

MILITARY CONTROL POLICE SERVICE

HAVE AUTHORITY AS AGAINST BOTH REGISTERED DEFAULTERS AND UNREGISTERED.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Ottawa, June 16.—Dominion Police operating for purposes of the Military Service Act have been transferred to the Provost-Marshal. Thus the whole police service, both as against registered and unregistered defaulters, will now be under military authority. The Department of Justice will remain responsible, as heretofore, for the operation of the Military Service Act, and military service regulations, insofar as concerns the calling of men and the selection and notification of those who are liable to serve. In various centres there has for some weeks past been indication of the change. It has now been made effective throughout the Dominion by order in Council.

Speaking of the reasons which led to the transfer, E. L. Newcombe, Chairman of the Military Service Council and Deputy Minister of Justice, said to-day:

"Until recently two forces have been at work for the purpose of apprehending defaulters. There was a considerable number of men belonging to Class 1 who did not report to the Registrars, and the possibility of identifying and apprehending these presented special difficulty because of the fact that these men were unregistered.

"It transpired as the work proceeded that there was some overlapping and conflict as between the civil police, under the direction of the Department of Justice, and the military force, under the direction of the Department of Military and Defence; in consequence, it was found advantageous to place the whole police service, both as against registered and unregistered defaulters, under common direction. After considerable deliberation, the Government determined, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, that the joint service could be more effectively and economically administered under military authority."

Mr. Newcombe concluded with praise for the "judicious and prudent manner" in which Capt. Kerr, his subordinate officers and the constables serving on the force discharge their duties. Notwithstanding, Mr. Newcombe said, "the great number of cases with which these officers were brought into contact, and the resistance which was encountered, in some cases resulting in bodily injury, not a single case of complaint has been presented in which it has been established that the officers made an unreasonable or excessive use of their powers."