



Royal Canadian Mounted Police auxiliary schooner *St. Roch* in the ice floes.

Wintering the '*St. Roch*'

by ACTING SERGEANT J. H. PEPPER

READERS OF this magazine have doubtless read various newspaper articles and books dealing with the freezing in by boat of exploration parties in the Arctic Regions, and it would doubtless be of interest and somewhat in the nature of a surprise to the various members of the Force, to know that the "G" Division R.C.M. Police Schooner *St. Roch* has been successfully frozen in during the winters of 1928-29, 1930-31, 1931-32 and 1932-33 merely as a matter of general routine.

In wintering a vessel in the Arctic several facts must be taken into consideration such as the formation of the harbour, which should be such that ice pressure from the open seas is avoided during the spring break-up; tide cracks in the ice opening during the winter, and the time the ice leaves the harbour in the spring so that the vessel may be operated reasonably early. It will thus readily be seen that it is not simply a matter of anchoring near the shore and waiting for the freeze-up as the ice conditions which arise each spring are of primary importance. Another point to remember is that the *St. Roch* must winter within close proximity to native settlements so as to function efficiently as a unit of Police service during the winter months.

More or less in the nature of an experiment, the Schooner *St. Roch* was first wintered at Langton Bay, N.W.T., which is located on the Arctic Coast approximately 500 miles east of Herschel Island, Y.T., but owing to the