

## Introductory



**B**RITISH COLUMBIA'S splendid response to the call of the Empire will forever remain as one of the brightest chapters in the history of the Province, and the Fraser Valley more than did its share for the cause of humanity, giving freely of its bravest and best. When the famous 7th Battalion, C. E. F., was recruited, the 104th Regiment, of New Westminster, Lieut.-Col. J. D. Taylor, M.F., commanding, contributed its quota of 150 officers and men. Later it furnished a definite unit of 250 men, or a full company, to the 29th Battalion and the same to the 47th Battalion, besides sending several men to the 54th and 62nd Battalions.

It was in December, 1915, that Lieut.-Col. J. D. Taylor asked permission to raise an overseas battalion under the auspices of the 104th Regiment. Permission being granted, Lieut.-Col. Taylor began recruiting for the 131st (Westminster) Battalion, C. E. F., which it was designed to have representative of the great Fraser Valley. Every eligible officer of the 104th Regiment was taken into the 131st, though the parent regiment had already given about forty officers to other battalions.

Lieut.-Col. Taylor was fortunate in getting several officers who had seen previous service. The commanding officer of the 131st is a veteran of the North-west Rebellion, and started soldiering in 1879. After twenty years of service he was out for fifteen years and then again joined the colors. He is a well known rifle shot and was captain of the British Columbia rifle teams in 1894 and 1897, which were very successful at Ottawa shoots. He also was the first captain of the New Westminster Civilian Rifle Association when it was organized in 1908. Lieut.-Col. Taylor is not only a soldier of experience, but enjoys the confidence of the community in which he resides, having been twice elected to represent the New Westminster District in the House at Ottawa.

Major G. B. Corbould, commanding No. 1 Company, is a veteran of South Africa, and other officers in the battalion who saw service in that country are Captain W. D. F. Godwin, Lieuts. B. I. Vine, R. N. Brassey and Arthur Mars. Lieut. C. E. Bailey went overseas with the 7th Battalion, C. E. F., but was invalided home. Lieut. J. T. Smeeton served for several years in the Royal Marine Light Infantry and was military instructor in the University of British Columbia at the time of his enlistment. Major T. Cunningham and Lieut. H. C. Chamberlin, the fairskery instructor, are famous throughout the Dominion as rifle shots, and several other officers are good shots and were active in militia circles before the war.