



Commr. G. A. French.



Fort MacLeod...

of the Fort Garry and Winnipeg populations was with the recent turn of events, and the popularity of the officers of the Canadian and British regiments now in their midst.

We all know that the Northwest Mounted Police was created by Order-in-Council on August 30, 1873, to maintain law and order in the Northwest Territories. Three divisions, or troops, of about fifty men each were recruited in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, and were sent to Fort Garry later that year by way of the Dawson Trail.

That same year, Macleod was commissioned in the new Force as superintendent-and-inspector (third on the NWMP's seniority roll), at a salary of \$1,400. The senior superintendent-and-inspector was then W. D. Jarvis. However, the next year on June 1, Macleod was promoted

to the newly created position of assistant commissioner, and in the absence of Commissioner (later General, Sir) George French he assumed command of the three troops in training at Fort Garry, 20 miles below Winnipeg.

We are all familiar with the first test of the quality of the NWMP, which began on July 8, 1874, when the now six divisions (troops) paraded together at Dufferin to begin the long trek over more than 800 miles of uncharted prairie to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. This famous march has been described in detail by many of the early historians.

The main column plodded on day after day over terrain trampled by buffalo, and very little of the nutritious grass was left for forage. The shallow sloughs which men and animals depended upon for drinking water had