

The RCMP's "Big One"

SPRAWLING over the eastern boundary of the city of Vancouver, like a young colt rapidly outgrowing its parent, lies the municipality of Burnaby. With a population of 100,000 this is the largest detachment policed by the RCMP, and also possesses the unique distinction of being the only detachment in the Force under the command of an officer. Sub-Insp. J. A. MacDonald, who, after being in charge at that point for four years as a staff sergeant, received his commission in May 1958.

Burnaby's 80 members are divided into various squads, including a seven-man C.I.B. and a 12-man Traffic Branch. Statistics-wise, the detachment members travelled half a million miles during 1958 in investigating a total of 8,721 complaints. Of these, 1,800 were investigations under the Criminal Code. Total revenue collected during the last fiscal year was \$124,419, principally derived from 5,560 motor vehicle prosecutions.

British Columbia traces its origins back to the year 1858. Some 34 years later, on Sept. 22, 1892, Burnaby was incorporated as a "District Municipality". This action stemmed from a meeting of property owners held in New Westminster of June 30, 1892 when a resolution was passed "that a municipality be formed to embrace all that portion of the District of New Westminster lying between the boundaries of the cities of New Westminster and Vancouver". Little information is available as to the population during these earlier years, but in 1906 the voters in a municipal election numbered 213.

In 1911 a "Burnaby Mounted Police Department" consisting of three or four mounted men under the command of Chief W. G. Parkinson was organized. This force policed a population of 12,000. By 1935 the department strength had increased to 12 and the population doubled. In that year the municipality entered into an agreement with the British Columbia



Sub-Insp. J. A. MacDonald, in charge of Burnaby Detachment.

Provincial Police to handle all law enforcement duties at an annual cost of \$25,000. Then in 1950 the provincial force was amalgamated with the RCMP who assumed control of not only Burnaby but subsequently all the larger municipalities in the lower mainland of British Columbia. The detachment of today lies within the boundaries of New Westminster Sub-Division under Insp. I. C. Shank, Officer Commanding.

Burnaby derives its name from an English gentleman, Robert Burnaby, who resided in B.C. for some 18 years. His associations in the province were quite extensive, and from 1860 to 1865 he represented Esquimalt in the Legislative Assembly. Burnaby's present Reeve, Allan H. Emmott is the son of ex-Cst. Fred Emmott of the old Royal North-West Mounted Police. With his seven municipal councillors he controls the thriving municipality that is the present-day Burnaby. Criss-crossed by numerous arterial highways and with a burgeoning population, this is assuredly no easy task.

