

## **Stable Discipline and Duties**

*(Drill Regulations for the North-West Mounted Police, 1889)*

1. Great importance should be attached to a proper system of stable discipline being established and maintained, at all posts in the Mounted Police.

As in other mounted corps, it is upon such system that the health and condition of the horses, and therefore the efficiency of the corps depend. In this force it is necessary that men should never be suffered to retain the idea which they often possess when joining, that the stable duties are merely the duties of fatigue.

2. On service, on prairie trips, patrolling, and the many varied duties that a Mounted Policeman has to perform away from his post, it is utterly impossible to carry out the same routine that is observed in barracks; this, however, matters little, provided officers, or non-commissioned officers in charge of parties are watchful and careful of their horses and prevent any negligence as to their watering, feeding and grooming, and to see that spare horses, if any, are told off; to see that the numnahs and saddle blankets are kept clean and dry, and that saddlery and harness is free from dirt; bits and buckles kept in clean oil. To examine each horse thoroughly every evening, paying particular attention to their backs, and looking out for girth galls; also, to the state of their shoes. To sparing horses unnecessary work, dismounting men when halted for any length of time, etc., etc.

3. The following is the normal routine of stable duties:-

All officers off duty to attend mid-day stables

The orderly officer will attend all stables

The warning for stables to sound 15 minutes before stable hour.

On "stables" sounding, the men will fall in in fatigue dress by divisions, with their grooming articles, and answer their names, roll to be called by division (troop) orderly (sergeants), who will report to their sergeants-major, who reports to the orderly officer. If stables are some distance from the parade ground, the men are told off by sections and marched over. If they fall in near the stables the word will be given "Right turn-File in." During stable hours no man is to leave the stable or horse lines, without the permission of his sergeant-major or, during his absence, the senior non-commissioned officer of his division (troop) who may be in charge.

At morning stables all men are to help muck out and hay up before commencing to groom.

Officers are to go through the stables and see that the men are grooming properly, and that the non-commissioned officers in charge of stables are instructing the young constables who may be new to the work, as to the proper method of grooming their horses, and in seeing that the routine

