

OFFICERS MAY BUY UNIFORMS AT COST UNDER Q.M.C. PLAN

Army Depots to Sell Cloth and Supervise Work of Civilian Tailors

READYMADES ON SALE, TOO

Style Changes Being Worked Out by Board Soon to Submit Its Findings to S.O.S. Chief

A plan which originated within the General Purchasing Board of the Quartermaster Department whereby an officer need pay for his uniform only the cost of production is now being developed throughout France. This will so reduce the now familiar expense of commissioned finery that it will do away with one of the reasons why officers of the A.E.F. wish they weren't.

According to this plan, each Q.M. depot will have a tailoring system through which the officer can buy his cloth and then be fitted and outfitted on the spot. At each depot, civilian labor will be contracted for and the officer need add to the price of his cloth only his share of that labor cost.

Presumably neither the cost nor the method will be uniform throughout France, for the labor conditions will vary in different sections.

Work for French Tailors

In some cases, for example, the chances are that it will be more practical for the depot quartermaster to arrange with one or more of the local French tailors to make the uniforms at a fixed price, which price would be paid by the officer to the quartermaster who, in turn, would turn the money over to the tailors. Or, in some places, it will be simpler for the Army and the tailor to agree on a proper price, make that the standard and then let the officer in quest of raiment deal directly with the tailor. This is the system now in force in Paris, where an officer, if he goes to certain designated tailors, can have his cloth made into a suit at a charge of only 100 francs.

The quartermaster is also making arrangements to have on hand at an early date an adequate supply of ready-made uniforms for officers built that way.

It may well be that the officers will have to haunt the tailors soon in quest of alterations, for a board is now threshing out the problem of fall styles for officers and enlisted men. Is revision necessary? If so, in what respect?

All the burning questions of split tails, roll collars, bellows pockets and the like are now up for final consideration and the board will soon submit its recommendations to the Commanding General of the S.O.S.