

wet. Of what use would this jacket be for service in the field?

The tendency of this utilitarian age is to avoid multiplicity of uniform, consequently diminish expense, and at the same time provide the military services with as simple and practical a kit as can be devised, keeping in view also a neat, tasteful and attractive appearance. In Canada, this tendency has a very special "*raison d'être*," and should be encouraged. Here, as a rule, officers have short purses, scant pay, and unless our able Minister of Militia carries his scheme through the House, there is no provision for an old or disabled officer, yet he has to provide himself with not only a full kit, like in the Imperial Army, but besides that with an expensive winter outfit.

At present all officers are obliged to provide themselves with a (summer) great coat and cape. I would suggest that this great coat (with or without the cape) be made to do service during the winter months as well. I would have it in future depart slightly from Imperial regulations pattern (single-breasted). For the Canadian service I would have it built of heavy beaver cloth (blue for staff, artillery, cavalry and engineers, grey for infantry, black for rifles), of a universal pattern double breasted, with two rows of corps buttons;—the skirt to extend to within six inches of the heels; during the actual winter months a detachable high storm collar, made of fur to match the gauntlets and cap, would be worn. This would make the garment much warmer and add to its appearance. A coat of this description would be serviceable and suitable under all conditions of service. mounted or dismounted, in the field or in garrison. The detachable storm collar, a comparatively cheap affair, would replace the expensive winter coat of to-day. To complete this useful outfit I would suggest a Sam Brown belt and sling worn on the outside of the coat. This overcoat or cloak is cut to fit loosely, so that additional warm clothing can be worn beneath it when necessary. Deprived of its storm collar it would be equally useful for autumn or spring wear. We now look to Headquarters for a "mandement" on this subject in time for the winter of 1897-98.

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