncertainty about the northwest population existed, that 500 new men were recruited; but most of these were last year allowed to go—and mostly they went to the war. Of charges against suspected enemy aliens, the Mounted Police investigated 2,509 cases during the year, interned 396 and paroled 326.

Life Cheap in Montreal.

Montreal News:—For one person directly murdered here in Montreal, there are hundreds and perhaps thousands of deaths traceable to bad or badly applied laws and by-laws in building restrictions, sanitary regulations, impure milk supply, unreliable water service, inefficient street lighting and cleaning, bad sewerage, lack of parks and playgrounds, and, last but not least, the hydra-headed evils associated with what is known as slum life. The infantile death-rate of Montreal includes thousands of indirect murders every year. Graft and civic corruption and inefficiency lead to thousands more. The annual clean-up week alone saves the lives of hundreds of babies each year. What happened before that excellent movement was started?

Grouch Against Weather Man.

Montreal Mail:—The grievances of the west are always aired, both in Parliament and elsewhere. What about the east? We hereby put it up to the Government at Ottawa that the weather in the east this winter has been the worst ever remembered, expected or prophesied. We have frozen and we have holed. As a result, there has been an epidemic of la grippe that has brought tears to our eyes. There has been too much rain, and the walking has been, more often than not, atrocious. Whatever kind of weather the west has had, we have had worse weather and more of it. The biggest growl about the winter comes from Saskatchewan, where there has been a shortage of coal. Saskatchewan went "dry" a while ago, and the inhabitants claim it has been impossible to get fire outside or firewater within. In the east we have had coal, both for external and internal use, but we have had far more colds than coals. If they have escaped la grippe in Saskatchewan, they should worry about a little thing like a shortage of coal.