

rejection of all other patterns? In my humble opinion it in no wise can claim equal merits with the old Infantry wedge, such as worn in days gone by by the Imperial foot regiments,—I mean the old black sealskin wedge with its ear-flaps tied on top with a smart bow of narrow black ribbon, its back rim which turned up or down with the ear-flaps and lay flat over the nape of the neck, its folding peak of fur turned up or down, as occasion required, giving such ample protection to the eyes for rifle practice or when threatened by snow blindness, or to the forehead and nose against a cutting drift; the old wedge, withal so smart and jaunty when cocked over the left eye, so compact and folding so flat and neat when stowed away or for kit inspection.

No more serviceable and in every way better headgear could have been devised for the winter use of troops in this climate. Why it should have been displaced by its present competitor is hard to explain. I hope, for the benefit of the Canadian Militia, that at an early day it will be once more adopted as the universal winter fur cap for all corps—the staff included. Should it be thought desirable to make it more ornate and at the same time make a corps distinction, the front point could be decorated with a red woollen tassel for the infantry; artillery and engineers, blue and red; cavalry, yellow; rifles, green, etc., etc., as worn on the French cavalry field service cloth cap. The numeral of the Regiment, the letter of a Battery, etc., could be added to the front above the peak, if thought desirable.

I may here add that the question of clothing of our forces is too important a one, from a utilitarian, practical and economical point of view, to be left to the sweet will of an official of the store department, who may or may not have had practical experience of the conditions of the service, and who may be influenced by personal prejudice or fads. Such a decision, when it is to be made, should be submitted to the mature consideration of competent officers of long experience in the service, one from the general staff, a regimental officer, and a medical officer. By the way, the knowledge, common sense and experience of our medical officers are too little called in request in the militia and permanent corps, their advice on questions of this particular nature is far too valuable to be overlooked as it has been all along. It would be distinctly to the advantage of the service if one of these officers formed part of all boards on clothing and *personnel* equipment of the soldier, particularly so when the question of new designs is to be considered.

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