

WE wonder if we ever get as far from the correct facts in giving items about forces in other countries as a contemporary south of 45° has got in the following paragraph about us: "There are 45,000 volunteers in Canada, about 30,000 of whom are drilled and armed. There are 2,000 regular troops; Battery A, stationed at Quebec; Battery B, at Kingston, and Battery B in British Columbia, and the Winnipeg Mounted Infantry." One thing to be said in favor of the paragraph is that wherein it errs, most of the mistakes are in our favor, but why have our unfortunate permanent cavalry and infantry corps been left out in the cold?

THE question of horse raising for army purposes is of so great importance to the Dominion that we feel it our duty to refer to it again and again, and wish every newspaper in the country, and particularly every rural one, would keep the subject before our farmers. Not only does our own Imperial army find it difficult to obtain suitable remounts, but the same scarcity of good sound horseflesh is met with in every country requiring any considerable numbers of cavalry. It is gravely asserted in the United States that ten per cent. of the horses purchased for their cavalry are condemned on arriving at their posts, and that a large proportion of those employed in the West break down as soon as they have to "rustle" for food. In France a like complaint is made, and the cry is for grass-fed stock that has been accustomed to roughing it. As we have many times pointed out there is no place in the world so well adapted for raising just such animals as are required as our western plains, and yet our farmers and agricultural societies seem woefully slow in taking advantage of this their great opportunity.

THE associated press has decided the pattern of the new rifle for the British army two or three times lately to its own satisfaction, but so far as we can see the question is as far from a solution as ever. The latest reports have been in favor of some combination of the Lee magazine rifle with some other American breech action. These may for the present be put down as successful advertisements—whether the advertising has been done wittingly or not we are not prepared to say—but are very unlikely to be founded on fact. In the first place England is not in the habit of arriving at hasty conclusions, and it is comparatively so short a time since the Martini-Enfield was abandoned that it is improbable that any new candidate for official favor has taken the field. Secondly, the Lee gun has a detachable magazine, and a committee appointed to report on the best form of magazine has decided that a gun with a magazine as a permanent arrangement afforded certain tactical advantages over the other systems; and lastly, all the prejudices of the English small arms factories are opposed to the bolt system, and in favor of a hinged block, and the Lee is a bolt gun.

ONE thing should be recorded in favor of the Lee magazine rifle. In a very exhaustive trial of many principles, made in 1881-2 by a military committee appointed by the United States War Department, it came out triumphantly ahead. It is true that the trial was one for durability, safety and rapidity only, and that trajectory, balance, grip, recoil and all the mysteries that would appeal to a marksman's sympathies were left out of consideration, but these would not affect the mechanism, which could be adapted to any system of rifling or sighting. The breech action of the Lee rifle of that date is on the same principle as the needle gun, the firing pin being in the breech bolt, which is moved backwards and forwards by a knob and locked by turning. The magazine, a tin case containing five rounds, is affixed under the trigger guard in a mortice extending through the breech, and the cartridges are fed up to the breech by flat springs. Another recommendation of the same committee is well worth noting, it was that all arms of the service

should be armed with the same rifle. Will the Imperial authorities kindly say why horse, foot and artillery, blue jackets and marines should not have one rifle and one rifle exercise?

### Personal.

Lieut.-Col. A. A. Miller, the late commander of the Queen's Own Rifles, has a militia record running back 24 years. His first experience was in the naval branch of the service, he having joined the Toronto Naval Brigade in 1863. During the Fenian troubles of 1866 he served as a midshipman on board the "Rescue," under command of Capt. W. F. Macmaster. The same fall he joined the Queen's Own Rifles as a private. In 1868 he was gazetted to a lieutenancy, was promoted to his company in 1872, five years later obtained his brevet majority, obtaining substantive rank in 1882, and when Col. Otter was gazetted to the infantry school in 1884 he was promoted to the command of the regiment. During the rebellion Col. Miller commanded the 250 men of the regiment who formed part of the Battleford column. An officer who was brigaded with him at that time speaks thus highly of him: "As a commanding officer Col. Miller was thoroughly liked by officers and men because he had the interests of his regiment at heart. He knew when to be strict and when to be lenient. Of a genial temperament, he was always accessible to his officers, a most desirable state of things in the interests of a regiment—more particularly when in the field. I always found him a true and straightforward man, possessing qualifications that eminently fitted him to be a soldier for active service."

### Recent Deaths.

Col. David died at Coaticooke last week, aged 75. He commanded the Montreal Cavalry in the rebellion of 1837, and was the sole surviving commander of that rebellion.

All those who followed the fortunes of the volunteers in the late rebellion, and that includes all our readers, will be filled with unfeigned regret at the news of the sudden death of Lt.-Col. McKeand, the commanding officer of the gallant Ninetieth, which occurred in Winnipeg last week. The Ninetieth will have the sympathy of the whole country in losing its first two commanders by death within so brief a period.

Information has been received of the recent death in England of William Gardner, the inventor of the Gardner gun. Nineteen years ago his father died, and from that time he worked assiduously to make the patent a success. He endeavored to awaken an interest on the part of the War Department in his invention, but he failed. He finally succeeded in getting up a stock company in Cleveland and eventually obtained a foothold in England, whose government adopted it. A factory was recently built in London, and a large number of the guns turned out annually. Lately a misunderstanding sprang up between Captain Gardner and his company, of which he was superintendent and general manager. The result of this was that he went to Germany where he remained for some months working on a new patent.—*A. & N. Journal.*

Miss Isabella Valancy Crawford, a promising Canadian poetess, died in Toronto on Saturday. Her chief claim to remembrance by our militia is the authorship of "The Rose of a Nation's Thanks," referring to our feelings towards the returned North-West volunteers. In anyone who recalls the enthusiasm with which the boys were received, and the way in which staid grandfathers and schoolboys alike were stirred to the depths of their souls as they proudly received the men who had once more shown of what stuff Canadians were made, the following verse will even yet make the pulse beat faster and the eye flash:

A welcome? why, what do you mean by that, when the very stones must sing  
As our men march over them home again—the walls of the city ring  
With the thunder of throats and the tramp and tread of feet that rush and run:  
I think in my heart that the very trees must shout for the bold work done?  
Why, what would ye have? There is not a lad that treads in the gallant ranks  
Who does not already bear on his breast the rose of a nation's thanks!

Mr. James Shirley Rispin, 2nd lieutenant of No. 5 company Dufferin Rifles, is, we are sorry to learn from the Brantford *Expositor*, dead. His remains were, on the 12th, escorted to the G. T. R. depot with military honors, *en route* for Chatham, where the interment took place. A firing party, made up of representatives of all the companies, with arms reversed, in command of Lieut. J. C. Sullivan, and the band, preceded the remains. Col. Jones, Major Ballachey, Capts. T. Harry Jones, Will D. Jones, and Sweet, and Adjutant Harry Nelles followed the hearse. The bearers were Lieutenants S. Alf. Jones, J. P. Hemp-