

The Scout

A Monthly Publication
for Boy Scout & Wolf Cub



Leader

Leaders of the Boy Scouts
Association - in - Canada

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MARCH, 1924

No. 5

BYOND the ability to "dress" a straight line, no drill proper is required for the handling of a Scout troop. The following simple formations, called for by the troop alert or "freeze" signal followed by a hand gesture will meet all ordinary formation requirements, indoors or out.

The signals and formations can be learned by any troop in ten minutes, and the practice will be regarded by the boys as a game rather than a drill.

Scoutmasters have found the system a distinct aid in securing orderliness in running off of the weekly meeting program. The absence of shouted commands is a gain psychologically and otherwise.

When first teaching the formations a five-minute practice period may be given in each week's program for three or four weeks. Thereafter the use of the signals in the course of the meeting routine and games will suffice—with patrol competition points given for smartness or taken off for slackness.

The Scoutmaster will take the key position before giving his signal, and will retain it until the formation has been completed.

In all cases the Patrol Leader is the key man of each patrol's position, and must be first in his place. The other members of his patrol then form, in order of their patrol numbers, on his left (except in the Arrow formation and certain game formations as indicated).

All formations are taken on the run.

In explaining the formations to a troop a simple rule to remember is that all open-hand signals call for a formation "facing with the palm."

For formation purposes the troop is divided into Right and Left sections, the senior and next patrol forming the Right Half, the third and fourth patrols the Left Half. This is necessary in order that the Patrol Leaders may know their key positions for each formation.



Troop in Line

That is, troop in one rank, facing toward or from the Scoutmaster, according to the position of his palms.

Troop Formations and Hand Signals

The signal illustrated calls for troop in line facing from the Scoutmaster. In all cases senior patrol on right of line; one pace interval between patrols.

Horseshoe Formation



Hands half-circled from the crossed position, and held extended until P.Ls. in their places.

Senior patrol forms right end of horseshoe (on Scoutmaster's left), other patrols in order, at one pace interval; P. Ls. on right.

Open Column of Patrols



8765432PL

8765432PL

8765432PL

8765432PL

The interval between patrols is sufficient to permit of each patrol wheeling into line without necessitating an easing-off to the right or left.

To bring the troop into line from open column the Scoutmaster takes the position toward which he desires the troop to face, gives the troop call, and extends his hands in the troop-in-line signal.

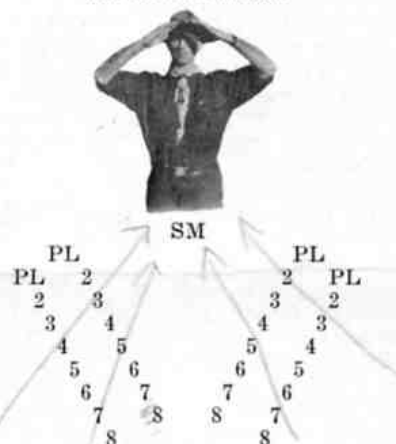
Close Column

PL2345678
PL2345678
PL2345678
PL2345678



The close column interval is one pace.

Arrow Formation



This is an arrangement that permits every boy to see, and is a compact one in which to address the troop and demonstrate knots, etc.

Game Formation Signals



The signal for two lines facing inward, P. Ls. facing P. Ls., etc., at the distance apart indicated, as for a game of "Black and White," "Crows and Cranes," etc.

PL	PL
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
PL	PL
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8

(Continued on page 2)

The Scout Leader

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His Excellency Lord Byng of Vimy,
Governor-General of Canada.

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DOMINION HEADQUARTERS

203-205 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Canada

OTTAWA, MARCH, 1924

ONE IMPRESSION left by the recent Ontario Scout Leaders' Conference was gratifyingly similar to that received during the past year in other sections of Canada—the high quality in character, ability and business standing of the men in the Scout Movement. A roll of the leading Scout officials across Canada might well be taken for the membership of a country wide organization of leading business and professional men. Such backing is given only to a public service program of tried quality and obvious practical possibilities. With this approval and support there is no question as to the future of Scouting in Canada.

