

"Kew-em's" proposal that a fatigue should accompany the quartermaster to the annual camps a day ahead of the marching in of the troops will receive the hearty endorsement of every commander of a battalion or of a company, for none such have escaped experiencing the annoyances he enumerates from the want of some such arrangement. If each battalion had its own supplies at headquarters the matter would be different and the troops might be allowed to act as if on active service, but with stores issued on the camp ground, with hungry and often untrained men to manage, and with companies arriving sometimes long after dark, the conditions are altogether different, and special preparation is required. It would not cost more than \$6 per battalion to allow the Q.M. a fatigue of six, who could mark the company lines, distribute the tent bags, guard them and the blankets, and pitch the tents of the staff and of companies which would not arrive until night, or of all in case of wet weather.

The Carleton Place *Herald* suggests the formation of a Lanark battalion of active militia, and even goes so far as to nominate the field officers and headquarters of the proposed regiment. We have no doubt that a good battalion could be enlisted here, but it would be at the expense of two existing battalions, which would have to seek fresh recruiting grounds, as the 41st Battalion has a company at Carleton Place, and the 42nd has companies at Almonte, Lanark and Perth. There would certainly be grave difficulties in the way of carrying out the suggestion.

The *Mail* is our authority for stating that several changes are likely to be made in the uniform of the 10th Grenadiers, changes which will doubtless require the issue of a general order. Here is the list:— Col. Grasett has had the cape taken off a private's tunic and, as an experiment, has had it altered and improved so as to be worn alone. A small piece of cloth of the same material has been attached to the collar, and a row of the regulation small brass buttons have been put on, making it a very neat-looking, as well as serviceable, article. Generally speaking, city volunteers seldom require an overcoat, excepting in wet weather; then it is objectionable on account of its weight and warmth. Orders have been given to return all of the last issue of great coats into store. Special permission has been obtained for the non-commissioned officers of the regiment to wear chevrons on both arms. The officers, having received authority to do so, intend providing themselves with a patrol jacket of the same pattern as that worn by the Grenadier Guards, and similar to that worn by Canadian Hussar regiments. It has been decided that the brass letters "R.G." and grenades shall be worn by the non-commissioned officers and men on their tunics.

The notes on the 43rd rifle matches, to which we referred last week, were unavoidably held over at the last moment, while some comment upon them by mistake appeared. This in case any of our readers wondered what we were driving at.

Our readers will be sorry to learn that the Adjutant-General of Militia, Colonel Powell, is again suffering from erysipelas, of which he had a severe attack last year.

A description of the football match between the Dragoon Guards and Rifles in Ottawa on Thanksgiving day is unavoidably held over.

A monument, to cost \$1,500, is being erected over the grave, at Perth, Ont., of Mr. A. W. Kippen, of the surveyors' corps, who was killed at the charge of Batoche. The comrades of the deceased are going to contribute \$800, and the town council of Perth will vote the balance.

MORE NOTIONS OF THE SAME NOODLE.

My friend has gone on leave, as he writes me, "not in uniform;" but his wanderings on the subject have not abated in the least, for here is the postscript to his last letter:—

"I think before my departure to shoot ducks, I caused a little wavering in your haggard old notions regarding the forage cap; and by the time I finish with my soldier, my hopes are that you will come round to a rational way of looking at this helpless individual, when arrayed in fighting gear.

"I find after leaving the cap and gradually allowing my vision to descend, that nothing objectionable appears, no possible fault lying in the 'cheek,' which is not in any way an imitation of bygone customs; leaving the 'cheek' and 'lip' therefore unmolested for the first growth of hair, we work downwards till the collar of the tunic is reached, which brings us suddenly on one of the greatest afflictions which our soldier boy is forced to bear. One blessing by the mercy of Providence has, however, been granted to the wearer, 'the tunic never fits,' and the less it fits the more comfortable becomes his movements and the more hideous his appearance. If easy going, he is rendered useful, but terrible as a fashion plate. If on the other hand, 'dudishly' inclined, he no doubt looks well (I will acknowledge this for your gratification), but, should his 'pants' be cut in a similar way, his power of ever picking strawberries is entirely removed.

"A tunic is really a most peculiar invention, and is capable of rendering a man more helpless than some of our tightest female 'corsetteers.' It requires a Poole to fit one properly, an ordinary one will choke a man at uncertain points all over. Should the young man be growing, the sympathy of a large circle of friends should be his, for his trials will merit all they can bestow. Dwell for a moment on the attitude of a tunic unbuttoned. No soldier, except when away back in the backest back yard, would peril his standing with the cook, by unbuttoning his tunic. In short, any small liberties that could be taken with other styles of coats, if attempted with a tunic, would convert the finest figure into a scare crow. If you, my dear boy, ever rise to anything above your present obscure position, and reach a point where your influence can sway the destinies of the militia, do, in spite of your prejudices, issue all the tunics of Canada to the reserve, as they are not compatible with the requirements of active militia.

"The tunic has one great advantage, which I am willing to admit is an important one; it is an economical contrivance, and for this reason will be difficult to abolish. Though the first cost is considerable, it lives to a grand old age, for the simple reason that it seldom wears out, where men have any opportunity of securing other covering. We all know how hard it is to get the soldier to take off his coat; this does not apply when he parades in his tunic. A squad will peel off when so dressed, actually, to eat their dinners. The great secret of the usefulness of the British blue jackets, in all their late campaigns, is not due to the sailors, but their jackets, a costume highly suited for any kind of service, and, barring the color, as good a model for active dress, as we could have for our work in Canada. Why, the very freedom of Jack Tar's neck will add five miles a day to his marching, to say nothing of his chances of saving his head. It is a sad fact but a true one, that the first and hardest trial of the young campaigner is to get rid of the clothes, and forget the greater part of all that has been taught him in time of peace. After he has found out by sad experience what is wrong, and picked up those things necessary, but so utterly neglected in his barrack square, he becomes a useful soldier. The remark of a youngster who had emptied all his own pouches, and expended what ammunition he could borrow on a pony at Fish Creek (which by the way he never once struck), gives an idea of what is required. As the alarmed and somewhat disgusted pony trotted off to Batoche his would-be slayer remarked to a comrade as he removed the last empty shell from his Snider: I can 'march past,' 'right turn,' 'dismiss' like Napoleon Bonaparte, but I 'can't shoot one darn'! He might have added that he was dressed like the Duke of Wellington, but he could not lie down.

"We now come to his 'pants.' I know you will correct me in your next letter and say 'trousers,' but I like 'pants,' they take up less room. Well, as far as they are concerned, not much can be done, or at least I am not prepared to suggest anything else for the legs of our militia till I get ample time for thought, and an opportunity to more deeply investigate the freaks of fashion during the past century; they will do as they are for the present. Those issued lately fulfil all the duties required. They go at the knees as easily as the most particular could wish for; but as no good warrior should ever bend his knee, the defect often passes undetected. The question of buttons might, with advantage, attract the careful attention of the obliging and painstaking contractor, for they go also, generally on the last sound of