

A RECRUITING RECORD.

Spurred on by a stern realisation of the requirements at the Front gained by personal experience, the characteristic energy of Lieut.-Colonel Lorne Ross became intensified with the task of mobilising the 67th Western Scots, with the result that through his efforts, together with the efforts of the chief officers by whom he surrounded himself, a record was established for organising and training a military unit in the West from which so many soldiers have gone to take their parts in the war.

Within less than two months from the date of authorisation, September 1, 1915, the 67th was a smooth-working body, fully entered upon the regular and special systems of training laid down for it. More than that, the Battalion was well over one hundred above strength and completely organised on an active service basis. This in less than eight weeks from the date of commencing recruiting.

In referring to this notable achievement the "Victoria Colonist" at the time had the following in the course of a lengthy article:—

"Since undertaking the task of raising and training an overseas battalion in the shortest possible time, Colonel Ross and those who worked with him have laboured ceaselessly. Not only military knowledge was required, executive ability of an outstanding kind being demanded to reach the point attained within the lapse of two months. It was necessary to find suitable officers and men, to arrange for the qualification of the former and the training of the latter, to equip the entire unit and to attend to an amount of detail which is out-

side the ken of the average layman. It has all been done and the training is now in full swing."

A call had been sent out by Col. Ross for strong, vigorous men—as far as possible for men used to the out-of-door life, a type of which he knew British Columbia could furnish many thousands, and the call was splendidly answered. A battalion of a special character was wanted and he got it. Men came in from the athletic fields, from the reaches of Vancouver Island, from the Cariboo and other parts of the British Columbia mainland interior, from away north in the Yukon, and from the United States. It is not surprising that the correspondent of the "Daily Mail," when he saw the Battalion on parade at Bramshott, England, referred to them as "husky western giants."

While the fighting unit was being brought together there was also being organised an excellent pipe band, in behalf of which Pipe-Major Wishart laboured with unwavering enthusiasm. At the same time Bandmaster Turner got together a brass band of forty-eight pieces. These musical branches won popularity wherever they were heard.

Private A. R. Phillips, of No. 2 Company, died in hospital at Aldershot on April 26, 1916, of pneumonia.

On May 12, 1916, Lieut. J. V. Perks, secretary of the Pipe Band Committee, received from Mr. John A. Dewar, Dupplin Castle, Perth, a cheque for £10 10s., to aid in completing the equipment of the Band.