

Cochrane of Hillhurst, Que., proposed to establish. At this time there were probably close to 10,000 head of live-stock in the country and the Canadian stage was set for expansion.

Previously the senator, deciding to look things over, had driven up by way of Fort Benton, Mont., then the best route by which to enter the Calgary district. He had met up with Kooteni Brown who convinced him that cattle could thrive in that area.

Major Walker accepted Senator Cochrane's offer and resigned from the N.W. M.P. on Feb. 1, 1881. He went to Benton from which point a Cochrane herd of 3,000 head—the first of the big herds to enter Canada—was that summer driven in to graze just west of where Calgary, Alta., now stands.

Soldier, policeman, rancher and business pioneer, Major Walker was born at Carlake, Wentworth County, Ont., in April, 1846, and died at Calgary on Apr. 1, 1936.

When the first Great War broke out he enlisted as a forestry expert, serving in England and Scotland, and Sir Arthur Currie said of him, "He was a man who broke out every 50 years and went to war". His death occasioned an expression of personal regrets from His Majesty King George V and ended a period of

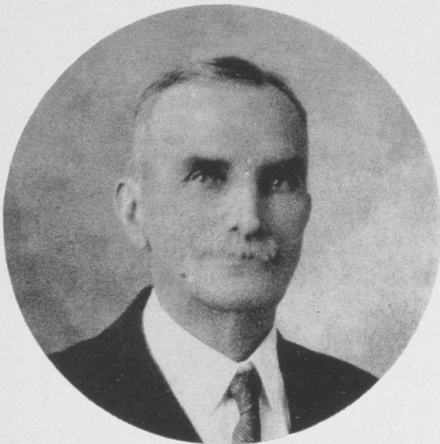
service longer than that of any other militia officer in Canada.

In that year of 1881, the next of the big outfits, The North West Cattle Company better known as the Bar U, was organized, and in '82 a 3,000-head herd was trailed from Montana in its name. Two years later, this company placed an order in Montana for the best cattleman available and to fill the order, which carried the munificent salary of \$35 a month, George Lane came to the foot-hills. A long, lean and awkward-looking cowboy, he became one of the most prominent stockmen on the continent, friend of the Prince of Wales, friend of the Indians, friend of everybody. It was under his ownership and direction that the Bar U became famous.

Ranching expanded at a phenomenal rate until 1886, and then came the first major set-back; it was the bad winter of 1886-87 when 30 to 40 per cent of all the cattle between the Red Deer river and Wyoming perished. A lot of the cattlemen quit—some because they were discouraged, others because they had to; for those who remained it was a good lesson, one that demonstrated the need for more careful organization and for reserves of winter feed.

Actually, there were herds on the inter-mountain ranges of British Columbia before there were any in the Chinook belt. The first cattle in the British Columbia interior which today has a valuable ranching industry were driven in from Oregon as food for the gold miners who rushed into the Cariboo in the '60's. Beef at the mines was bringing 50 cents a pound and Harper Brothers, Jerome and Thaddeus, were among the first to turn cattle off the trail to breed. The brand JH, for the initials of Jerome Harper, is still in use and must be the oldest recorded brand in Canada.

The mines up the Fraser gradually failed; but the cattle left to roam the range multiplied and some cattlemen found themselves with big herds and no markets. The Harpers, however, refused



Col. James Walker in 1934, famous ex-officer of the N.W.M.P. and first manager of the Cochrane Ranch.