

# FUTURE OF THE MOUNTED POLICE

## Government Intends Recruiting it Up to Authorized Strength

(Canadian Press Despatch.)  
Ottawa, Jan. 2.—The following authorized statement concerning the present and future activities of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police has been issued through the Department of Public Information:

The statements that are appearing in the press that the Government is increasing the Royal Northwest Mounted Police to 2,400, and that the Government has announced that the reason for so increasing the force is the Bolshevik menace in the West, are without any foundation in fact; the Government has not increased and has no intention of increasing the authorized strength of the force, which was and is 1,200.

Practically all the men in the force of military age and physically fit enlisted for service either in France or in Siberia, with the result that there is practically only a skeleton of the original force left. What the Government has done is to authorize the recruiting of the force up to its already authorized strength, and it purposes to do this by taking back into the ranks, if they desire to return, the men who have previously served in the ranks and are now serving overseas.

Canada has had in the past two Dominion police forces—one, the Dominion Police, of which Sir Percy Sherwood was the head, acting throughout the whole of Canada, and the other, the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, having jurisdiction in Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories. To prevent overlapping and duplication of work the jurisdiction of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police has been extended so as to include the Provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba and the portion of Ontario lying within Military District No. 10, and to cover the work hitherto performed within these territories by the Dominion Police. The Royal Northwest Mounted Police will continue to perform the duties it has been performing during the past two years in connection with patrolling the international boundary, looking after alien enemies, etc. It will also take on the additional duties which have hitherto been performed in Western Canada by the Dominion Police, including the arrest of defaulters under the Military Service Act. It is also available for service as a police force in any other part of Canada if the Government should so require.

The reduction in the strength of the force during the past year, due to the large number of mounted police who recruited for service in France and Siberia, led to apprehension in Western Canada as to the future of the force, and strong representations were made to the Government that a force with such splendid traditions should be retained and made even more efficient as a part of the permanent police force of Canada. The Government has decided that the force shall be maintained either as the basis of a permanent Federal police force or as a section of the mounted units in the permanent military forces of Canada, as may be determined hereafter. In either case, it is considered in the public interests that the Mounted Police should be recruited up to strength.