

the various police forces in Canada. Sherwood was also a charter member of the International Association of Police Chiefs of Canada and the United States and regularly prepared and presented learned papers at their annual meetings.

A tall, erect, soldierly figure, a crack shot with both pistol and rifle, a member of the Bisley team (a prestigious, British shooting team), a Chief Commissioner of the Boy Scout Association, a Colonel in the Militia, and a fine athlete, Sherwood was the quintessential police officer and a fine Canadian gentleman. He was held in high esteem by his men, being first and foremost a practical peace officer.

Sir Percy retired in May 1919 — ill health was given as the reason. A few months later, the half-century old Dominion Police force was abolished by Prime Minister Borden. Sherwood enjoyed good health throughout his 21-one year retirement. In 1940, at the age of 87, he suffered a stroke and passed away at Ottawa.

The Beginning of the End

In October 1919, the President of the Privy Council moved to introduce *Bill 22*, to amend the *Royal North-West Mounted Police Act*. Its purpose was the assimilation of the Dominion Police into the RNWMP, and the subsequent creation of a single federal police force, with Canada-wide jurisdiction. Opposition members challenged the validity of the need for such a force, particularly in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. Other contentious issues revolved around cost and provincial jurisdiction. One member remarked that the sight of the RNWMP in their more conspicuous uniforms would be a

curiosity in Nova Scotia, where the Dominion Police generally went about their business in plainclothes.

Despite the Opposition's protestations, Borden decided in favour of the RNWMP. He felt it was in the nation's best interest to utilize the Mounted Police with its splendid traditions. Prior to this the RNWMP was at a crossroads in its existence — its very survival was in question. Some members of Parliament were advocating restricting its jurisdiction exclusively to the territories. However, Borden subscribed to the recommendations of RNWMP Commissioner A.P. Perry, who advocated that, for security reasons, there be only one force — the RNWMP, and that the Dominion Police be absorbed into it.

In November 1919, an Act was passed to amend the *RNWMP Act* whereby the Dominion Police was official assimilated into the RNWMP. The RNWMP was renamed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) at this time to reflect its Canada-wide jurisdiction. As well, Headquarters was transferred from Regina, Saskatchewan, to Ottawa, Ontario. These changes took effect in February, 1920.

There were some who questioned the Government's rationale for this decision. They queried why the Dominion Police could not have absorbed the RNWMP, instead, and why a parliamentary force was even required in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. The response to these questions was that in 1919, the RNWMP vastly outnumbered the Dominion Police making it the logical choice. Furthermore, the RNWMP, as an armed and mounted paramilitary organization, had recently proven its worth to the federal government by its success in controlling the situation