

Deputy Commr.

J. D. Bird

Retires

IN Sept. 30, 1957 Deputy Commr. John Douglas Bird retired to pension, bringing to a close a career in law enforcement which began in 1922, when he joined the Fredericton City Police.

Born in Birdton, N.B., Deputy Commissioner Bird joined the C.E.F. on Apr. 4, 1916, shortly after his 20th birthday. He served in both the 140th and 26th Battalions, was on active duty in France and was demobilized Mar. 25, 1919. After five years on the Fredericton Police he engaged in the New Brunswick Provincial Police and on Dec. 15, 1927, three months after joining, was promoted to Sergeant. The commissioned rank of Inspector followed on July 1, 1930 and when the NBPP was absorbed by the RCMP on Apr. 1, 1932 Inspector Bird retained his rank in the federal force.

The Maritime Provinces have contributed their share of recruits for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police since the Force was first organized, and several New Brunswick men have been at or near the top of the RCMP chain of command. Among these have been Commr. L. H. Nicholson, from Mount Middleton; Deputy Commr. C. K. Gray, who retired in 1953, a native of Douglastown, N.B.; and his successor Deputy Commr. J. D. Bird.

The then Inspector Bird's service in the RCMP began in an era when smuggling was rife in the Maritimes. Rum-runners would land their cargoes of liquor on the east coast of New Brunswick and then transport their merchandise across the International Boundary into the U.S.A. With long experience in combatting this type of offence, Inspector Bird's knowledge of local conditions was invaluable and he remained in the eastern provinces until 1939, first at Fredericton and later at Moncton.

His first move from his native heath took him westward to Alberta where he was Officer Commanding the sub-division at Vegreville. The next year, however, brought another transfer, this time to Ed-



monton, also as sub-division O.C. In 1940, too, Inspector Bird was promoted to Superintendent. A year later he changed jobs to head "K" Division C.I.B., but remained at Headquarters in Edmonton. In 1945 Superintendent Bird was transferred to Winnipeg to take charge of the C.I.B. in "D" Division and a year later was promoted to Assistant Commissioner and became Officer Commanding the division. When Deputy Commissioner Gray retired in 1953, Assistant Commissioner Bird was transferred to Ottawa.

Deputy Commissioner Bird's service covered a transitionary period in which the Mounted Police expanded in strength and scope, to the point where the Force now polices all provinces except two, as well as acting in a federal capacity in all parts of Canada. It was a period which saw Canada struggle through the depression of the '30's; assume an important role in World War II and realize the strength and stature of a nation in the world of post-war prosperity. Deputy Commissioner Bird contributed no small measure of time, ability and devotion to his duties as a police officer and public servant during this era. The Force will wish this popular and well respected officer continued good health and much pleasure in his retirement.

Deputy Commissioner and Mrs. Bird will live in a new home they have built in Fredericton, N.B.