

# GENERAL LESSARD

## A GREAT HORSEMAN

**French-Canadian by Birth, He is One of the Finest Soldiers the Dominion Ever Produced**

The civilian who meets Major-General Lessard without his uniform instantly places him as one of the best breed of Irishmen. He has the splendid color, the attentive, friendly eye, and the naturally military bearing of an Irish squire. That's when he is without his uniform. In it, he appears to the civilian exactly what his rank calls him. He seems to have been born into his trim uniform. His eyes are the quiet, appraising eye of a man-judger, one who is capable of dividing men into the two military classes—the leaders and the led. Those are the qualities which made him just the man to take a prominent part in the mobilization and training of Canada's overseas contingents.

General Lessard's accent is unmistakably that of an English gentleman rather than that of a French-Canadian. This is easily accounted for, for during the greater part of his life he has lived in barracks associating with English speaking and not a few of them English bred officers and men. And for a long time he has lived in Ontario with only a casual association with the people of his native province. His natural tastes, too, are largely those of the English officer, running to horses, the hounds and polo.

### Veteran of Boer War

The General was born in the city of Quebec in 1860. His father, the late Louis Lessard, a well known citizen of the ancient capital, was a French-Canadian, his mother, Jane McCutcheon, being of mixed Scottish and French-Canadian descent. He was educated in Quebec and at the college of St. Thomas, Montmagny.



MAJOR-GENERAL LESSARD

Que. He entered Quebec Garrison Artillery as second lieutenant. Removing to Montreal to engage in business, he was transferred to the 65th Battalion Royal Rifles, Montreal, and later joined the original troop of the Cavalry School Corps, what is now the Royal Canadian Dragoons, which he accompanied to the North-west Rebellion.

He took part in the South African war, proceeding from Canada with the first contingent. For three months he served on the staff of the officer commanding the cavalry division, Sir John French, and on the arrival of the Royal Canadian Dragoons he joined them at Cape Town and took command. His African service includes the relief of Kimberley. He was twice mentioned in despatches during the war, was promoted to the rank of brevet colonel by the Dominion Government, and was made a companion of the Military Order of the Bath by his Majesty King Edward VII., in recognition of his services in the field.

He has been adjutant-general of the Canadian militia, which important appointment he held until promoted to the Toronto command.

### Knows All About Horses

Not only is General Lessard a good judge of horses, but he is an exceptionally accomplished horsemaster. He doctors his own horses, shoes them and has performed surgical operations that other veterinarians hesitated to undertake. He was a fine polo player in his day, and still loves to let the young fellows try his mettle. He not only breaks and trains his own ponies, but likes to do it for his intimate friends. It will be scarcely believed that when this expert horseman, then a commercial traveler, in Montreal, was first given a commission in the permanent cavalry, there was some sneering at it being given to him on account of his ignorance of horses. The criticism of his lack of experience in horsemanship, instead of offending him, spurred him on to overcome the defect in his training and he practically spent every moment of his time when off duty in the riding school.