

LIEUT.-COL. IRVING NOW CAMP COMMANDANT

WILL ASSUME FULL CHARGE AT
PETAWAWA.

Seldom has an appointment hereabouts been hailed with more genuine pleasure by the public at large than the announcement, made during the past week, that Lieut.-Col. Lennox Irving, of Pembroke, had been named by Sir William Otter to be Commandant of the Internment Camp at Petawawa. For the past couple of weeks there had been rumors that some changes were being made there, but as is usual in military matters there was an atmosphere of mystery about them which was only cleared a few days ago by the announcement that Col. Irving would take command. It is understood that the duties of looking after the camp are being divided. Lieut.-Col. de la Ronde, who has held the dual offices heretofore, retaining the post of Camp Superintendent and having charge of all supplies and matters connected therewith, while Col. Irving will be the first officer, with full command of the prisoners, the guards and the camp generally.

In Pembroke the appointment, needless to say, has met with universal favor, and a general chorus of congratulations has been going forth to the gallant and popular Colonel during the past week, while there is satisfaction everywhere because of the fact that his long and faithful services to the Canadian Militia have at last been recognized. Sir William Otter, who has charge of all the internment camps in Canada, knows something of Col. Irving's worth as a militia officer and of the splendid services rendered by him in years gone by, and the fact that this post has been given to him is taken as assurance that long service and fidelity to duty still count for something in the Canadian Militia. The appointment is not a political one, being made by Sir William Otter, and those in Pembroke who know that fine old soldier are not surprised that he has chosen one so worthy of the position. The two are old friends, have been together at many camps in former years, while Sir William was in charge of the Toronto Infantry School at times when Col. Irving went there to qualify for promotions which came to him.

Lieut.-Col. Irving was actively connected with the militia for twenty-five years or more and rose steadily until he was finally given the post of Commanding Officer of the 42nd. He is fully qualified and, popular always with the men of all ranks, took a very keen interest in his work and a pride in the efficiency of the troops under him. Though for some years past he had been on the retired list, he never lost interest in the work and was ever ready to give any assistance in his power to those who succeeded him, while, when the war broke out, he was among the first to volunteer his services to the Militia Department.

The Observer joins with the citizens generally in tendering congratulations to him on his appointment, coupled with the hope that in his new duties and heavy responsibilities he may meet with every success.

The Ottawa Citizen in an article dealing with the appointment last night printed the following:

The appointment of Col. Irving to this coveted position is a most popular one. He is considered one of the best military men in Canada and is well known throughout all Ontario. He has been connected with the Canadian militia for many years and for a lengthy period was commanding officer of the 42nd regiment. In fact, it was due to his efforts that that unit was such an active body

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for so long a time. He has taken the regiment to summer training camp very many times.

Col. Irving is a lawyer by profession, having graduated from Queen's University, Kingston, in the eighties. He has lived in Pembroke all his life and is one of the best known figures there. He is secretary of the board of education and is identified with the public library and other organizations. He is a son of the late Andrew Irving, for some years registrar of Renfrew county.

There are about 700 Austrians interned at Petawawa with a guard of about 150 men from the 42nd regiment.