

Province to Be Policed By R.C.M.P. as From April 1

Provincial Force to Exchange Khaki Uniforms for Red Coats of Mounties—Col. Martin Will Take Rank of Major in Royal Force—Major Fields, of R.C.M.P., Advanced to Rank of Colonel and Assistant Commissioner.

On the first of next month the members of the Manitoba Provincial Police force will exchange their khaki uniforms for the red-coated, gold-striped uniforms of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and all policing of the province will be taken over by the federal force.

Col. H. J. Martin, now superintendent of the provincial force, will take the rank of major in the royal force. Major R. Fields of the Mounted will be advanced to the rank of colonel and assistant commissioner.

Of the present force of 85 men in the provincial police, 77 men will be transferred to the Royal Mounted. These will include 65 constables, three officers, two staff sergeants, and seven sergeants.

Inspector W. R. Day and Inspector J. A. Brown, of the provincial force, will be given the commissioned rank of lieutenant in the federal force. This will be their rank until they have completed five years of service, when they will be subject to promotion as captains.

Hon. W. J. Major, K.C., attorney-general, having completed an agreement with the Dominion for the transfer of the provincial police to the Mounted Police, will bring down

a bill in the Manitoba house next week to ratify the transfer. This legislation will take the form of an amendment to the Provincial Police act.

The province annually will pay \$125,000 for the upkeep of the Royal Mounted Police in Manitoba, according to the terms of the agreement, and the federal force in turn will assume all policing work now performed by the provincial force.

This will mean a saving of \$125,000 over the amount now necessary for provincial police work, as based on the amount of \$250,000 for law enforcement in the current fiscal year.

The agreement with the Dominion calls for the Royal Mounted Police keeping at least a force of 125 men in Manitoba for policing now performed under provincial auspices.

It is expected that eight men now with the provincial police will not be included in the transfer.

Police work until recently undertaken by the provinces is being taken over by the Royal Canadian Police force in all parts of Canada, with the exception of Ontario and Quebec. All western provinces have arranged such transfers, and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are the latest recruits to the change in system. Need of economy in provincial financing has been the determining factor.