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NOTE AND COMMENT.

We congratulated the members of the New Brunswick Rifle Association last week upon the re-election of Captain J. Twining Hartt as secretary-treasurer for the ensuing year, and we are this week compelled to sympathise with the members of the St. John Rifle Co. in the loss they have sustained by Captain Hartt's retirement from the command, which is announced in the militia orders just published.

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Captain Hartt's retirement from the active force removes one of the most popular, and among riflemen one of the best known and most highly esteemed officers of the force, and will be a subject of regret from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Although Captain Hartt is still a young man, the honours which he has won with the rifle during his shooting career are such as fall to few men during their lifetime, and we understand his efficiency as an officer is in every respect as complete as his command of his rifle. It is with sincere regret therefore that we see his name removed from the active list.

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"It is an ill wind that blows nobody good," and "what is one man's loss is another's gain." These are the only crumbs of comfort we can think of to console the members of the Queen's Own for the loss they have sustained by the promotion of their popular adjutant, Captain W. C. Macdonald, into their new sister corps, the 48th Battalion. There is, however, one other source of comfort for them in the fact that the position vacated by Captain Macdonald's promotion, has been filled by such an efficient officer in every respect as Captain Mercer.

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A change has been made in the Administrative Distinction of Companies of the Infantry School Corps, and in future companies of this corps will be known by numbers instead of letters. It appears

strange in announcing the numbers which will distinguish the various companies in future that they are numbered in the reverse order to the way in which they were lettered and to the date of their establishment.

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Hitherto the various companies have been lettered from east to west, A company in Fredericton, D company in London, and this lettering was in accordance with the seniority of the various schools according to dates of establishment. Now the order is reversed and the junior school—London—is made number 1. Doubtless this is done according to the ancient and honourable custom of the War Office, which our Militia Department so faithfully endeavour to copy, and is one of those things no man can be expected to understand.

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We desire to extend to Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G. 5th M.D., our very sincere sympathy in the recent domestic affliction that has recently befallen him in the loss of his estimable wife, who died in Victoria last week.

We understand Mrs. Houghton has been ill for some time past, and the trip to her old home in British Columbia was undertaken in the hope that she might derive benefit from the change. Although her state of health may have been a source of anxiety to her husband and friends, yet love and hope struggle so fiercely against the admission of a possibility of death, that the blow when hope is past seldom falls less heavily on those left to mourn, and with them we feel assured many hundreds of friends in the militia force will feel deeply.

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It is rumoured again that effort are to be made by Torontonians to have the School of Cavalry removed to that city from Quebec, on the plea that its usefulness will thereby be increased, as it will

be more centrally situated for members of the force who are desirous of availing themselves of its course of instruction.

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Facts, however will not bear out this assertion, as the cavalry strength of the Dominion is almost equally divided between Ontario on the one hand and Quebec and the Maritime Provinces on the other; and while the removal of the school to Toronto might benefit the Ontario portion of the force, it would put it altogether out of the reach of the remainder.

* * *

The best solution of the question, if any change is made, would undoubtedly be to bring the Cavalry School to the Capital, which is unquestionably the natural home for such an institution. Ottawa is the true centre of the territory covered by our Cavalry force, and is easily accessible from points both east and west—decidedly more so than Toronto, which is too far west for the eastern forces.

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The Capital of the Dominion is the only capital city in it which has not been given a military establishment of one or other branch of the service; and the most appropriate to be established here is undoubtedly the Cavalry School, as its services would be just what is wanted to give additional eclat to court ceremonies. If the Mayor and Aldermen of Ottawa do not urge this matter strongly upon the attention of the Government, they will be deserving of the severest censure from the electors when they next meet.

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Major Stewart, commander of the Ottawa Field Battery, is having a hard time of it with Toronto stonecutters in connection with his contract for the new drill hall in that city.

Major Stewart has been foolish enough to think that it was his privilege as a free citizen to carry out the work for the building he has undertaken to erect, in