A Canadian Scout Song Book

ANOTHER need of Canadian Scouting will be met with the publication in March of the CANADIAN SCOUT CAMP FIRE SONG BOOK. This is a 48 page book, 4x6½ in. in size, containing 65 songs. It is printed in a large "camp fire light" type.

Copyright and other difficulties, including the question of a low selling price, prevented the use of music in this edition. However, practically all the songs chosen are generally familiar, or set to familiar airs.

It has been a weakness of singing in Canada that few casual gatherings can sing from memory more than the

first verse and refrain of even such favorites as Annie Laurie, Auld Lang Syne, Old Folks at Home, etc.—songs that strengthen the bonds of sentiment of the English-speaking world.

Is this not an opportunity for Scout service? Why should we not set the fashion in Canada of knowing and singing these and other songs in their entirety, from memory?

Let us make a start with our new song book!

The book will sell at 15 cents per copy, and \$1.65 per doz.

HAND SIGNALS

(Continued from page 1)

Two close lines facing inward.



Two close lines, back to back.



Two lines, one facing toward, one away from S.M.



Other easily understood hand signals will suggest themselves—as an outward movement of the hands from the crossed position for "Disperse!" or "To your corners!" The invention of signals, however should not be overdone.

The Bulletin Board

The Ontario Scout Leaders' Conference at Brantford was another "best yet." The Conference Troop idea was a great success.

Notes at the conference were made in a 40 page 3½ x 6½ special note book, the covers of which contained the two days' program and other information useful to the delegates. The book was supplied free.

Leaders at Brantford included Ensign Porter, in charge of the boys' work of the Salvation Army for Eastern Canada. It was indicated that a number of Salvation Army leaders will take the Gillwell camp course this summer.

The organization of a troop of colored Scouts was a Christmas week activity in Sydney, N. S. The Border Cities (Ont.) district also claim a colored troop of keen Scouts.

Scout Law charades, or playlets, are proving popular with Vancouver Troops. The 8th Troop, under Scoutmaster Pickles, has been putting on a series especially well worked out by the boys. A sample is described in another column. Scout Law baseball also is popular.

The recent annual banquet of the 53rd Torontos must have been held about a board both wide and strong. It had to bear beans, etc., etc., sufficient for 60 Scouts and 80 Cubs. A Thanks Badge was presented to Scoutmaster G. F. Shaw, in appreciation of his five years of untiring work for the troop.

"All good wishes to you and all Canadian Scouts from myself and Scouts of Palestine."

This was the Christmas greeting, on a special Scout Christmas card, received by the Dominion Camp Chief from Commissioner Humphry Bowman, of the Palestine Boy Scouts Association. Mr. Bowman took the Gillwell Course under Rodney Wood at Gillwell Park, England.

A like greeting was returned to the Scouts of Palestine.

A gathering of twenty Eastern Quebec Scoutmasters at Sherbrooke resulted in the Eastern Townships Scout Officers' Association, with Scoutmaster R. F. Corkran of Sherbrooke as President, Rev. E. G. Warren of Danville, Vice-President District Scoutmaster W. Giovetti, of Sherbrooke, Secretary-Treasurer, and District Scoutmaster Kingsland of Magog and A.S.M. Moffatt of Coaticook on the Executive Committee. Yearly spring and fall get-togethers are planned, the first on May 24th in the form of a Scout rally for all Scout troops in the Eastern Townships.



A corner of the Supplies Department Display at the Ontario Conference.

The Annual Ontario Scout Leaders' Conference

NOTWITHSTANDING a two days' near-blizzard, which delayed trains and somewhat cut down the attendance, the 1924 Ontario Scout Leaders' Conference, held at Brantford, Feb. 6-7, was well attended, delegates being present from some twenty-five city and town Scouting centres. The Scoutmasters, Cubmasters and other leaders present included representatives of every Protestant denomination, of Roman Catholic troops, the Salvation Army, boys' work branch, and the Latter Day Saints—once again illustrating the broad appeal of the Scout program that is making it one of the world's great instruments for interdenominational and international understanding.

