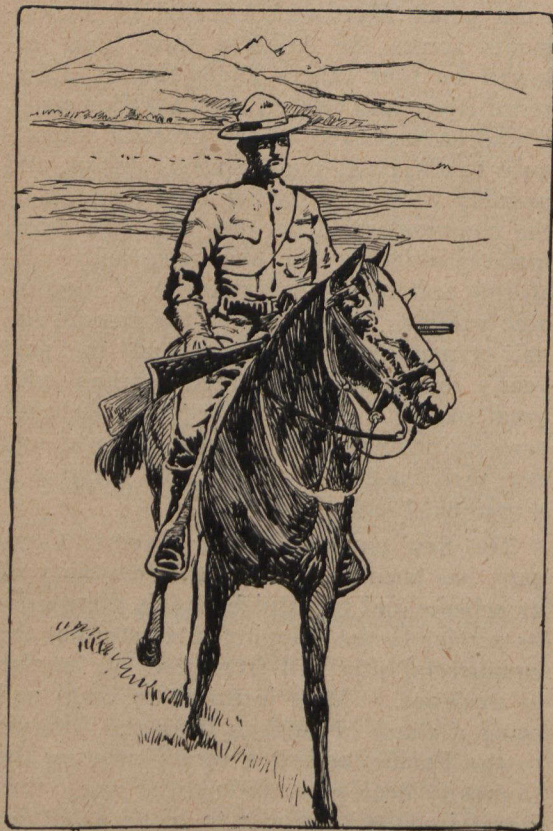


### The West's Defenders

IT was quite right that the Canadian militia should be given an increase of pay, and it is equally fitting that similar treatment be shown the Royal North-West Mounted Police, the defenders of law and order in the great West. They have been serving for thirty years for less than they are worth, for less than almost any one of them could command in the business world. It has been hard work, too, and that it has been successful is shown by the orderliness and prosperity of the country to-day. Therefore the recent action of Parliament in granting an increase of pay will commend itself to the public. The new pay-rate will give an advance of from twenty to twenty-five per cent.

We shall not be able to do without these soldier-police for some time yet. When the force was originally formed it was not with the idea that it should be permanent, but



A MOUNTED POLICEMAN

After a drawing by Arthur Heming.

clearly it cannot be disbanded yet awhile. The widening of settlement, the opening up of new towns, and particularly the development in the far north, necessitate police protection of the kind that these men and these alone can give. Their forces number at present about nine hundred men, of whom one-third are stationed in the Yukon. It is proposed to increase the total to one thousand, so that regular patrol service may be maintained between all the posts. The question of autonomy for the North-West Territories will not affect the Police, who have made themselves too essential a part of Western life to be needlessly interfered with.

### Canada as a Horse Market

CANADA has already attained a reputation as a source of food supplies, but another of her advantages was brought out in a recent meeting of army men in England. It is her importance as a future horse market for the Empire. The horse's day has by no means passed; the automobile has not yet put him out of business, and the prospect now is that horse values will within the next few years greatly increase, making an industry of this kind of as much profit at least as ranching.

It is estimated that the horse population of the world is about 80,000,000, of which Russia has the greatest number of any single country. The supply in all the British colonies is at present short, and in the emergency of war might prove a serious disadvantage. The Army Office has for some time been studying the sources of supply, and has come to the conclusion that the best market is Canada, or could be made such with the proper encouragement. There is no doubt as to the fitness of our eastern stock farms and western prairies for horse breeding, and large numbers are already being raised for the ordinary purposes of commerce, but so far as the proposition to undertake a more extensive industry is concerned, Canadian horse breeders will naturally first want to know the inducements. The only information as yet to hand is that the Army Office is considering the matter. Should the industry assume larger propor-