

of meetings throughout the province to carry this object into execution. The requisite funds could easily be raised in the manner we have before pointed out, and we are sure the government will give every assistance.

Since writing the above, a committee, composed of delegates from various corps throughout the province, have held a meeting in this city, and although not numerically so successful as was anticipated, it has not been without its good results. We are informed that fourteen out of the eighteen Brigade-Majors and commandants corresponded with and have signified their approval of the idea of sending home representatives, and pledge themselves as both willing and desirous of supporting it. Three yet remain to be heard from, and one only has dissented. Most of these replies point to the formation of a Canadian Rifle Association—similar to the one in Great Britain—as being the best means of obtaining the most satisfactory results in future. It now remains, therefore, for No. 1 District, as being the first on the list, and which also includes the Capital, to take the initiative, and lay the foundation of an association, with which the various district societies should become affiliated, the whole combining their energies for a successful issue in any great national undertaking such as the present. We hope the committee in this city, assisted by the numerous suggestions they may have received, will not disband before maturing some plan for arranging matters for next year. We should be happy to have any scheme discussed in our paper, as we are only too willing to lend a hand in furthering this most praiseworthy undertaking. The plan suggested to the delegates appears to us a most fair and sensible one. It was that simultaneous competitions should take place in each district under certain adopted rules, and at specified distances, and those standing highest on the lists be appointed to meet at some central place, where a further trial should take place, and then the best of those selected as our representatives.

"In the list of cadets who passed the Military School, Toronto, on the 1st instant, and received second-class honors, we find the names of Paul Henry Caradoc Bettridge, late of the 74th Highlanders, Woodstock; Thomas Wilson, Mount Pleasant; and John Craig, Port Hope. Mr. Bettridge passed the Military College at Sandhurst, England, a few years ago, and he and Lieut. Gamble, of the 17th Regiment, being the only Canadians who ever obtained this honor."

We clip the above paragraph from the 'Woodstock Times' of the 3rd instant, and we are very glad to recognize the compliment paid to the two Canadian gentlemen mentioned. We imagine, however, that our friend and confrere is not quite right in the conclusion he comes to, as other Canadians than those named have passed the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. Mr. Yule, of Lower Canada, educated at Bishop's Col-

lege, Lennoxville, took his commission from there about eighteen months ago, and the extract from the 'Volunteer Gazette,' copied elsewhere, will show another instance in Mr. C. E. Vansittart. Besides these, we are satisfied others may be adduced, which, though we cannot now name, we may probably furnish in another number. Mr. Vansittart was also educated at Bishop's College, and was a military school cadet in Canada, holding a first class certificate, which he took before he went to Sandhurst.

We copy the following from the 'Army Gazette' of April 2nd:

"The undermentioned gentlemen cadets to be Deputy Assistant Superintendents of Stores: Augustus Brisson Calvert, Charles E. Vansittart, F. C. Major, Chas. S. Lachanan, Frederick Lorn Campbell, Lionel Frederick Graham."

These young officers qualified for their commissions at the last examination of cadets at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and we are glad to notice a young Canadian gentleman's name amongst them (Mr. C. E. Vansittart), and that he has been awarded second seniority of the batch. We have also pleasure in adding that we have seen it stated elsewhere that Mr. Vansittart was presented with a sword by his brother cadets at Sandhurst on leaving the college—a flattering, and we believe rare, mark of the appreciation in which he was held there. These appointments carry with them the relative ranks of lieutenants in the army. Many in Canada will join in the wish that this young officer of the "Military Store Staff Corps" may live long honorably to wear it.

TRIP TO OTTAWA.—(Official permission has been granted to the Montreal Victoria Volunteer Rifle Regiment to visit the Capital on the Queen's Birthday. We understand the City Council, at its session this evening, will make an appropriation sufficient to insure our gallant friends a suitable reception and a pleasant day's amusement. The V. V. R.'s have always borne the appellation of a crack corps, and as they promise to visit us in full force, they will of course form one of the principal attractions of the day. We know that our citizens generally will do all in their power to give the gallant fellows an agreeable impression of our city and people. They will leave Montreal on Thursday and return on Saturday.

NEW RIFLE.—Capt. Stoakes, of the Lacolle (C. E.) Volunteers, has invented a single breech-loading rifle, which, it is said, eclipses all others of the same stamp yet invented. From the Montreal 'Gazette' we extract the following particulars, showing its manner of working and wherein it excels the now innumerable number of breech-loading rifles which have, one and all, been praised in glowing terms:—"It is loaded and discharged with fewer motions than any other rifle, three being only necessary, and may be fired with almost the rapidity of the cartridge in

the magazine of a repeating-rifle. The breech is very firm, and it possesses a contrivance for preventing the escape of gas, more simple and effective than any other breech-loading rifle we know of. With most of the breech loaders there is danger of getting the face burned if the metal cartridge should prove defective, but Capt. Stoakes' might be fired with a paper cartridge without any escape of gas. The contrivance which throws the breech open throws out the debris of the spent cartridge. Another cartridge is put in its place by a single motion, from a magazine carried by a strap from the shoulder, by a very ingenious contrivance, and one more motion closes the lock ready for firing. The cartridge is not taken in the hand at all. A man with his mits on might fire it, and here the advantage over the Ballard and other rifles is very great. The trigger arrangement is quite new and very simple, containing, it seems to us, a very important principle for correct firing, being much easier and doing away with the heavy pull of the common trigger." The rifle having been highly praised by officers of high rank in this Province, Captain Stoakes intends taking his invention home to the Imperial Government, and we hoped he will meet with such encouragement as will lead him to pursue his endeavors to make his rifle perfect in every sense of the word.

A gentleman, writing from Portage du Fort says: "The Volunteer Infantry Company, under command of Captain Driscoll, was inspected by Lt.-Col. Jackson, Brigade-Major, on the 11th inst. for the first time; and although a great portion of the men are on rafts the company paraded 2 officers and 30 men. The men were drilled for a short time by their efficient Captain, after which the inspecting-officer explained to them the conditions on which they were accepted, and expressed his satisfaction with their appearance."

NO. 9 COMPANY, HOLLIS.—The company organized here is doing remarkably well under command of its gallant officer, Capt. Thomas Thompson, who is considered not only by the members of his Company, but also by the inhabitants of this locality, as the right man in the right place. His conduct since the formation of the Volunteer Company here fully proves this. His exertion not only to bring his company to its present state of efficiency, but also to procure grants and other necessities whereby to secure a drill shed, so as to be able to drill at all seasons of the year, is deserving of all praise. The erection of the drill shed is now in progress, and will be completed by 1st June, under the superintendence of the contractor, Jas. Gray, Esq. The beautiful site selected was given gratis by Thos. Henderson Esq. This Company numbers 31 men and 2 officers, all of whom are first-rate young fellows, and will give a good account of themselves when called upon. They have performed their sixteen days annual drill, and woe to the Fenian or other foe of the British Lion who may fall into their hands.