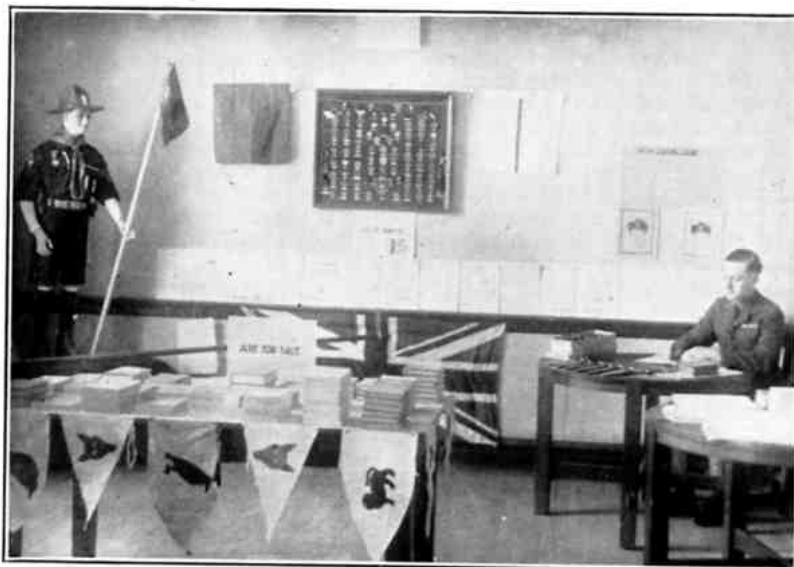
The conference was held at the "Y", all necessary rooms being placed freely at the disposal of the conference. The cordial spirit of hospitality displayed by every member of the Y staff, including the janitor, was one of the pleasant features of the occasion. It may be mentioned that the Brantford Y probably is the finest plant of its kind in any city of similar size in Canada, including the cuisine with its staff of assisting ladies of the Y auxiliary. The efficiency of this latter department was well tested by one large and two smaller banquets of appreciative Scout leaders. On their part, as a small return, Scout leaders addressed several of the regular weekly Y class groups.

A Demonstration Troop

Immediately following the opening remarks of President J. W. Mitchell, the invocation by the Bishop of Huron and a welcome by Mayor Billo, of Brantford, twenty-four leaders, selected from those who could be present for the entire period, were organized as a Scout troop, the remainder of those present being seated in a double row along the sides and across one end of the large room, as observers. The conference sessions were then proceeded with as troop meetings, on the Patrol System, with constant patrol competition scoring on a large black-board. The plan, which was an innovation, proved a great success, giving life and action and the keenest interest—from the moment of selecting the patrols and scoring them on the board as "all present."

First Troop Meeting

The first "troop meeting" opened with an interesting exposition of the Patrol System, with comments out of personal experience, by Scoutmaster Stanley Macdonell of Stratford. A hand-signal drill by Troop Leader Hill (Hamilton District Secretary), was followed by an explanation of patrol competition scoring by Scoutmaster Irwin (Assistant Provincial Commissioner). The "meeting" concluded with a game session by A.S.M. Coombs (Ottawa staff) then a brief talk on Scout Law charades, and the assignment to each patrol of a Law to be acted at the final troop meeting.



Another corner—and Quartermaster George Ferguson.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting, which took up the afternoon of the first day, brought a number of addresses and reports from widely scattered sections of the province which were full of interest and practical suggestions. Many of these are noted in subsequent paragraphs, for their possible value to brother Scouts in other parts of Canada.

While quality of work and leadership and the training of leaders now under way and planned was most emphasized, the figures on membership with few exceptions showed substantial gain. Notable districts in this respect were Owen Sound, Toronto, Kenora-Keewatin, Chatham, Kincardine, Bracebridge, Galt and Welland. For the province the figures showed well over 15,000 Scouts.

