

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE QUARTERLY

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Crime Increases

The Commissioner's Annual Report of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for the fiscal year ended Mar. 3, 1954 "showed a further increase in the number of criminal investigations the Force has been called upon to make". The report says: "This follows the trend indicated in the annual reports for the past several years, although this year there has been a 4.7 per cent decrease in the number of Federal Statute cases. . . ."

As the report only covers the work of the RCMP, Criminal Code statistics included in it are not a complete tabulation of offences throughout the whole of Canada. However, the Force acts as provincial police in eight of Canada's ten provinces and as law-enforcement authority in 127 cities, towns, villages and municipal districts, so that it is reasonably safe to assume that the increase in crime reported by the Mounted Police is indicative of conditions within the country.

The recent outbreaks of lawlessness which have received much prominence in the press of late, cannot fail to impress the average law-abiding citizen with the difficulties peace officers face in keeping pace with organized violent crime. Much of it is the work of recidivists, a fact which may in a sense make the criminal doubly dangerous, knowing full well that when he is caught he may come within the designs of the "habitual criminal" section