

The Commissioner Officiates at the Calgary Stampede and Battleford Celebrations

ON A day in August 1875, a troop of North-West Mounted Policemen crossed the Bow River and camped in a lush, green valley in the Foot-hills. Their overnight stop became a permanent one. A fort was erected, first named Bow Fort and later changed to Fort Brisebois. The site was the location of the present city of Calgary, Alta. and "Calgary" was the name bestowed on it a year later by Asst. Commr. J. F. Macleod of the NWMP. Thus, Calgary's association with the Mounted Police is almost as old as the Force itself.

Progress has touched both the city and the Police Force. During the passing of 80 years Calgary has developed into a large and important centre in a great stock raising, wheat producing and oil drilling region of the province. During the same time the Force has expanded from a body of approximately 300 men policing a small area in Western Canada to a great Federal law-enforcement organization with detachments from coast to coast and from the International Boundary to the Arctic regions. Calgary's association with the Force has always been a close one. In the early days it was an important Police post in the pioneer west and in modern times it is the location of a sub-division headquarters.

To Westerners Calgary is known as the "Stampede City" and Calgarians are quick to take advantage of the point by utilizing the name "Stampeders" for various athletic teams. The name is derived, of course, from the famous Stampede, an annual affair generally

acknowledged as the world's greatest rodeo and live-stock exhibition. To Calgarians one of the highest honors they can accord any person, according to the *Calgary Albertan*, is to invite him to officiate at the opening of the Stampede. This year the honor was conferred on Commr. L. H. Nicholson. Said the *Albertan*:

"The honor is very appropriate. Commissioner Nicholson is a distinguished Canadian in his own right and Canada is proud of the Force he leads. But there is more to it than that. Calgary was founded by the North-West Mounted Police. And in this year of the province's jubilee the pioneers—the early builders—are being given their due place and glory. When he appears before 20 or 30 thousand people on the opening day of the Stampede to do the officiating he will incarnate for a moment that small band of "Mounties" who built Fort Calgary. . . ."

The Stampede is an unique affair. For seven days—and in fact for weeks in

