

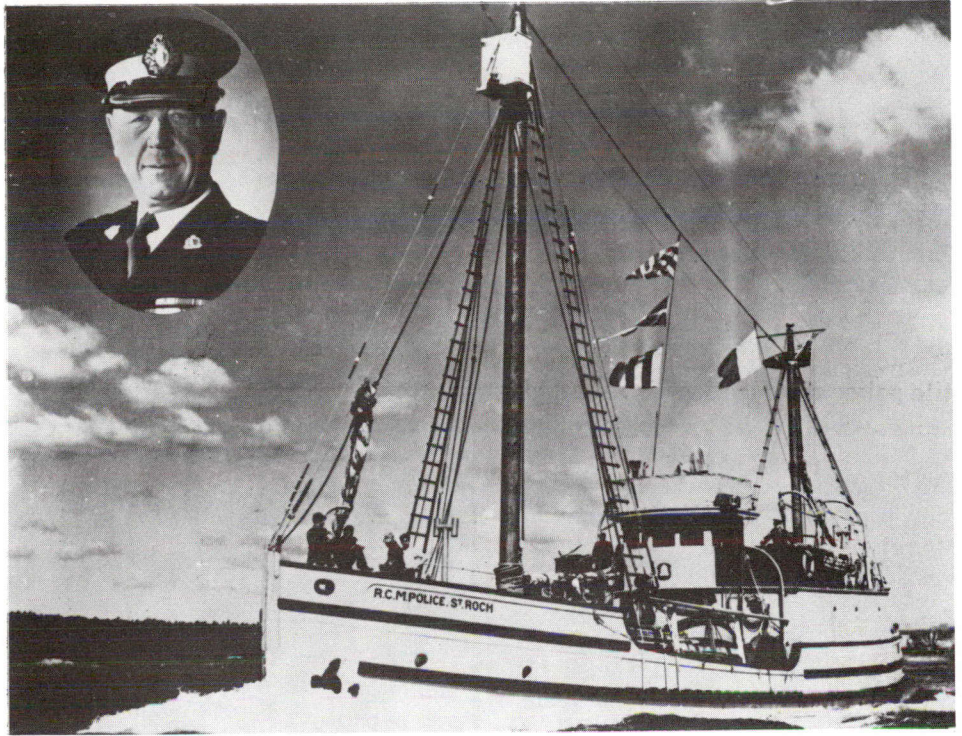
border to the Arctic and from Hudson Bay to Alaska.

World recognition came when a mounted contingent rode through London on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. In 1904, King Edward VII bestowed on the force the prefix "Royal" in recognition of its service. A year later, the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were formed and, with Manitoba, divided the Western plains into the three Prairie Provinces. For the next ten years, the Mounted Police carried out their many varied and often hazardous duties of law enforcement and mercy, covering thousands of miles on horseback, by dog-team, canoes and boats. The First World War reduced the strength of the force owing to enlistments in the Canadian and British armed forces, as it was not until 1918 that the Canadian Government authorized the dispatch of two squadrons of RNWMP for service in France and Siberia. After the war, the total strength rose to 1,200.

Present name adopted

Canada-wide jurisdiction was extended to the force in 1920, and with this came the present name of Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the modern era involving operations by land, sea and air over an area as large as Europe. Famous patrols in 1924 pushed deep into the Arctic regions, and in 1928 the police schooner *St. Roch* undertook supply and patrol duties in northern waters. In 1931-32, the RCMP took over provincial police duties in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and the three Maritime Provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island), and absorbed the Preventive Service of the Department of National Revenue.

A marine section was formed in 1932,



The RCMP schooner, St. Roch, which was built in 1928, became the first ship to navigate the hazardous Northwest Passage from West to East and, on completion of the return journey, the first to sail through the Passage in both directions. The famous journey began when the 300-ton ship, under

which played an important role until the Second World War in cutting revenue losses through smuggling, which had been costing the federal treasury millions of dollars. During the war, 209 officers and men, with 33 ships and boats, were transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy for coastal and seagoing patrols. They filled key positions, as reflected in their casualty rate of 41 per cent. In 1942 the RCMP ship *St. Roch* became the first to navigate the Northwest Passage

the command of Staff Sergeant H.A. Larsen and with a crew of eight, left Esquimaux, British Columbia on June 9, 1940 and reached Halifax, Nova Scotia on October 11, 1942. The return voyage started on July 22, 1944 from Dartmouth, N.S. and was completed on October 16, 1944.

from West to East. She completed the return voyage in 1944, becoming the first vessel to sail the Passage in both directions.

Long, tedious overland journeys through difficult terrain became less frequent with the advent of air travel and the formation of an Air Division in 1937. When the Second World War began, the Royal Canadian Air Force took over most Air Division personnel and equipment. Despite this depletion, the RCMP continued to make many

Hundredth birthday message from Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commissioner W.L. Higgitt

In 1973 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will be celebrating its centenary and its 100 years of service to Canada and Canadians. It will be an occasion for reflection upon its history, its traditions, and the contribution it has made to the growth and development of Canada. While its reputation in the minds of many is based upon the outstanding past achievements of its members,

it is a modern and forward-looking police force.

It is my hope that during the course of our hundredth birthday celebrations opportunities will be afforded to all Canadians to come to know us better and to share some of the pride we feel in our acceptance as true representatives of Canada. We look forward to having you join with us in our celebrations.

We in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have always enjoyed and greatly valued the confidence of the Canadian people. I hope during our centennial year occasion will be found to reaffirm and strengthen this bond of friendship which is vital if we are to continue to give the high quality of service that the Canadian people have come to expect from us.