

GUELPH, Co. Wellington, August 25, 1866.

SIR—

At a large and influential public meeting held in this Town, on the 15th inst., relative to the formation of Rifle Associations, Dr. Howitt read an address on the general formation of such Associations with regard to the defence of these Provinces. The meeting approved of his views, and unanimously passed the following resolutions:

RESOLVED—"That this meeting cordially approve of the general features of the scheme propounded by Dr. Howitt for the formation of Rifle Associations, and that with the view of carrying it into effect, a committee composed of the following gentlemen are requested and empowered to communicate with the Militia Department, and report at a subsequent meeting what are the views of the Department with respect to such organization:—Peter Gow, Esq., Mayor, D. Stirton, Esq., M. P. P., Geo. Elliott, Esq., ex-Warden, H.W. Peterson, Esq., Reeve, Messrs. W. S. G. Knowles, John Harris, jr., G. B. Fraser, A. A. Baker, E. Newton, James Hazelton, E. Morris, Judge Macdonald and the mover, with power to add to their number."

RESOLVED—"That the committee circulate the scheme propounded by Dr. Howitt in such a way as may be most advisable, with the view of procuring the co-operation of other parts of the Province, to facilitate its developement and general adoption."

This Committee met on Tuesday evening last, when D. Stirton, Esq., M. P. P., acting as Chairman, and E. Newton, Esq., as Secretary, the following resolution was proposed and carried unanimously:

RESOLVED—"That 1,000 copies of the address of Dr. Howitt on the formation of Rifle Associations for the defence of the country be printed in pamphlet form forthwith, and that copies be sent to the Members of both branches of the Legislature, the editors of all the leading newspapers in the Province, Captains of volunteer companies, and heads of municipalities, soliciting their co-operation in the movement, and that George Elliott, (ex-Warden), A. A. Baker, J. Gow, Esqs., and the Secretary, be a sub-committee to see the foregoing carried into effect."

We, the undersigned members of the sub-committee, therefore earnestly desire to call your attention to the views embodied in the following address. The scheme propounded is not regarded, either by its author or by ourselves, as perfect. But we believe that it is only by the adoption of some such plan as is here fore-shadowed, that the country can attain that sense of security which is so desirable. We solicit your co-operation in the matter, and would thankfully receive any suggestions, or modifications, that would lead to its more perfect developement, and to its speedy adoption.—We may state that should the public generally give it that approval which it has universally elicited in this County, it will soon be turned to practical account.

GEORGE ELLIOTT,  
A. A. BAKER,  
JAMES GOW,  
EDWIN NEWTON.