

be smaller next year, because last year we had to go to a great deal of expense getting dyes and special men from the United States, to manufacture this cloth.

Mr. O'BRIEN. The hon. member for Bothwell is one of those unfortunate free-traders who can never learn the cases in which the consumer and those in which the producers pays the duty. The other day the hon. gentleman showed remarkable ignorance, for one in his position, on that point, which is essential to the understanding of the Tariff question. With regard to this question of clothing, there is a very great waste in our system of clothing our men; we give our men, on going to camp, the one suit, and in this they do everything—cook, sleep and do fatigue duty. The consequence is, that the suits are worn out in one or two years, and it is almost impossible to get others to use them. One of the great practical difficulties we have in getting men to join the force is, that they are often called on to wear clothing unfit to be worn. The hon. Minister would exercise true economy by providing cheap suits to be used for every duty, except that of parade, and thus the other suits would be kept good for five years.

Mr. FAIRBANK. Is it contemplated to provide the volunteer force with helmets or other head-dress suitable to the climate. There is a very serious defect in that direction in the volunteer force, though it has been, to some extent, remedied. The head-dress worn in the old country may answer well in a damp climate, but for our intense sunshine we require gear which will protect the eyes and the base of the head. Volunteers coming out for a few weeks with their present head dress, get their heads blistered and their eyes injured. This defect should be remedied, the more particularly, that the present mode of warfare being conducted with long-range weapons, renders the eyesight of greater importance than in previous years, when the fighting was at close quarters, and the result depended very often on the bayonet.

Mr. CARON. We issue only forage caps, or the price of forage caps, which is given as an allowance and is supplemented by whatever amount is required to purchase these helmets.

Mr. CAMERON (Middlesex). What is the annual cost of the clothing, the number of suits worn each year?

Mr. CARON. The annual cost of the clothing and the great coats is \$90,000, according to the item.

Mr. CAMERON. That leaves a sum for stores?

Mr. CARON. That is not what I require annually, and it does not provide for anything for stores.

Mr. CAMERON. There is \$30,000 more this year than last.

Mr. CARON. Every four years we require to issue new clothing. The amount of money I am now asking is the smallest amount required per annum to keep up a force of 37,000.

Mr. FAIRBANK. Is it proposed to introduce the rubber cape?

Mr. CARON. I am afraid I would have to increase my estimate if I gave those luxuries.

Mr. FAIRBANK. It would not necessarily increase the estimate. The matter is worthy of serious attention. In making retreats and making marches, and in all camping work, these capes are very serviceable, and experience has shown they are the last thing a soldier will part with.

Mr. CASEY. It is possible the rubber coats will save the other clothes to the extent that would compensate for their cost. With regard to the forage caps, I can speak feelingly. I have been in the ranks and never got very much further,

and I know what torture a young man, who has been accustomed to wearing a soft hat, is submitted to, when he first puts on these forage caps, and worse still, the Scotch caps, which afford no protection against the sun. Then, I think, if the troops are to be called out at all, the Minister ought to face the music and get them proper head-gear, for it is not safe and often leads to illness, and to weakening of men for life, to compel them to go out without proper head-gear.

Mr. FAIRBANK. I feel quite confident that the better soldiers are prepared for going forward the less necessity there will be for them to retreat, and next to the proper arm, the proper head-dress and clothing to protect them from the weather is of the greatest importance. Of those who are disabled in active service, those who are disabled from exposure in camp and field, are something like five to one of those who are disabled from gunshot wounds. The best way to guard against retreat is to provide the infantry with some means of quickly entrenching themselves. With the long range weapons now in use, I believe that, in the first war that occurs among civilized nations, that one will conquer who is the best earth digger.

Mr. McNEILL. There has been a great deal of complaint in reference to the forage cap, and my attention has been called to it in my own riding. The men are very anxious indeed that the Minister should give them helmets instead of forage caps. They complain of the suffering they have to endure from the cap, and are anxious that some better head-gear should be provided for them.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I understand the Minister asks for tenders for clothing. I would ask whether tenders are asked for the cloth by itself and other tenders for the making, or tenders are asked for the garment ready made; and also whether he receives many tenders, and whether he receives them from distant towns and cities or mostly from the city of Ottawa?

Mr. CARON. We called for tenders for a certain quantity of tunics and great coats complete, made up. We advertised in the papers in all the large centres, Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, all over the country in fact, and out of the tenders we received we selected the lowest one.

Mr. PATERSON. How many tenders did you receive?

Mr. CARON. I could not say exactly.

Mr. PATERSON. From different cities?

Mr. CARON. Yes; from different cities, and we received a large number. Taking the great coats and the clothing, I think we received twenty-five or thirty.

Mr. PATERSON. How is it managed—is there a sample garment?

Mr. CARON. Yes; there is a scaled pattern sent to the various Deputy Adjutants-General. The tenderers go to the Brigade Office and inspect the scaled pattern, and make their tenders upon it.

Mr. CAMERON (Middlesex). Has any of the clothing been supplied?

Mr. CARON. Already? Yes.

Mr. CAMERON. Subject to inspection?

Mr. CARON. Yes; everything is subject to inspection. No single article is accepted in the stores until it is inspected by the inspector appointed by the Government. A quantity of clothing has been received and passed by the inspector; I could not say how much; it is coming in every day.

Mr. CAMERON. How long since these more recent contracts have been awarded?

Mr. CARON. I think about the last days of October, or the beginning of November.