

and even strongest material for breeches to stand hard usage is canvas or sailcloth. This is almost everlasting, and costs but little, besides being easily cleaned either by washing or pipe-clay. If ever introduced, it will be found inimitable in its way.

#### WASHING AND PREVENTION OF VERMIN.

On long summer campaigns it quite frequently happens that the men are compelled to march and fight for weeks together without changing their underclothes. Washing is a luxury that those clothes never know for weeks at a time, the allowance of soap being small and irregular. The only time it is possible is when a day's rest near a stream comes, and then it is hastily and imperfectly performed. The consequence with woolen underclothes is very simple, i.e., vermin. They accumulate in a miraculously short time, and are almost impossible to get rid of. The greatest care is hardly sufficient to avert them in many cases, and they spread like magic, forming an intolerable nuisance, and a very wearing hardship to the sufferers.

Now from very disagreeable and painful experience the writer can testify that woolen underclothes in the summer are a terrible nuisance from this cause. If all the medical men in the United States were to swear to the contrary, he would still maintain that woolen underclothes for summer are totally unfit for soldiers. They may possibly avert some colds, but they are certain to breed vermin; and for one would rather undergo the remote chance of a possible cold to the certain misery in ten days of vermin.

If there is one thing more than another that I would urge, it is to have the summer underclothes of cotton or linen, smooth. They are easier washed, dry quicker, and there is no cover for the vermin to harbor.

I may be thought singular in mentioning a subject usually ignored, but I know so well the universal misery caused by the pest of lice that I desire to save my comrades of the future from much that befel us ignorantly. If vermin do get into the clothes in spite of precautions, the only way to kill them is to boil them, and that for a cavalryman is well nigh an impossibility. The quickest and easiest thing to do is to throw them away.

So much for dress in summer campaigns. In the winter flannel is a good thing, and a long overcoat is a good thing too. Our present cavalry overcoat is an excellent thing, and when lined throughout with thick flannel, instead of the wretched stuff generally put in, is as good as can be worn.

A sleeping blanket, piece of shelter tent, and poncho were carried by almost all our men during the war. With the horse blanket they made an excellent bed. But the horseblanket should not be taken for the purpose. It may be wanted in a hurry.

In the summer time a single blanket is amply sufficient to keep a man warm, but in the winter the case is different. Oftentimes, then, the cold of the ground strikes through all that a man can put there. In such a case, old campaigners will make themselves warm where young ones would freeze. Clubbing together in threes and fours, they make a common bed together, over which stretches a large and comfortable shelter tent, and thus illustrate the advantages of union.

#### SHELTER TENTS.

The shelter tent, as taken from the French, needs a change very much. Theoretically, two men are supposed to unite to

make a tent. Practically they might as well have none at all if they obey the regulations. They secure for themselves an open shed, which is just no use at all. If it rains the rain beats in at both ends. If it doesn't rain, the shelter may be dispensed with.

The fact is, that it takes three pieces of the present shape that will shed water, or be any good. As three men are too much for one tent. A very little reform would make the shelter tent much better, even if used according to the regulations.

Instead of a square piece of cloth, as at present, it should have at either end a triangular flap, which would button over, and so make a tent close at both ends.

The dimensions of the quadrangle should be 6 by 5 feet; the triangular part should have a base of about 3 feet or 40 inches. With a shelter tent of this kind, no man need carry more than one piece, and so the weight would be reduced, and the tent be even better than at present.

Thus supplied, any regiments who have used it will agree that the shelter tent is a most valuable gift to the soldier, rendering him independent and comfortable at all times and places. It is infinitely better than the European practice of bivouacking in the open air, or billeting in houses, and possesses none of the disadvantages of transportation incident to ordinary tents.

Shelter tents have often been issued in the United States army, made of oiled linen or india-rubber, and in the form of ponchos, with a hole in the middle to put the head through, covered by a flap. Once or twice I have seen them put up as tents, but their more general use was to cover the person from rain, and to keep the wet of the ground in the tent from striking through the blankets at night.

