

In an effort to shoulder this new responsibility, the Canadian Government fitted several vessels which patrolled into Hudson Bay waters, but no attempt was made to go farther north until August 1903, when a minute in Council was passed appointing A. P. Low officer-in-charge of an expedition into Hudson Bay and northward. The vessel *Neptune* was fitted for this purpose, and set out to patrol, explore and establish the authority of the Dominion Government in the Hudson Bay area and the islands to the north².

Supt. J. D. Moodie of the North-West Mounted Police was delegated to accompany him on this trip. Colonel White, Comptroller of the Force, instructed him that it would be his duty to impress upon the Eskimos and traders, that, as the land was a part of the Dominion, Canadian laws would be enforced there as in other parts of Canada. The Government however did not wish any harsh introduction of law enforcement, but did wish to bring to the immediate attention of those people that as Canadian citizens they had to meet certain obligations toward their country. He was given the additional power of a Commissioner under the Police Act, and a sergeant and four constables were placed at his disposal.

Thus the genesis of the administration of the northland evolved from the coming of the whalers, the explorers, the Franklin expeditions, scientific expeditions, the Hudson's Bay Company and finally was assembled by the Dominion Government's supervision. Little did anyone dream that this land would someday reveal minerals, coal, oil, uranium and through the development of the airplane it would become an over-the-top-of-the-world next-door neighbor of the Old World.

For the present purpose of administration the northland is divided into Eastern and Western Arctic, the dividing line

being the boundary of the districts of Mackenzie and Keewatin continued north as far as islands are to be found.

The largest Island, Baffin Land, is typical of most of the country in the Eastern Arctic. Its jagged, rocky coast line juts out of the sea and inland flattens to a desolate rocky and rolling stretch of glacier and snow-swept land. An island of some 201,600 square miles in area, it is policed by four Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments. Pond Inlet which is situated on the northern tip of the island administers the northern half of it, as well as Bylot Island.

At this post the RCMP is the only Government department stationed, and consequently upon its personnel fall the duties which other Government departments require performed. Family allowance and old age pension administration, reporting on game conditions, registration of births, deaths and marriages, post office, issuing coal mining permits, collecting royalties on exporting furs, issuing general hunting licences, recording weather, plus the normal duties involving enforcement of the Northwest Territories Ordinances and Criminal Code, patrolling by dog team to various Eskimo camps to determine native living conditions, and such remaining duties which the Government deems advisable to enforce.

The work is, however, limited due to the fact that the Eskimos are a fairly self-reliant, law abiding people, and distances and weather will not permit frequent visiting of the far-away posts.

A routine year starts with the arrival of the supply ship about the middle of September. Aboard it comes the Commanding Officer of "G" Division—or a representative—and the annual inspection of the detachment follows. The ship docks just long enough to unload whatever tonnage of supplies is to be landed, so care must be taken to insure that all have arrived and are in good condition. A postal authority and one representing family allowances and old age pensions

²The expedition actually sailed out of Halifax Harbor on Sunday, Aug. 23, 1903. Earlier—in the 19th century—the Franklin search parties did much valuable work in exploring northern waters.