

COLONEL JOHN R. VICARS

John R. Vicars, P.L.S., Ont., and D.L.S., was born in Dublin, Ireland, on April 16th, 1855, the son of Rev. John Vicars, B.A., Trinity College. He came to Canada with his parents in the spring of 1858, being then three years old. They



first took up residence in London, Ontario, but in the autumn of that same year they removed to Lindsay, Ontario, where Rev. John Vicars became rector of St. Paul's Church.

John R. Vicars received his education in the first instance at the Grammar School as the public school was then termed, at Lindsay and when he attained the age of 16 years he worked as laborer, then clerk, and finally as manager of a large lumber concern in the vicinity, that phase of his activities lasting five years. He then underwent a further course of educational instruction, his father acting as his tutor for a period of two years. In 1878 he entered the

profession of surveying, and from that date until 1886 was assistant and chainman to surveyors in Ontario and the Northwest Territories, and in the latter year qualified as Dominion Land Surveyor, and later in the same year as Provincial Land Surveyor, Ontario. Work in his profession not being very brisk about that time, Mr. Vicars again entered the lumber business and for two years was manager of an extensive concern in that industry, but the call of his chosen profession would not permit him to relinquish it. In 1888, therefore, we see him in the field, as a member of the survey staff of the Department of the Interior, in the Northwest Territories and British Columbia, until 1896, his headquarters in B.C. being at Kamloops.

Upon severing his connection with the Dominion surveys, he was appointed warden of the Provincial Gaol at Kamloops, retaining that post until 1914.

The outbreak of the World War found him actively associated with military affairs. From early manhood he had taken a keen interest in the Canadian Militia and joined the 45th Battalion of Ontario Infantry in 1878 as a private, and from that until his retirement in 1924 his interest in military matters never flagged. He received his first commission as lieutenant in 1880 and retired from active service three years ago with the rank of Colonel. He organized the 172nd Regiment, Rocky Mountain Rangers, with headquarters at Kamloops, in 1899, and found keen delight in watching the growth of that body from a company of raw recruits to a smart, well disciplined regiment. When in 1914 the call came for soldiers from all parts of the Empire, Lt. Colonel Vicars, as he was then, augmented his military activities and brought the 172nd regiment up to full strength, and took it overseas as its Colonel, its commandant. From August 10th, 1914, until April 30th, 1918, he was on continuous active service in Canada, England and France. He is now on the retired list with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Being invalided home in 1918, he rejoined the Topographical Survey Branch of the Department of Interior on the permanent staff, and remained in that service until his superannuation in 1924.

On April 5th, 1892, he married Miss Beatrice Julia Billings, of Toronto, who died in 1925. Four children of this marriage are living, all in British Columbia: Mrs. Charles Gordon, of Vancouver; Miss Nora Vicars; Lieut. Desmond Vicars, D.S.O., and Hugh Vicars, all of Kamloops.

As a Surveyor, Mr. Vicars enjoyed the reputation of being an accurate, dependable member of his chosen profession, and the fact that after his retirement in 1896, he was urged by the Surveyor-General on several occasions to again enter the service, affords ample testimony to the esteem, in which he was held by his chief and the department. Still further evidence of the implicit confidence reposed in him was in his appointment by the Militia Department in connection with the surveys of Military Reserves, associated with this being a private commission entrusted to him by the late Colonel Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia.

In the military field he had but one thought, the efficiency of the men under his command, but he never overlooked pro-

viding for their comfort and entertainment, and was so approachable to all that he was looked upon as more a friend, and a beloved friend, than a commander. This spirit was frequently shown. Once, when his regiment was in training camp at Vernon, B.C., his men declared they would follow the Colonel to "hell, if need be." On another occasion, when he rejoined his regiment in France after a sojourn in England, scores of his men rushed from all parts of the camp to greet him, as a comrade welcomes another. This esteem came as the outcome of his paternal care of each individual member of his command, of a keen genuine interest in their welfare. This accounts too, for the earnest response to his training in the Kamloops drill hall, which elicited from General Lake the statement that his command was the best trained body of Militia in Canada, and which earned for him the thanks of the Military Council.

He was laid away, in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Kamloops, B.C., on Sunday, December 29th, 1929, with full military honors.

Latterly he was engaged at ranching on the plateau above the South Thompson River, a few miles east of Kamloops.

In 1888, he was engaged making correction surveys west of P.M. second and third P.M's.

In 1889, township subdivision, survey of Timber Limits and traverse of part of the Colquiltam River and lake, part of left and right banks of Fraser River and part of Burrard Inlet, New Westminster District, B.C.

In 1890, township subdivision and correction surveys west P.M.

In 1891, township subdivision west of sixth Mer. and Provl. lots No. 160 and 237, west of sixth.

In 1892, township subdivision west of sixth.

In 1893, township subdivision west of sixth, and traverse of part of Savona and Kamloops wagon road. Subdn. of tps. 23. E.C.M.

In 1894, tp. subdivision west 5th, 6th and E. of C.M.

In 1895, tp. subdn. west of 6th, and east of C.M. and correction survey in tp. 17 E.C.M. also traverse of Hatzic slough in tp. 17, E.C.M.

In 1896, tp. subdn. and correction surveys W. of 6th.

In 1897, subdn. tp. 19-18-6. Survey timber berth 108. Survey of mineral claims, tp. 26-27-5 and 19-18-6. Districts of Yale and Illecillewaet, B.C.

In 1898, Survey mineral claim tp. 19-18-6, Yale Dist. B.C.

In 1899, Survey mineral claims, in tp. 19-18-6; 19-19-6; 21-20-6, and various other claims in Yale District, B.C.

In 1901, Survey mineral claim same district, B.C.

In 1902, Survey mineral claim, tps. 18-19, W. 6th.

In 1903, Survey mineral claims, tp. 22-15-6; 22-17-6; 19-18-6.

In 1904, Survey mineral claims, 19-171; tps. 19-20, R. 18, W. 6th.

In 1905, Survey mineral claims, 19-17-6; 19-18-6; 20-19-6.

In 1906, Survey mineral claims, 19-17-6; 17-18-6; 20-19-6.

In 1908, Survey mineral claims, Kamloops District, B.C.

In 1909, Survey mineral claims, 19 and 20-18-6, and lot 1748, B.C.

In 1910, Survey mineral claim, lot 1595, Kamloops District.

In 1918, Tp. subdn. and outlines west of 6th.

In 1919, Tp. subdn. west of 6th.

In 1920, Tp. subdn. west of 6th, and stadia traverse.

In 1921, Tp. subdn. west 5th and 6th, and addition to Field townsite.

In 1922, Revision work west of Sicamous sectional map.

In 1923, Miscellaneous surveys, W. 4th, 5th and, 6th Meridian.

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