These ponchos are excellent things. The proof is, that they were in universal use among our men, who were very quick to reject the bad and take the good. If made in the form suggested above, they might even supersede the shelter tent, and so reduce the weight, for some india-rubber covering is almost a necessity, and certainly a great comfort to men campaigning.

In pitching tents for a long stay, a ditch should in all cases be cut around them, the deeper the better. It drains the ground and prevents rheumatism, the only disease that affects men campaigning.

(To be continued.)

#### RECIPROCITY VERSUS RESTRICTION.

The *New York World* has the following sensible article upon this subject:

"The political acumen displayed by Gen. Grant, when, in his famous message to Congress last December, he recommended a policy of non-intercourse with Canada, in retaliation for her outrages upon American fishermen, finds a marvellous justification in the statistics of the commercial intercourse between the two countries just made public by the Canadian Commission of Customs. The bungling, unsystematic way in which our own Statistical Bureau at Washington buries useful information under mountains of useless detail, prevents us from expecting to find any facts of so much importance in our own bulky and annual returns. Besides the protective spirit reigns so thoroughly supreme throughout the Treasury, that all the figures in the department could not be made to show any result which conflicted with that preconceived theory. We have therefore to depend for our figures upon the

statisticians of the Dominion. These figures illustrate charmingly the effect of non-intercourse with our neighbors.

"When we abrogated the reciprocity treaty we did so partly to punish England, through Canada, for her Southern sympathies, and partly to prevent Canada from flooding the States along our northern frontier with their cheap barley, wheat, lumber, etc. We imagined that the advantages of reciprocity were all on the side of the Canucks; without reciprocity they would be obliged, as heretofore, to buy from us whatever they wanted, while we, being entirely independent, could get along without their products, which we should have the satisfaction of seeing rot upon their hands, as a well deserved though inadequate punishment for the manifold insults and injuries heaped upon a weak and defenceless neighbor. In the same way, when their foolish local authorities unjustifiably interfered with our fishermen, General Grant gravely recommended that he should be allowed to still further restrict the intercourse between the United States and the Dominion as a fit punishment for the outrage. Now, if our worthy President and his politico-economical advisers had taken the pains to ascertain the result of the last measure of restriction, even they would probably have hesitated before recommending further measures of restriction, at least as a punishment to Canada. The report of the Canadian Commissioner shows conclusively that since we abolished reciprocity the amount of goods purchased of us by Canadians has largely declined; in other words, that we have lost the Canadian markets—while at the same time our own purchases in Canada have largely increased—in other words, that more produce of the British Provinces has been imported and has entered into competition with our own. The restriction on trade, which was to punish Canada, has lost us a market and thrown our markets open to the Canadians. The aggregate amount of trade between the two countries has remained about the same (it ought to have doubled), but the relations of the parties have changed. From being heavy exporters to Canada we have become heavy importers from Canada. Last year our imports exceeded our exports by one-third; and while our exports decreased, as compared with the previous year, nearly three-quarters of a million, our imports increased over five millions of dollars. These results of the abolition of the reciprocity treaty are worthy the attention of all honest protectionists who believe that the industry of this or any other country can be benefited by measures of restriction inaugurated for any purpose whatever.

#### FENIAN RASCALITY.

##### WHERE THE MONEY GOES.

The funds collected up to May 1st 1866, to "free old Ireland" and "take" Canada, amounted to \$463,385. Of this vast sum \$346,620 was expended for the furtherance of revolutionary action in the British Isles, leaving a balance of \$116,765, a small part of which was spent in healing the disruption that occurred in 1865-6, but the major portion must be credited to pic-nics and Delmonico. Mr. James Stephens, during the Mahoney administration, collected \$60,380 from Irishmen in America, not a cent of which can be accounted for outside of the Head Centre's own pocket-book. During the Kelly administration, the sum of \$57,104 was collected from the friends of the Brotherhood, \$22,578 of which was sent to Ireland, the balance, \$34,575, being credited