

ALBERTA RETAINS MOUNTED POLICE

Federal Authorities Delay the
Transfer Two Months on
Request

ORGANIZE NEW PATROL

Fear Expressed in Saskatche-
wan That Change May
Introduce "Politics"

Edmonton, Jan. 11.—The Mounted Police will remain on their accustomed beats in Alberta for another two months. Orders to that effect have been given out from Ottawa, and the Provincial Government will not be asked to assume responsibility for policing Alberta until the first of March. The Federal authorities have thus met the request of the local Government, which asked for a sufficient time allowance in which to make the change. At the time of Commissioner Perry's recent visit to Edmonton, when the details of the proposed change were taken up with representatives of the Attorney-General's Department, Hon. C. R. Mitchell, acting in behalf of the Government, wired to Ottawa, asking that the R.N.W.M.P. be allowed to remain on duty as at present until the Government had had opportunity to provide for organization of its own police body.

Meanwhile the work of shaping up the Alberta police force is going on, and it is expected that the arrangements will be completed well within the time specified. It is not yet announced whether the new force will be organized and uniformed in the same way as the R.N.W.M.P., but it is understood that the general lines of the Mounted Police system will be followed by the local authorities in making their plans.

In Saskatchewan the Provincial Government has already taken over the duties of the Mounted Police, and the northern part of the Province is now being policed by the new body, with headquarters at Prince Albert. At present the Provincial force in Saskatchewan will number seventy-five men. They will not be supplied with horses, and it has not yet been decided whether they shall wear uniforms or not. In outlying districts they will act as coroners. The Prince Albert district will comprise thirteen detachments, the men for which will be selected for their experience and good records.

Considerable disappointment has been expressed in the neighboring Province at the withdrawal of the mounties. The situation there is substantially the same as in Alberta, except that less time has been allowed for putting the change into effect, but some of the citizens' bodies evidently consider that their needs are greater. The Board of Trade of Saskatoon has gone on record as fearful that the new Provincial police organization will be more or less political, and therefore not nearly so effective. The R.N.W.M.P., says that body, has always been non-political, and one of the finest of its kind in the world, but the prospects for efficient service after they have given over their duties to the Provincial police do not seem to the Saskatoon citizens quite so promising as they would like.