

## Obituary

### Ex-Superintendent A. E. C. McDonnell

It is with profound regret that we record the death at Calgary, on April 8th, of Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. C. McDonnell, former Superintendent of this Force and a prominent figure in the history of Alberta. Joining the N.W.M. Police at Montreal in June, 1881, he made the difficult journey by rail, boat and horseback, to the Headquarters of the Force at Fort Walsh in the Cypress Hills, where he was sworn in as Constable and given Regimental Number 543. From Headquarters he was transferred to Calgary in the spring of 1882 and thence to the mountains of British Columbia, where he remained until 1885. He was there during the memorable days of the construction of the C.P.R. and was in charge of the first detachment at Revelstoke, then known as the Second Crossing of the Columbia River.

In April, 1885, on the outbreak of the Riel Rebellion, all members serving in the Mountains were ordered to Calgary, where the late ex-Superintendent McDonnell was posted to "Steele's Scouts", a corps organized by Inspector S. B. Steele. Holding the rank of Sergeant-Major, ex-Superintendent McDonnell served with this contingent throughout the Rebellion and was in action at Frenchman's Butte, for which he received the medal and clasp. Following the Rebellion he was stationed at Calgary and Lethbridge until June, 1897, when he went to England as Sergeant Major of the contingent which represented the Force at the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Remaining in England after the celebrations, he attended courses at the Cavalry Depot, Canterbury, and the School of Musketry, Hythe, returning to Canada towards the end of the year with outstanding records of success from those establishments..

The following year he went into the Yukon with the first detachment from the Force for duty in that region and was there to take an important part in the exciting days of the Gold Rush of '98. Promoted to commissioned rank in 1900, he remained in the Yukon for a total period of ten years. On his return from that territory, he continued his active life in the service of the Force at Macleod, Athabasca Landing, and in the pioneer Peace River district for a further period of ten years. In 1913 he was promoted to the rank of Superintendent, and, in 1917, he retired to pension to organize the Alberta Provincial Police. To that task he carried a wide experience and a detailed knowledge of police work together with the best traditions of this Force, so that the new police organization was firmly established when he relinquished his position. In 1920 he proceeded to the Peace River district again, this time in the capacity of Police Magistrate. He continued in that responsible position until 1933 when he retired from active public life to make his home in Calgary—a city grown from the collection of log huts and a police stockade which he saw when he first came to the West. Widely known and respected throughout the West, holding a signally honoured position in the annals of Alberta for his part in the early development of that Province, the late ex-Superintendent McDonnell will be remembered with pride by this Force which he served so long and with such distinction.

### Reg. No. 10675, Constable M. E. Vendette

Following a short illness, Constable M. E. Vendette died at his home in Ottawa on April 17th. Coming to Canada from the U.S.A. as a young man, he made his home in Embrun, Ont., until twenty years ago, when he moved to Ottawa and joined the City Police. After ten years' service in that Force, Constable Vendette engaged in the R.C.M. Police and was a member of "A" Division during the nine years preceding his death. In his 45th year, and of powerful physique, Constable Vendette was well known for his athletic activities and his death came as a shock to his many friends.