

MOUNTED POLICE TO BE INCREASED

Duties of Force Extended and Its Permanency Assured

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—Sanction was given to-day to an order in Council increasing the North West Mounted Police Force to its authorized strength of 1,200 men. In addition to its present duties in the Territories, the force is further assigned to duty in Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Manitoba, and that portion of Ontario embraced in Military District No. 10. The force is also to be the only Federal police force operating in such territory.

The duties of the force are to be:

- (1) Enforcement of Federal laws.
- (2) Patrolling and protection of the international boundary line.
- (3) Enforcement of all orders in Council passed under the War Measures Act for the protection of public safety.
- (4) Generally to aid and assist the civil powers in the preservation of law and order whenever the Government of Canada may direct. The order proceeds.

"The Minister (the President of the Privy Council) observes that the Comptroller reports that owing to the changes which have been made, apprehensions have arisen in the minds of members of the force and of the people of Western Canada as to the permanency of the force, and that the Commissioner and Comptroller are of the opinion that it will be very difficult to secure the additional men required to bring the force up to the standard of efficiency necessary to meet the situation unless the uncertainty as to the future of the force is removed."

"The Minister concurs in the view of the Commissioner and the Comptroller, and recommends that the Comptroller be authorized to state to the Commissioner and to the force that there is no intention to terminate the life of the force, but that its future is assured, either as the basis of a permanent Federal police force or as one of the mounted units in the permanent force of Canada, as may hereafter be decided by the Governor-in-Council."