

# HAS REGISTRATION OF ALIENS IN HAND

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**General Sir William Otter on  
Western Trip—Long Record  
of Active Service.**

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Army veterans in Winnipeg, whether they are of the younger generation who served in South Africa, whether they are the grizzled, white-haired, old soldiers who were in action during the Fenian raid way back in '66, or whether they fought in the Northwest rebellion, will welcome to Winnipeg a distinguished officer and an old comrade in the person of Major-General Sir William Otter.

The general arrived in Winnipeg last evening, and is registered at the Royal Alexandra hotel. He has come west in connection with his recent appointment by the government in charge of the registration of aliens and the interning of prisoners throughout Canada. He was undecided last night as to how long he would stay in Winnipeg, and said that in all probability he would proceed further west. He was expecting a wire from Ottawa which might change his plans.

## **Would Not Discuss War.**

General Otter declined to discuss the war or the military situation in

Canada from any standpoint, and stated simply that he was in the west to make a thorough investigation into all matters in connection with his new duties, a report of which would

be handed to the government. In the course of a brief conversation it was mentioned that the work of interning prisoners in western Canada was proceeding very quietly, and that the public had not been apprised of any of the details in connection with the arrest of these men.

"It is perhaps as well," he remarked charitably; "it is just possible that an injustice might be done in some cases by undue publicity."

For all of his 71 years—he will reach that age on the third of next month—General Otter preserves his fine military bearing. He is erect and vigorous, giving the impression of a man who walks constantly or plays golf in order to keep in trim; his skin is clear and ruddy, his voice firm, his manner quietly dignified, and he looks more like a man in his early Fifties than one who has passed the three-score-and-ten milestone. He was wearing civilian clothes when interviewed last evening, and is now clean shaven.

#### Had Long Service.

With the beginning of his seventieth year last December, General Otter retired from the post of Inspector-General of Canadian militia. Up to that time he had served continuously for 52 years in the Canadian militia—since 1883 in the permanent militia. He is probably the most widely known officer in the Dominion. He was born near Clinton, Ontario, in 1843, and began his military career as a private in the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto. In 1864 he was gazetted lieutenant, and from that time his rise was rapid. During the Fenian raid he was in command of the Queen's Own\* at the Lime Ridge action. In the Northwest rebellion he was in charge of the column that relieved Battleford. In 1899 he was given command of the first Canadian contingent raised for service in South Africa.