Officers for 1924

These provincial officers were elected for 1924: Provincial Commissioner, H. A. Laurence, Toronto; Provincial President, J. W. Mitchell, Toronto; Vice-Presidents, A. T. Enlow, Hamilton; W. E. Matthews, Ottawa; Lieut.-Colonel E. S. Wible, Windsor; Judge A. D. Hardy, Brantford; Honorary Secretary, P. G. Cherry, Toronto; Honorary Treasurer, C. Q. Ellis, Toronto; Honorary Auditor, Henry T. Jamieson, C. A.; Board of Honour, Frank Arnoldi, K.C., T. A. Brown, R. D. Hume, and A. T. Reid.

The Executive Committee

R. A. Daly, A. B. Fisher, W. K. George, Judge H. S. Mott, R. D. Hume, Lieut.-Colonel Noel Marshall, D. McK. McClelland, C. B. McNaught, R. J. Dilworth, J. A. Northway, Rt. Rev. David Williams, Bishop of Huron, Major R. F. Massie, J. E. Ganong, John O'Connor, H. R. Tudhope, J. J. Vaughan, Dr. John Waugh, of Toronto; W. J. Hickey, Welland; Lieut.-Colonel D. E. MacIntyre, Owen Sound; W. R. Mitchell, Hamilton; G. E. Fauquier and P. B. German, Ottawa.

An Equipment Display

An incidental of the conference which attracted much attention throughout was the exhibit of Scout

equipment, books, charts, patrol pennants and other flags, patrol neckerchiefs, shoulder knots, etc., displayed in a separate room under the direction of Mr. George Ferguson, of the Dominion Headquarters Stores Department. The exhibit probably was the largest and most complete so far seen in Canada. A life size wax figure Scout on a platform in one corner was attired in complete and officially correct uniform.

Bishop Williams' Message

The big conference dinner, under the chairmanship of Provincial President J. W. Mitchell, was a most enjoyable affair of much singing and joking, inter-table repartee in songs and yells, old and improvised, and a general buzz of fun. Some experienced banqueters present declared it the liveliest dinner they had ever attended, and a revelation of Scouting personnel and talent. Rt. Rev. David Williams, Bishop of Huron, was the principle speaker. After a happy opening of stories he turned to a more serious message, beginning by a comparison of life and society to a stool supported by three necessary legs—the family, the church and the state. Truth, loyalty and purity, he said, were necessary to the maintenance of each of these three props of Christian civilization. The war had revealed much corruption beneath the surface of our life, and if it were not checked it would mean the physical ruin not only of individuals, but of the nation. The Bishop favored the Scout Movement because it definitely aimed to develop the salient features of good citizenship—truth, loyalty and purity.

Cub and Gillwell Luncheons

At noon on the first day of the conference a "Dutch treat" luncheon brought together Wolf Cub workers for an incidental discussion of Pack problems, led by District Secretary Leach of Ottawa, who last summer took the Akela course at Gillwell Park, England. On the second day of the conference a "First Canada Gillwell Troop" luncheon was held, with Camp Chief Rodney Wood at the head table.

An incident was the presentation to the Camp Chief by Scoutmaster Arthur Loranger, of the 1st Welland (French Canadian) Troop, of a "Harry Lauder" walking stick of many twists and turns, and suitably carved with a Scout knife. The cane reminded the recipient of another cane whose acquaintance he had made in another fashion at Harrow—the bamboo in question being "suitably applied" to keep laggards well up in the football scrum.

Heard at the Ontario Conference

"AVOID mushroom growth; build slowly but surely, on a foundation of properly trained Scoutmasters and Patrol Leaders."

This was the emphasized key-note of the thoughtful and impressive acceptance address of the new Provincial Commissioner.

Judge Hardy, of the Juvenile Court of Brantford for many years, did not recall a single case of a Scout being brought before him.

Figures of a more recent date than those given in the annual report showed more than 5,000 Cubs and Scouts in Toronto—in 72 troops and 47 packs.

