A. W. McVITTIE

Archibald Westmacott McVittie, was born in Toronto on May 5th, 1858. When he was fourteen years of age his parents removed to Barrie, Ont., where he attended the Public and Grammar Schools, and was also a student of Upper Canada College. He decided upon Land Surveying as a profession, and became articled to Maurice Gaviller, P.L.S., of Barrie, in 1872. He was Mr. Gaviller’s first pupil, and he states “Archie was a good and reliable boy who served his three years’ apprenticeship and passed his final examinations in 187... but as he had not then attained his majority, he was not sworn in until July 10th, 1879.” He also qualified as a Dominion Land Surveyor.

From 1879 to 1881, he practised his profession at Barrie, Ont., in this province, being associated with Lt.-Col. Shearman G. Bird, P.L.S., father of Eustace G. Bird, the well known architect of Toronto.

In 1881 he decided to move west and that season was employed on Township subdivision work in Alberta. The party wintered at Calgary, then little more than a Police Barracks, and returned to Winnipeg the following spring.

For three seasons Mr. McVittie was employed by the Dominion Government:

- Township outline west of 2nd and 4th 1882
- Fort Macleod Town Plot 1883
- Calgary Town Plot 1884

Before the C.P.R. reached Calgary in 1883, he supervised the resurvey of the original town site, and took up a homestead at Calgary. He returned to Barrie in 1895 where he
practised architecture in partnership with Mr. Thomas Kennedy, until about 1899, when he returned to the North West and practised at Calgary and at Fort Macleod.

Shortly afterwards he was attracted by the mining development in British Columbia and removed to Fort Steele in the Windermere Valley where he engaged in placer mining with his brother, Thos. T. McVittie.

He was commissioned a Land Surveyor in British Columbia, and removed to Cranbrook where he was instrumental in developing the Crow's Nest Pass coal fields, and the East Kootenay lumber business. He was also interested in real estate with John Hutchison as partner.

In 1908 he removed to Victoria, B.C., where he practised his profession until his death which occurred on August 24th, 1826.

In 1898 he married Emily Louise, daughter of Edward Leslie of Prescott, Ont. There were two children, Charles Archibald, B.A.Sc., of the University of British Columbia, born June, 1900, and Margaret Emily, born May, 1902, who, with his widow, survive.

Mr. McVittie's father was a brother of the late C. J. Murphy's mother. (See Report 1922).