

NEW MILITARY "TRENCH" COAT.



A FEATURE (so far as tailors are concerned) of the great European War is the variety of garments worn by officers, the details of which are suggested by the actual requirements of the campaign, rather than by the usual official regulations from the War Office. Never in the history of military tailoring, has such latitude been allowed, and officers are quick to recognize and avail themselves of the advantages of every practical design that is submitted for their approval.

The Trench Coat is the latest illustration of this fact. Service at the Front during the trying months of winter, demands an overgarment that is portable, very warm, and not excessive in weight. The regulation great coat scarcely answers these requirements, and it is here that a garment such as described below commands extensive patronage.

This coat in various forms is now being extensively advertised and freely sold by most of our leading military outfitters, and as it is one that any tailor can successfully produce it is essential that all particulars relating to it should be placed at the disposal of the trade. It is not an officially recognized garment, so that no instructions as to its details are found in War Office regulations, nor are any "Sealed Patterns" available.

Broadly speaking the coat is an overgarment cut in the "sac" form and made very roomy to provide for ease. Some tailors cut the coat with the Raglan style of shoulders, but the majority of outfitters prefer the usual circular armhole form. The coats are usually finished, as our diagram suggests, in the double-breasted form, although some tailors cut them single-breasted with five holes and buttons down the front.

The style as shown on our diagram may be accepted as the standard form and the details are as follows: The material used for the coat is khaki drill. The fronts are finished with broad lapels, 6½ inches wide at the top, 4 inches at the waist, and 4 inches at the bottom. There is a V about 6 inches deep at the front of the neck to provide for a close fit. Five holes (they are best when piped with the same material) and five brown leather buttons are arranged down each breast in the positions shown on the drawing. The back length of the coat for a man of 5 feet 8 inches, is about 45 inches. A khaki, detachable, waist belt, 2½ inches wide as made up, is carried through side loops sewn on the waist line, and is fastened at the front by a large bronzed metal buckle which permits of the waist being drawn in to the requirements of the wearer. The closer it is drawn in the smarter is the appearance of the garment in wear. Two patch pockets with expanding pleats around the edges are laid on over the hips. The pockets are 9 inches wide, and 10½ inches deep. Over each patch a square flap 3½ inches deep, with a small hole and leather button, is introduced. A small hole is worked at the bottom of the front edge of each forepart, so that when marching the wearer can loop the front ends of the coat upon the small buttons of the flaps, in the French fashion. The sleeves are made up very long (from 5 to 6 inches longer than the usual sleeve length), and have a short contracting strap for drawing in over the wrist. The neck is finished by a stand and fall collar, with a 3 inch leaf, and a large tab at the front. In some cases a small button hole is inserted at the front end of the leaf, which fastens upon a button sewn on the opposite front end of collar when it is turned up around the neck. There is a back closing seam which is finished with a slit from the belt to the bottom. (See diagram.) When worn by mounted officers, a "saddle pad" is inserted; and also a strap inside each skirt for fastening around the small of the legs when riding. Shoulder straps, without ornaments are introduced. The lining of the coat is a very important consideration. Fleece, fur, or leather may be used, and the lining may be fixed or (as is mostly preferred) detachable. When detached the fleece or skin linings may be used separately as a dressing gown, or a pleasant and warm covering at night. The coat must be interlined throughout including sleeves, with oiled silk, and *when the linings are detachable* the oiled silk must be covered by poplin. Detachable linings are secured around the edges by small holes and flat buttons, or studs, in the way that motor coat linings are usually arranged. A list of the prices charged to the trade both for the linings and the completed garment by the firm of W. R. Tanner, 17, Kinlgy Street, Regent Street, London, W., will prove very useful to every tailor who undertakes orders for the trench coat. The prices are as follows:—Detachable fleece lining (36 inches long) 27s. 6d.; Chinese lamb, 55s.; shearling sheep, 67s. 6d. Messrs. Tanner supply the complete garment at the following rates: Coat with fixed fleece linings 67s. 6d.; with Chinese lamb lining, 99s. 6d.; with shearling sheep lining 110s. The coat alone without fleece or skin lining they supply at £2 19s. 6d. The average length of material required for coat is 9 yards (single width), oilskin 5 yards (36 inches wide).