Notes and Comments.

It was with a sigh of relief that many business men in the Volunteers opened their papers on Wednesday and saw the announcement of the Secretary of War that it had been decided to relieve all ranks of the Volunteer Force of their drill and training obligations and that, for the present, attendance at drill will be purely voluntary. The sigh of relief was not due to the feeling that the force served no useful purpose, but solely to the fact that the demands of business—often entailing Sunday as well as week-day labour—strained the powers of physical endurance to such an extent that drill and training became a positive hardship. In the early days of the war membership of the Volunteers, to many men, was a real delight, and they confessed themselves greatly benefited by the training and comradeship. The Volunteers have rendered the country great service—greater than many people are aware of. In Mid-Sussex all the officers, we have ascertained, have won the respect and esteem of their men because they treated them as men, and if ties are now severed the associations of the past will ever be a pleasant memory.