



# THE Canadian Courier

## THE NATIONAL WEEKLY

VOL. 6

Toronto, July 31st, 1909

No. 9



### MEN OF TO-DAY

#### The Bisley Commandant

COMMANDANT BERTRAM is now one of the proudest men in the military world. He is chief of the most notable team of marksmen that ever sailed the big pond in search of honours at Bisley. He comes of a family of marksmen and soldiers; and his three sons are marksmen, too. Ten Bertrams able to make bullseyes may be mustered if occasion demands; and of them all Lt.-Col. Alexander, brigadier of the 3rd brigade and former commanding officer of the 77th Wentworth regiment is facile princeps. He began to be a soldier by blowing the bugle in Company Seven of the 13th Battalion away back in 1869. Forty years a soldier and most of that time in the 77th Battalion and always a marksman, Col. Bertram is the one man best fitted by personality and popularity to command the Canadian team at Bisley.

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#### Law and the Gun

LAW and the gun have always been more or less associated in history. In the case of Major Mercer the gun preceded the law book. Major Mercer at Bisley may be a very good lawyer, but when he gets down to a long cool bead on a bullseye he remembers nothing but the law of optics and good steady nerves. He is the able adjutant to Col. Bertram in command of the Canadian team, and though he has not been making records on the bullseye, he is one of the best marksmen in the contingent. Major Mercer's career with the gun began when he went gunning for rabbits forty years ago or less in the township of Etobicoke where he was born on a farm; in the days when the old muzzle-loader charged with buckshot hung on the kitchen wall and came in handy for foxes at the chicken coop as well as partridge in the bush. At an early age young Mercer went to the St. Catharines Collegiate Institute; afterwards graduating from Toronto University in political science coupled with moral and mental philosophy. He studied law with the late James Beatty, M.P., of Beatty, Hamilton and Cassels. In 1889 he went into partnership with Mr. Bradford, and while not overlooking the legal end of the business, devoted spare hours to the writing of magazine articles or went gunning. His career as a professional gunner began in K Co. of the Queen's Own Rifles, which was then the University of Toronto Company. In 1895 he was a member of the Bisley team from Canada, and has always been a strong worker in both the O. R. A. and the D. R. A. in the matches of both which he won many prizes.

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#### Mayor of Glace Bay

MAYOR DOUGLAS, of Glace Bay is not a military man. Up till

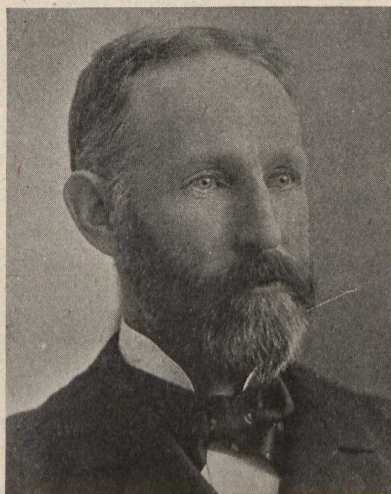
a few weeks ago presiding over meetings of the Glace Bay Council, his chief concern, how to keep up improvements and keep down taxation in that big mining town in C. B. Suddenly he has stepped into an uncomfortable spot-light; one of the central figures in the big coal strike. He it was who opposed doughty James Duggan when the general manager of the Dominion Coal Co. called for the troops from Halifax. Mayor Douglas did not care for troops quartered in the town. He knew that by the Military Act the town would have to pay for the troops. He and his council opposed



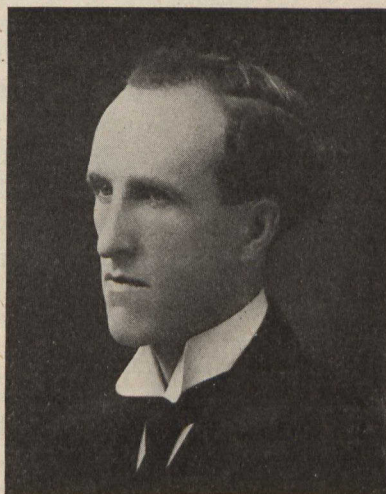
Lt.-Col. A. Bertram,  
Commandant Canadian Bisley Team.



Major M. S. Mercer,  
Adjutant Canadian Bisley Team.



Dr. Simon J. Tunstall,  
Delegate to Budapest.



Mr. J. N. Bayne,  
Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Saskatchewan.



Mayor J. C. Douglas,  
Glace Bay.

the calling of troops. Duggan insisted—and he knows how to insist. Rioting seemed probable; and to be Mayor of a rioting town is to occupy a position not to be envied. Douglas gave way. Five hundred troops came from Halifax and pitched camp in the town. The strike assumed all the formidable picturesqueness of a battlefield. Mayor Douglass welcomed the troops as cordially as possible. But he will be one of the most relieved men in Canada when the last tent-stake is pulled and the last redcoat out of Glace Bay. Naturally, being chief magistrate, he prefers the rule of himself and his local police. But he also counts the cost. Five hundred men quartered on the town and drawing military pay at the town's expense is quite as serious as a few thousand miners drawing strike pay from the U.M.W.A. Already the merchants of Glace Bay are up in arms as well as the soldiers. Their business is falling off. What they gain from the militia they lose from the idle miners. Next year's tax rate will tell a different story from this year's. Mayor Douglas knows it. Perhaps he will not care to be Mayor another year. Certainly his position is not one to be envied. Glace Bay is too small a place to support a garrison of five hundred men.

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#### A Municipal Captain

ONCE more Medicine Hat, and this time it is a convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities holding its ninth annual session in that city. One of the brainiest and busiest men at that convention is John Norman Bayne, Deputy Municipal Minister in Saskatchewan. Mr. Bayne led in the discussion on "Western Municipal Development," of which he knows as much as any man in the world. In that country municipal evolution is very rapid; quite the most progressive thing of its kind in the known world. Mr. Bayne has had a rapid career of his own: Scotch forefathers, Presbyterian faith, an Ontario farm for native health, an early inoculation of pedagogy, a dip into journalism; then the lure of the West, a season as Senior Teacher in the Regina Indian Industrial School, six years as Chief Clerk in the Local Improvement Branch of the Department of Public Works, and a Deputy Municipal Commissioner for Saskatchewan made to your hand when the office was created in 1908. Mr. Bayne is young in years, but old in service, as age goes in the West. It is a busy, heavy department these days—that of the Municipal Commissioner, with a staff of over thirty.

But it was just the other day that Mr. Bayne's branch of the service occupied two small rooms in the offices surrounding the old Territorial Legislative Buildings. At that time (1902), local improvement districts were in their infancy, and the few then existing consisted of one township each and were located principally in the settlements surrounding Battleford, Prince Albert, Yorkton, Mossomin

and Regina. Mr. Bayne assisted in creating the four-township districts inaugurated in 1904, and worked in organising many of the hamlets now grown into preposterously large and flourishing villages and towns. Pursuant to recent legislation, the whole province is being re-arranged into local improvement districts of nine townships each and subsequently into rural municipalities. A new uniform system of municipal book-keeping is now ready for trial. Between two and three thousand villagers and L. I. D. councillors and secretaries compose Mr. Bayne's official family. And Saskatchewan is only an