

E D I T O R I A L

With the transfer of the Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent, K.C., P.C., to become full-time Minister of External Affairs, the Rt. Hon. James Lorimer Ilsley, K.C., P.C., was appointed Minister of Justice for Canada and became Minister in **The Minister in Control** Control of the Force. Respected and admired for his unceasing effort and sacrifice in exacting duties as the war-time Minister of Finance, Mr. Ilsley, who assumed his new office in December, 1946, was born at Somerset, N.S., on Jan. 3, 1894, to Mr. and Mrs. Randal Byron Ilsley and educated at Somerset Public School, Bergwick High School, Acadia University (Arts), Wolfville, N.S., and Dalhousie Law School, Halifax, N.S. A partner in the former law firm of Ilsley and Archibald, Halifax, he was married in 1919, has two daughters, and first was elected to the House of Commons in 1926. With his knowledge and experience and the executive ability so ably manifested during the war when the nerves and patience of all Canadians were at high-tension, he brings to his new responsibilities a thoroughness and efficiency which is so well known as to make trite any comment here regarding it.

Before relinquishing the office, Mr. St. Laurent through the Commissioner bade members of the Force and their associated staffs farewell and expressed good wishes to all for their continued success, as well as his appreciation of their services and devotion to duty during his tenure as Minister in Control.

Perhaps this is our opportunity to recall that in the course of its existence the Force has been administered by the ministers of seven different departments of the Government. At its inception it was under the Minister of Justice as it has been for the past 25 years. The belief seems to have grown from this quarter-century of jurisdiction that the Force has always been under the Minister of Justice, and it may come as a surprise to many to know that the Force was controlled by the Prime Minister longer than by any other Minister; for 33 years, 1886-1888 and 1891-1920 (all years named being inclusive) the Force was directly under the Privy Council.

The Secretary of State assumed control in 1876 and was followed by the Minister of the Interior in 1879. From 1883 the Minister of Indian Affairs took over for three successive years, and Railways and Canals for the years 1889 and 1890. The Force was also controlled for a short period by the Minister of National Defence in the year 1921.

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Before World War I, the strength of the Force was 1,268 members. In 1917 Mounted Police duties in Saskatchewan and Alberta ceased, and by the end of 1918 R.N.W.M.P. contingents were serving overseas, with the result that the strength available in Canada was the lowest since the Force's beginning—only 35 officers and 268 non-commissioned officers and men.

Training During the first war, many of the Force's detachments were closed; only 96 were maintained throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory, British Columbia and Western Ontario. But when the Force's jurisdiction was extended on a huge scale in 1919, it was necessary to have trained men in a hurry.

In July, 1919, authority was given to "up" the strength to 2,500, and intensive recruiting began. By the end of the year, 1,275 recruits were enrolled and 139 ex-members, most of whom had taken their discharge to serve in the war, were re-engaged. A small per cent of the recruits were rejected, chiefly because of physical unfitness, leaving a total strength of 1,600.

The training period was then, as it is now, officially of six months' duration, but in the rush of that time it was frequently shortened for those who showed unusual alertness and ability. In those days good horsemanship was essential, and a great deal of time was devoted to this part of the training, also to foot-and-arms drill. These were pretty much the order of the day, and when a recruit mastered them he was placed in a squadron and taught the intricate but interesting movements of cavalry drill.

Today, in the wake of World War II, history is repeating itself, and the Force is again below standard in strength. The call has sounded for more recruits. Instead of 96