

Col. E. J. Watt deserves and should receive the support and encouragement of every citizen of this district and of the whole of the two counties — Lanark and Renfrew — in his efforts to recruit as quickly as possible the new 240th battalion. A capable and thorough-going officer, with a large store of sound common-sense and broad human sympathies, he will undoubtedly prove a most popular and efficient commanding officer and is a man in whom the people of the two counties can have every confidence. He is determined as far as possible that his officers will be chosen from among men of standing in the various communities of the two counties and in this respect has so far been very successful. In choosing Lieut.-Col. Lennox Irving, of Pembroke, as second officer commanding, he has made a most fortunate selection and one that is bound to meet with popular favor hereabouts. There were many who had hoped that Col. Irving, who was probably the most experienced militia officer in the two counties, would long ere this have been asked to raise a battalion in these counties, but although he was among the first of the retired officers to volunteer his services he was not called upon for overseas. That he is willing to take a subordinate post under Col. Watt is a tribute to the earnestness of his patriotism, and this is further borne out by the fact that he accepted his present position as provost-marshal at Petawawa camp subject to appointment for overseas. The Observer knows something of Col. Irving's sincerity of purpose in this respect and we believe the announcement that he has accepted the post offered to him by Col. Watt will have a very important bearing on recruiting hereabouts. We congratulate Col. Irving on his decision, and Col. Watt on the wisdom of his choice.