

Deputy Commissioner J. Brunet Retires

ON December 1, Deputy Commr. Josephat Brunet commenced his leave pending retirement to pension, thus bringing to a close a long and enviable record of service in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Born in Rockland, Ont., on July 13, 1902, Deputy Commissioner Brunet joined the Force on Aug. 10, 1923, shortly after his 21st birthday. Soon afterwards he was transferred North, where he served in the Yukon. There he met some of the old "sourdoughs" immortalized in the poems of Robert Service and some of the investigations in which the young Policeman found himself involved centered around inquiries for relatives who had left for the Klondike and did not return. These were the men who made and lost fortunes, virtually overnight, and were often found by the Police in makeshift cabins, penniless, hungry and alone.

Deputy Commissioner Brunet also served in the Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec. In 1929, while stationed in the latter province, he learned that a vessel had landed smuggled liquor which was being sold to Indians. Setting out at night in a small boat, he boarded the vessel and found six men on board. There was sufficient evidence of the illicit operations to prompt him to seize the vessel and place the crew under arrest. The young Policeman was in a tight situation and when a fight ensued he was finally obliged to wound the ship's captain, before accomplishing his mission successfully.

Commissioned a Sub-Inspector in March 1935, Mr. Brunet was promoted to the rank of full Inspector in 1937 and to Superintendent in 1946. In 1949 while he was Officer Commanding "C" Division, with headquarters in Montreal, he was promoted to Assistant Commissioner. Later he was appointed to the position of



Director of Administration and Organization at Headquarters, Ottawa. In 1953 Assistant Commissioner Brunet was seconded to the Department of External Affairs and appointed Director of the NATO Security Bureau in Paris, France. He returned to Ottawa in October 1956 and resumed duties with the Force as Director of Security and Intelligence. He was appointed Deputy Commissioner in 1957 and in that position he has alternated as head of the Inspection Team which makes periodic checks of all divisions throughout the Dominion.

Deputy Commissioner Brunet has the somewhat unusual distinction of having attended two Coronations. In 1937 he was second in command of the RCMP troop which travelled to England to participate in the Coronation services for King George VI, and in 1953 while serving overseas with NATO he attended the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

After retirement Deputy Commissioner Brunet is slated to assume an important position with the Banque Canadienne Nationale in the city of Montreal. Members of the Force will join with *The Quarterly* in extending to this distinguished officer much happiness in his "retirement" and a great measure of success in his new sphere of activity.