Thirty-four Stratford Scouts camped last summer on the Gillwell plan including cooking by patrols. It was a complete success.

Scouting in Owen Sound has been given the full support of the local school board, with the use of school buildings as needed.

At the Hamilton district camp of 1923, a resident cook prepared one meal, the Scouts the remaining two. The arrangement proved a complete success, with "no complaints."

The London City Council voted money for the support of the Local Scout Association. In connection with this report Chaplain Grey emphasized the duty of town or city councils to support such a good-citizen educational movement as Scouting.

"We talk camp all winter. Our boys collected 13 tons of newspapers on three Saturdays, to raise camp funds. . . . The Y was in full cooperation with us—swimming pool, gym for basket ball games, etc. We have a seven troop city hockey league. . . . We find committeemen only need asking in order to help any troop."

The Scout and Cub leaders of Owen Sound hold a supper conference twice a month, 6.15 to 7.30 p. m. Of the seventeen leaders at least fifteen usually are present. In addition to the pleasant social and other advantages, the fortnightly get-together obviates the necessity of "bombarding with notices."

Quota Support of Provincial Office

"Quota contributions" by each Scouting centre toward the up-keep of the

provincial organization was emphasized by Provincial President Mitchell as the only proper and Scouty policy, rather than leaving this very considerable expense to the Toronto district. This was heartily agreed to by all other speakers, and districts which had not been able to contribute their quota in 1923 expressed the determination if possible to make good the amount in addition to their quota for 1924.

The Correct Attitude

"The head of another boys' work group came to us and asked to organize as a Scout troop; he said his boys wished to be Scouts. He was advised to take the matter up with his church authorities. They were opposed. We never accept applications to join troops from boys of churches having other boys' organizations, except with the full knowledge and approval of parents and church authorities."

When Scoutmasters Move

The system of inter-district reporting on the moving of Scoutmasters and Cubmasters from one place to another



The new Ontario Commissioner, Mr. H. A. Laurence.

was commented upon by Col. E. S. Wigle of the Border Cities district as being of a great benefit. The Scout or Cub leader arriving in a new community was called upon by local Scout leaders, made to feel at home, and invited to join the local organization in some capacity. Leaders who might otherwise be lost to the Movement were thus kept in Scouting and Cubbing, to the mutual advantage of the organization and the leaders themselves.

A New Way of Raising Funds

President Mitchell spoke of the "Scoutgram" as a possible way of raising necessary Scout funds. This is a circular letter invitation to become a supporting member of the Local Scout Association by the contribution of any sum desired, the letter being "broadcast" in an envelope by Scouts, who call to collect it, sealed, two days

later. The invitation would be accompanied by a brief statement on the Local Association needs, an explanation of the district's quota for provincial funds, and a few words regarding the work being done in the district, and the general aim of Scouting. The "Scoutgram," Mr. Mitchell stated, has been used successfully in the United States.

Ladies' Auxiliary a Great Success

On being approached with the suggestion that they actively back the Scout Movement the ladies of Owen Sound were found enthusiastically willing. A public meeting for ladies was attended by a large crowd. A strong auxiliary was formed, with a representative from each church or other women's organizations. The Auxiliary is now securing memberships in the Local Association at 25 cents per year. Beyond the acceptable financial aid there has been a great increase of interest in Scouting. So far as the ladies are concerned the only difficulty is to find "something they can do for the Scouts." There are now eight troops and three Cub packs in the Owen Sound district, with a membership of 219.

Mr. H. A. Laurence, the new Provincial Commissioner for Ontario brings to that office an experience of many years in character-training work for young people—as a leader in Sunday-school work, as a Toronto district Scout Commissioner, as Honorary Provincial Secretary, and as a member of the Ontario Provincial Board of Honour. Mr. Laurence connects himself with nothing in which he cannot play the part of a worker. As Honorary Secretary, although the busy executive of the head office of a great insurance company, he frequently found time personally to respond to the call from some distant point in the province for a "visit from Headquarters." With such a leader, supported by some of the most outstanding and energetic business men in Ontario, Scouting in the old province cannot but continue to go forward during 1924.

