

MOUNTED POLICE WILL BE RETAINED

WILL ENFORCE FEDERAL LAWS FROM PORT ARTHUR TO THE COAST.

Ottawa, Dec. 11.—The Royal North West Mounted Police is to have its jurisdiction extended from Port Arthur to Victoria, B.C. It is understood that this important decision has been reached by the cabinet and that the necessary order-in-council will be passed immediately.

Commissioner Perry, of the police force has been in Ottawa for the past week consulting with the government and this decision has been reached.

FEDERAL FORCE NECESSARY.

The mounted police will have charge of the enforcement of the federal laws from the head of the lakes to British Columbia. For some time it has been increasingly apparent that a federal force was necessary to enforce Dominion laws. It has therefore been decided that instead of disbanding the force as was at one time proposed, to extend its authority through the whole of Western Canada. In eastern Canada the Dominion police will be increased in strength although there has been a proposal to extend the famous red-coated force to the whole of Canada. This may be decided later.

BACK FROM FRANCE

The force, which now consists of only some 500 men, will be increased to 2,500 men. There are two squadrons of the Mounted Police in France consisting of 740 men. They will be added to the home force. There are also 180 men in Siberia. These, with ex-mounted policemen who are anxious to return, will likely bring the force up to strength.

The headquarters of the whole force will continue to be in Regina. There will also be posts at Port Arthur, Winnipeg, Nelson, Vancouver and other points. Commissioner Perry will remain in Canada. Since the war there have been a few police doing boundary patrol work in Manitoba and in the British Columbia mines, but now they will continue the work they have formerly carried on in Saskatchewan and Alberta only.