

New Officers' Mess—Regina

By S/SGT. C. J. W. CHESTER

A BRIEF but impressive ceremony was held in the main lounge of the New Officers' Mess, Regina, on Saturday afternoon, Apr. 25, 1959, to mark the official opening of the building. Following brief remarks by Commr. C. E. Rivett-Carnac, the Mess was declared officially opened by the Hon. W. M. Martin, Chief Justice of Saskatchewan. In his remarks, the Chief Justice outlined his associations with the Force during the early part of this century and recalled many pleasant memories of his visits to the former Officers' Mess.

Following the pronouncement of the Prayer of Dedication by Rt. Rev. Michael Coleman, Bishop of Qu'Appelle, and Honorary Chaplain of the Force, the official party signed the Mess Register, which dates back to the beginning of the century.

Members of the clergy, the judiciary, the legal and medical professions, high-ranking government and civic officials and representatives of the various branches of the Armed Services, were among the many distinguished guests attending this most colorful event. Receiving the guests

were Commissioner and Mrs. Rivett-Carnac; Asst. Commr. C. N. K. Kirk, Officer Commanding "F" Division, and Mrs. Kirk, and Supt. H. A. Maxted, Officer Commanding "Depot" Division, and Mrs. Maxted.

The establishment of a North-West Mounted Police Officers' Mess at Regina was originally sanctioned by the Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, on May 10, 1886, although the Headquarters of the Force itself had then been located there for some four years. The first Mess was located in a small building on the east side of the barrack square. For 26 years, this building was occupied as the Officers' Mess, but in 1912, the Mess was moved into the three-storey building formerly occupied as the Commissioner's residence, and situated on the north-east corner of the square. Considerable renovation was carried out, including the erection of a verandah on the south and west sides of the building, a large billiard room on the north side, and the brick-veneering of the exterior of the whole building. The interior of the building was divided into an ante-room, a dining room, a games room, a writing room,



The Hon. W. M. Martin, Chief Justice of Saskatchewan, signing the Mess Register after Official Opening. Supt. H. A. Maxted assists. *Background, l. to r.,* Commr. C. E. Rivett-Carnac, Rt. Rev. Michael Coleman, Honorary Chaplain, Rt. Rev. E. H. Knowles, Retired Honorary Chaplain, Mrs. E. H. Knowles and his Worship H. P. Baker, Mayor of Regina.