

# LIEUT.-COL. L. IRVING JOINS NEW BATTALION

WILL BE SECOND OFFICER IN  
COMMAND.

Pembroke people have more than a passing interest in the announcement that Lieut.-Col. Lennox Irving, for some time past provost-marshal at Petawawa camp, has accepted the post of second officer in command of the new 240th battalion now being organized under command of Col. E. J. Watt. To most of our citizens the announcement will not cause surprise, for they knew that since the outbreak of the war Col. Irving had been anxious for overseas service. He was among the first of the retired officers to volunteer, but the Militia Department was not calling on the retired men and a chance did not come to him. It is not betraying any secret to say that he was disappointed and chagrined, but at home he did all that he could to stimulate recruiting and assist those given command in every way possible. When he some time ago accepted the position of provost-marshal at Petawawa he did so subject to overseas appointment, and when Col. Watt came to him last week with an offer of second place in the new home battalion he accepted. As yet the appointment has not been officially announced, but this will likely be done in the course of the next few days.

The selection of Col. Irving for this post will do much to popularize the 240th hereabouts, and indeed throughout the whole of Lanark and Renfrew, for by reason of his long connection with the militia he is well known in both counties.

He was for five years officer commanding the 42nd Lanark and Renfrew Regiment, and in those days this branch of the famous Black Watch was numbered among the smartest of Canada's militia regiments. He started his successful military career as a young man, qualifying for his infantry commission under Col. (now Sir William) Otter, and making his equational course under Gen. Lessard. At the time of the Northwest Rebellion he was a student at Queen's and was Captain in a university company which volunteered its services for the west. Popular with all ranks, he was also a competent officer, and after his retirement his interest in military matters was undiminished. His appointment by Sir Wm. Otter last fall as commandant at Petawawa camp was an expression of the confidence of that doughty soldier in Col. Irving's ability, and that the appointment did not go into effect was due undoubtedly to some petty interference by the Ottawa authorities.

Col. Irving will of course relinquish his position at Petawawa and will in due course take charge of recruiting for the 240th Battalion at Pembroke. Other local appointments will likely be announced shortly, and it is Col. Watt's plan to make Pembroke the headquarters for the men recruited in North Renfrew and as far west as Mattawa. Just when the recruiting office will be opened we are not as yet prepared to say, but it is likely that when it is started here the 240th will have absolute charge of recruiting for all branches of the service at this point. Plans are being laid to fill up the new battalion with the least possible expense of time and money and it is hoped that by next fall every man whom the voluntary system will bring out for overseas will have enlisted.