

Editorial

On March 6th, 1938, Commissioner Stuart Taylor Wood assumed office at the head of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

To all of us who, as serving members of the Force, have been associated with the Commissioner during the course of previous service, he is too well known to need introduction. There are others, however, **Commissioner S. T. Wood** in many parts of the world, who are not so fortunately situated. It is only fitting, therefore, that these distant subscribers who have interested themselves in our Force and in our Magazine, should make the acquaintance of the Commissioner through the medium of this editorial page.

Commissioner Wood is the son of former Assistant-Commissioner Z. T. Wood, C.M.G., and was born at Napanee, Ont., on October 17th, 1889. He received his early education at Dawson City, Yukon Territory, where his father was in command of the Royal North West Mounted Police, and later attended Upper Canada College and the Royal Military College at Kingston, where his eldest son, Zachary Taylor, is now a cadet. It is of interest to remark at this point that the Commissioner's son, during June of this year, passed out with highest honours for the third year term at the Royal Military College.

Commissioner Wood was appointed an Inspector in the R.N.W.M. Police on November 1st, 1912, and has had a varied experience in the Force, including five years at the isolated post at Herschel Island in the Western Arctic and, in addition, has been stationed in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia, during the course of his service.

Upon promotion to the rank of Superintendent in October, 1931, he took over the command of the R.C.M.P. in British Columbia. In 1933, he was promoted to the rank of Assistant-Commissioner and assumed command in Saskatchewan. During the Great War he also saw service in France with the R.N.W.M. Police Squadron.

In 1935, as Assistant-Commissioner, he took a four months course at Scotland Yard and made a study of police methods in France, Belgium and the United States. He was transferred to Ottawa in 1936, and took over the duties of Director of Criminal Investigation for the entire Force.

At the Coronation of King George VI last year, the R.C.M. Police Contingent sent from Canada to the Coronation was in charge of Commissioner Wood, in his then capacity of Assistant-Commissioner. In February, 1938, he was appointed Acting-Deputy-Commissioner, and upon the death of the late Sir James MacBrien, assumed office as Commissioner of the Force.

As the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has grown through the course of nearly seven decades to be, more and more, a national part of Canada, so Commissioner Wood, having been born into the Force, has grown with it and with its traditions until, as a natural course, he has now assumed command of the organization. While the circumstances of his birth and early surroundings alone, with their attendant opportunities for knowledge and experience, would make him more than usually well equipped for office as an administrator, Commissioner Wood also brings to the Force the hereditary capabilities of a family which has not only rendered most notable service to Canada in the person of his father, but also in the past to the