Making and Maintaining a Metropolitan Police Force

N COLONIAL times and the days following the revolutionary war policemen were so vastly different in every respect from twentieth century guardians of the peace that it is difficult to realize the progress made

in the methods of protecting life and property. Governor Peter Stuyvesant of New Netherlands, which is now a part of Greater New York, was at the head of the first regularly organized police force in America. From the Dutch governor's force of six old men, attired in nondescript clothing, to the modern metropolitan police organization, is indeed a far cry.

Sturdy old Peter of the wooden leg prepared in 1656 for a crusade against the liquer saloons by organizing a police force of six men. They were on duty at night and nearched about the streets sounding the rattles with which they were equipped and yelling hourly: "By the grace of God, 2 o'clock, in peace." Besides keeping a sharp eye on the rum sellers, it appears These old "leatherheads" were subject to for every appointment, must start with the severe. The applicant must be between were arrested for shouting after Indians to the fortifications.

formed policeman appeared in the streets "finest." It was a common occurrence of New York. He was armed with a bell to play rough practical jokes upon the



that "the rattle watch" also got busy oc- very little discipline and were anything necessary set of papers, one of which is an the ages of 25 and 40 years and weigh at for twelve hours work daily. A complete casionally in other ways. The police rec- but imposing or athletic. Should one application, another a personal statement least 160 pounds. In recent years the rule uniform and outfit, which the officer must ords of that time show that "two boys attempt to make an arrest he was either and the third a physical examination blank. very roughly handled or led a long and in Pearl street," an incident which in- truitless chase, in the course of which he dicates that the little Dutchmen were quite was sure to meet with many ludicrous as mischievous as young America. The mishaps. He was, in fact, unable to pro- applicant "is a man of good moral characpolicemen were also required to round up tect himself, let alone guarding citizens ter, orderly in his deportment and not in chairman of the beard, and the force stands exclusively of the members of the departthe hogs with which the city was infested, and property. The young bloods of those any respect a violator of law or good oras the rooters committed great damage days took liberties with them which no der; that he is a man of sober, temperate spects. modern youth, if he valued his head and It was not until 1693 that the first uni- health, would dare take with one of the and a formidable looking ax. His uniform poor, old inoffensive "leatherheads." Their

and industrious habits and not addicted to other hurtful excess;" that they have never seen him "drunk, or known or heard of his having been drunk, nor of his having been man of truth and integrity, of sound miniof good understanding and of temper. habits and manners fit for a policeman."

fully in a personal statement. He must

second to none in this as in other re-

the habitual use of intoxicating drinks or with the secretary of the board an investi-need. gation is made and, if satisfactory, the applicant is appointed by the board as a patrolman. He is required to furnish a guilty of or arrested for any criminal or \$1,000 surety bend for the faithful performdisorderly conduct or act," that he "is a ance of his duty. Formerly personal bonds were accepted, but abuses became frequent. as some bendsmen, especially politicians trelmen were under obligations to them.

The pay of a patrolman is \$70 per month has been adopted that no one under six buy, costs nearly \$150. The city furnishes The first document is an application of five feet may be accepted and the average the star and the brass buttons. Each pacitizens to the board for the appointment. height is six feet two inches. Many if not trolman, when sick or disabled, is entitled These citizens declare under oath that the all, of the physical incompetents have been to participation in the fund of the Metroweeded out since Mayor Mocres has been politan Police Relief association, composed ment. At the present time this fund is in time condition and stands as a protector to When the application papers are filed the policeman's family in time of greatest

> After years of service the patrolman may be appointed to the detective force. If he has shown ability at that kind of work. Then he will receive more pay, have more liberty and no uniform to buy. The way is open, too, for advancement to the rank of surgeant, with added pay and responsiand salorn keepers, insisted that the pa- bility, and from there to a captaincy. Even the chiefship is within reach of a patrolman made of the right sort of stuff, for The new patrolman reports to the chief less than ten years ago Chief Donahue was



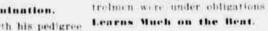
ONE OF THE PATROL WAGONS AND CREW

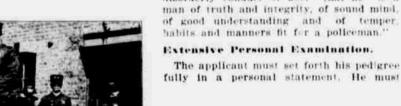
was "a coat of ye citty livery, with a badge watch boxes were lassoed with a stout rope of ye citty armes, shoes and stockings." and dragged through the streets by a The cost of all this paraphernalia was crowd of exuberant youths, while the charged "to ye account of ye citty." Like watchman inside yelled loudly for help. his Dutch predecessors, he was required to The only insignia of office which these old announce the hour and also the state of fellows had, besides the leather helmet, the weather. He rang his bell and was a big cloak and a club, and at night chanted lustily something like this: "Past they also carried a lantern. 4 o'clock, and a dark and cloudy morn- system Works Wonders.

ing."

LISTENING TO MAYOR MOORES' CONGR ATULATIONS.

answer nearly forty direct and searching of police and is assigned to duty. Usually walking a beat in Omana Captains Her and The highest wages paid to police- The years which have passed have questions in his own handwriting and mak- he is put to work with an old officer that Hayes and all of the sergeants also came men in New York up to the close of the wrought many changes in police methods, oath that the answers are true. There are he may learn the many and varied duties up from the ranks. Revolutionary war was \$5.25 per week, as in everything else. It is only since the questions relating to previous military and required of a policeman. Experience, how- The los of the modern policeman is not police experience. If he has ever been dis- ever, is the best teacher and it is a fact one of unalloyed bliss. He hads "his ca





The same general conditions prevailed in civil war that the metropolitan police sys-

May Have Earned the Name.

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During the first half of the last century the police were known as "leatherheads." a nickname which arose from the fact that they wore leather hats, something like an old-time volunteer fireman's helmet, with a broad brim behind. Twice a year these hats received a thick coat of varnish, and after a time they became almost as hard and as heavy as iron. Heeman, and there are dozens of applicants city commissioner of health and is quite faithfully and carefully.

and a good character.

ligious beliefs are not asked.

the few other cities which had policemen. tem has been perfected. This system is charged from either service or refused ap- that after a new policeman is once as- pacity for innocent enjoyment is quite as used in all cities of the country which have pointment, he must tell why. He must also saulted by a gang of toughs he knows how great as any other man's." but he has up-to-date police departments. The mak- answer this, "Have you ever paid, or prom- to take care of himself ever after. He less opportunity to exercise it. His ining of a policeman under this system is a ised to pay or give, any money or other learns, too, that honesty is the best policy, coming and outgoing are regulated by the more or less complex matter, depending en- consideration, to any person, directly or in- and that the policeman who thinks he can most stringent of codes. Not only is he tirely upon the characteristics of the man directly, for any aid or influence toward take a quiet sleep or a little nip because required to report to the central police who desires to become an officer. He has procuring your appointment?" He must he doesn't see the sergeant watching him operator every thirty minutes during the many requirements to meet and he must be also tell why he wishes to be ome a police- is bound to be up before the heard sooner twelve hours he is on duty, but he is repossessed of fine physique, common sense man. Questions concerning political or re- or later and receive a dishenorable dis- quired to be within call during the twelve charge. No officer can long remain on the hours he is off. Frequently the exigencies

The man who wants to be an Omaha po- The physical examination is made by the police force unless he attends to his duties of the service compel him to put in as many as eighteen or twenty hours work.



INSPECTING ARMS AND EQUIPMENT



INSPECTING THE DETECTIVES