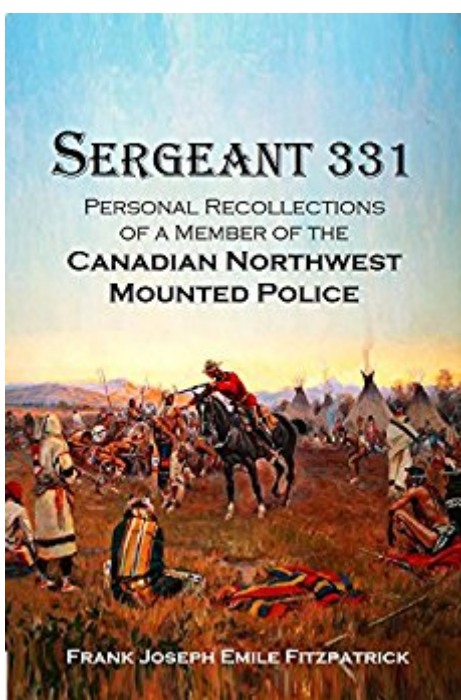


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Sergeant 331: Personal Recollections Of A Member Of The Canadian Northwest Mounted Police From 1879-1885 (1921)



Synopsis

SERGEANT 331 (Frank Joseph Emile Fitzpatrick) was a member of the Northwest Mounted Police, from 1879-1885; that is, until after the second Riel rebellion in the Northwest Territories of Canada, which have since been partitioned into the provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Yukon, still leaving a part known as the Northwest Territory. The duty of the force was to open up that immense, unknown land to civilization, bringing into it the proper and impartial enforcement of all civil and criminal laws. The force, a civil one, was nevertheless under strict military training and discipline, uniformed and armed. The author, in drafting the following pages, has attempted to give a plain narrative of the daily, intimate life of a member of this force, supplying therein a long-felt want among many of his friends, and the general public, interested in the events which have helped to transform a vast expanse of land, utilized until then only as a fur-producing country for the Hudson's Bay Company, into an agricultural country, with resources of such proportion that it could feed the greater part of the world. Numerous tribes of wild and nomadic Indians constantly traveled its plains in search of game, which was in abundance almost everywhere. There were also in this land several thousand half-breeds of either Scotch or French origin, the ancestry of the first named going back to former employees of the Hudson's Bay Company, and of the latter to former French voyageurs or hunters and trappers. The white population was very scant. The mounted police force numbered approximately three hundred, and had the supervision of a territory, limited as to their activities, of about one thousand miles square. In later years, when the immense territory of the Yukon became the Mecca of the gold hunters who flocked to that far-away region by the thousands, this force was increased to about nine hundred. No attempt has been made by the author to weave any romance, or to introduce any fiction into this work; he has relied entirely upon the recital of plain, everyday facts to interest his readers. He trusts that he may have been able to do this. That alone will be sufficient reward for his labor.

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