

August 12th, 1914.

UNIFORM SUB-COMMITTEE

Report:- Summary of Work done.

Uniform Cloth.

Having made exhaustive inquiries the Sub-Committee found that it was necessary to start at initio. They found that no suitable uniform cloth was made in Ireland. They therefore obtained samples of high class uniform serge from a well known English Mill. From these they selected a Grey Green cloth of a very suitable colour for field work in Ireland. They then inquired from several Irish mills whether they could and would match this sample. The business was not keenly sought after as the mills were full of orders and the extent of the Volunteers requirements was somewhat uncertain. Finally Messrs. Morrogh Bros. of Douglas Mills, Cork, got special looms working and matched the sample. The sample they sent was submitted to experts and pronounced excellent. It was therefore decided to give the first order to Morrogh Bros.

Design of Uniform.

After having had several samples submitted the Sub-Committee decided upon the cut of the Uniform. This was fixed as standard for all Irish Volunteers. The only variation to be permitted to the different regiments was in the matter of facings which were left to the discretion of the regimental Committees or County Boards. The uniform consists of tunic, two buttoned knickers, and puttees.

Headdress.

The headdress was decided upon for the Dublin Regiment but was left undecided for the other regiments. A considerable body of opinion favoured soft hats but it was found impossible to get a suitable hat of Irish manufacture. The cap decided upon is a smart one somewhat after the Cossack style.

Puttees.

The puttee presented a difficulty as the well known spiral puttee is protected by patents. A semi spiral was decided upon and a special light Irish serge made to match the uniform. The caps are made of puttee cloth.

Buttons and Badges.

A design of button and cap badge was decided upon, and dies struck, and buttons made. The button design as submitted by your Sub-Committee was altered by you and consequent on this change your Sub-Committee find it will be impossible to protect the design. A report on this subject will be laid before you. The badge will be protected.

Manufacture of Uniforms.

In order to get a small number of uniforms made for those men who desired them at once an order for 300 was placed with the Limerick Clothing Factory of Lower Bridge Street, Dublin. This firm had given the Committee invaluable assistance and submitted a very reasonable quotation. The firm would not proceed to manufacture without a guarantee and several individual members of the Provisional Committee signed a guarantee for £450. Instructions were issued to the various Dublin Companies, but the Committee have to complain that they fear they were not well supported by the various delegates in carrying out the directions of the Provisional Committee. At any rate the orders did not come through the Committee as they should have done, and Volunteers generally do not seem to have had matters made clear to them. Only some 150 uniform orders came through the Committee, although numbers of Volunteers obtained uniforms elsewhere than

from the official supplies and in many cases these uniforms were not of standard material or standard design. It had been decided that as the Volunteers were a democratic force all uniforms should for the time be exactly similar. No distinction was made between officers and others as all officers were purely temporary. Notwithstanding this several Volunteers seem to have got uniforms designed as officers uniforms.

officers

Owing to delays of various kinds Murrough Bros., who had stocked cloth disposed of some of it to various traders who started making and advertising all kinds of uniforms. The Sub-Committee by announcement in the Volunteer endeavoured to cope with the situation thus created but did not succeed as they would have wished. It being essential that the initial order should be filled before other arrangements could be made all Volunteers should be definitely instructed to send uniform orders through the Sub-Committee.

Future Arrangements.

The arrangement of your Sub-Committee was that when the trial order had been executed sealed samples should be submitted, a specification issued, and public tenders invited in Ireland for further supplies both of cloth and uniforms. Arrangements were then to be made regarding both factory and tailor made uniforms, and the whole business could be put on a broad business basis. It was further arranged that a small percentage from the supply of uniforms should be credited to the general fund. An almost negligible individual charge would in the aggregate bring in a large sum to the General equipment fund.

Irish Manufacture.

In conclusion your Sub-Committee have subordinated other considerations to that of having every item of Irish manufacture. In this they have succeeded and the Irish Volunteer officially uniformed will have every item Irish. Your Sub-Committee have carried through a large amount of somewhat unrecognised work and should get your strong support in putting the supply of uniforms on a sound basis. They desire to pay a special tribute to the valuable assistance given by Mr. James Lenahan.

This Sub-Committee still remain in office.

Your obedient servants,

EOIN McNEILL,

LAURENCE J. KETTLE.

August 12th, 1914.

APPENDIX.

Makers & Prices of Items.

Uniform Cloth. Messrs. Morrough Bros. Douglas Mills, Cork.

Uniforms. Messrs. The Limerick Clothing Factory, Lower
Bridge St. Dublin.
30/7, less 10%, for Tunic, Knickers, and
Puttees.

Buttons. Messrs. Comyn Bros., College Green, Dublin.

Cap Badges. Messrs. Hopkins & Hopkins, O'Connell St. Dublin.
6d. Retail.

Caps. Miss McGuinness, Capel St. Dublin. (Trial order
of 8 doz).
33/- per dozen, plus price of cloth.
3/6 each retail price.
Mr. L. Meade, Cabra Park, to get an order also.

Other equipment. No official suppliers. Bandoliers only stand-
ardised up to present.