

WESTERN HERO, COL. STEELE, IS 'MAJOR-GENERAL'

Promotion for Riel Rebellion Veteran, Mounted Police Organizer, Pleases All

Colonel S. B. Steele, M.V.O., D.O.C., military district No. 10, is "Colonel" no longer. Word has been received from headquarters to the effect that well-merited distinction has been conferred upon him and he has been promoted major-general.

The promotion came as a complete surprise to General Steele, who was sitting, together with his wife, at dinner yesterday when the telegram arrived. Since that time messages of congratulation for Western Canada's first general have poured in on all sides. Possibly in the history of western military life there has never been a more generally popular promotion.

The joy is tinged with regret, however, at the prospect of General Steele's having to take up residence in Ottawa, when, at the close of the war, he takes up his duties as inspector-general of western forces, for which he is slated.

General Steele is not only a popular westerner, but he is a soldier of noted efficiency. Coming from Eastern Canada with the Red River expedition of 1870, under Captain, later Field Marshal Viscount Wolseley, General Steele remained after the uprising was quelled. He was practically the first man to join the R.N.W. mounted police. This was in 1873 and when the second rebellion broke out, in 1885, he was superintendent.

More arduous experiences he gained when in 1898 he was sent to Klondyke to quell the lawlessness which reigned in the gold camps of the Yukon. Returning to Winnipeg he organized the Lord Strathcona Horse, (Royal Canadian) and was colonel of the regiment when it was ordered to South Africa.

For many years General Steele, as

"Colonel S. B.," as he is familiarly known, has with absolute fairness and justice held command of Military District 10. His popularity is undoubted and it was a matter for deep regret among many of the western officers, that he was not appointed to the command of the first Canadian contingent. His rank of colonel made the command of an army division impossible at that time, but now as major-general he can be placed in command of a division, or even of an army.