

Obituary

Ex-Assistant Commissioner Albert John Cawdron

It is with profound regret that we have to record the death of ex-Assistant Commissioner Albert John Cawdron on September 8th, 1938, as a result of an automobile accident on the Richmond Road, near Ottawa.

Lieut.-Colonel Cawdron joined the former Dominion Police in 1897, and soon afterwards enlisted in the first Canadian Contingent going to South Africa.

Returning to Canada in 1901, he was detailed to plain clothes work, and in September of that year was assigned as a special operative for the royal tour through Canada of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, and again in 1908 when they visited Quebec, as the Prince and Princess of Wales. Sir Percy Sherwood was Commissioner of the Dominion Police at the time, and when Sir Percy was absent in England in 1915, Lieut.-Colonel Cawdron was appointed a Commissioner of Police.

Sir Percy Sherwood resigned the commissionership of the Dominion Police in 1918, and Lieut.-Colonel Cawdron was appointed to the position as Acting Commissioner. He re-organized the military service police which had been formed to prosecute evaders of the Military Service Act, and in 1920, when the Dominion Police were absorbed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Lieut.-Colonel Cawdron was appointed Superintendent and Director of Criminal Investigation with this Force. During the Royal Customs Commission in 1926, he was the chief investigator, appointed by the Government for that Commission.

He was promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner in the R.C.M. Police on the 1st May, 1932.

Surviving Lieut.-Colonel Cawdron are his widow, a daughter, Rosalind, and three sons, Lieut. M. Percy Cawdron, Ordnance Corps, Winnipeg, Eric R. I. Cawdron, of the reporting staff of the *Citizen*, Ottawa, and Kingsley Cawdron, who was with his father in the fatal accident.

The former Assistant Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police celebrated his 65th birthday on August 25th, 1938.

With the exception of the time served in South Africa, he had lived in Ottawa all his life, and had a host of friends. He was at one time the President of the South African Veterans' Association, and was a member of the United Service Institute, the 43rd Regimental Association, and the Canadian Legion.

The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon, the 10th September, from his home at 50 Marlborough Avenue, Ottawa, to the Church of St. Alban the Martyr. Lieut.-Colonel Cawdron was accorded full military honours, and interment took place at Beechwood Cemetery. The church was crowded, and many were unable to gain admittance. The Rev. A. H. Whalley, rector of St. Alban's Church, conducted the service, assisted by two other clergymen. The firing party and gun carriage was furnished by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as were the pall-bearers. Many prominent military, naval, air force officers, and private citizens were present at the funeral, including Sir Percy Sherwood. Assistant-Commissioner T. Dann represented the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who was absent from Ottawa.

The late Assistant Commissioner Cawdron retired to pension on the 1st January, 1936, and will be greatly missed among his very large circle of friends in Ottawa.