The Scouts of the 1st Chatham Troop are building a hut for their troop headquarters and are raising the money through the collection and sale of old paper and the conduct of a thriving "hot dog" business down town on Saturday afternoons and evenings. Every patrol has taken some definite part in these efforts and the success of the venture is assured.

The troop of blind Scouts of the Ontario School for the Blind, at Brantford, has been re-organized with Captain S. C. Clegg, physical director of the school, as Scoutmaster. Boys of the troop furnished several interesting numbers at the Brantford Conference Council Fire, including a knot-tying contest. All are keen Scouts, and find little difficulty in passing most of the Scout tests.

Troop Programs

7.30 Patrols assemble in Corners. Dues. Points for best decorated staffs and clean boots. Orange peel nailed to floor (first to find, 2 points).

7.35 Break Flag. Patrol Corners, P. Ls. explain next game.

7.40-8.00 Cattle stealing with lariats.

FREEZE

8.00-8.05 Drawing of Patrol Animals.

8.05-8.10 Preparation of plot by each patrol for First Aid play.

8.10-8.30 Four minute play by each patrol showing treatment of different accidents. Patrols watching write down observations of accident. Points for plot, correctness of treatment and for solutions by other patrols.

8.30-8.45 Camp fire. Ivan Skazavitsky Skivar. Competitive speeches, humorous or otherwise, on "Why has an elephant a trunk at one end and a tail at the other?"
Yeil. Good night.

Checking Up On Yourself

OCCASIONALLY some of the points necessary to the best success in the running of a troop or pack are temporarily forgotten by a Scoutmaster or Cubmaster.

For instance, an experienced Scoutmaster was recently acting in an advisory capacity to a younger Scoutmaster when the latter, following troop inspection, announced that since it was impossible to decide between the patrols in the matter of tidiness of dress, no inspection points would be given that evening. From the boys came a quick stir of disappointment and disapproval, and one or two low exclamations. The older Scoutmaster hesitated to suggest an amendment of the younger's pronouncement, and the matter was allowed to stand.

The situation was an unusual one, but under the system of patrol competition marking used by the troop for inspection—four points to the best patrol; three, two and one—the logical solution was two and a half points to each patrol.

Had the Scoutmaster not temporarily forgotten the very important principle in competition scoring that each patrol must receive at least one point, as an encouragement "for trying" he would not have slipped up, and undoubtedly would quickly have struck the solution of equal points to all.

In addition to the point above referred to, details on which it is wise for Scoutmasters to refresh themselves from time to time include

Reminders to—

- Use the "Scout Silence."
- The Mental Somersault."
- Begin and close your meetings on time.

—Shake hands or pass a word with each boy at each troop meeting.

—Never give commands, or admonish (as when calling for quiet), in the dictatorial tone of the drill sergeant, but always with the friendly "come on" spirit of the older-brother leader.

—Use the "freeze" signal two or three times during each meeting, marking up points for quick response; always making sure that every boy can hear your signal.

—Work out each meeting's program with your Court of Honour, making sure that each week offers a variation of Patrol Corners activities, games played, songs sung, etc.

—Make sure by personal questioning that Tenderfoot candidates understand the meaning of every Scout Law.

—Always have an approving word for a display of good sportsmanship: as when one patrol draws attention to something for which another patrol should receive a point in the patrol competition.

—Make some mention of the Daily Good Turn at each meeting.

—Learn each Scout's hobby, and from time to time inquire regarding their progress or success, as: "How's that new radio set coming on, Chick?" "How many Canadian pre-cancels (stamps) have you now, Billy?"

—Wherever possible use discriminating praise rather than direct criticism for pointing out a shortcoming; as: "You're on the way to making a real, all-round Scout, Jerry. I'm figuring on you finishing your First Class by the end of camp next July. But I wish you would remember about that loafing-around-the-corner business. That never does any good; and it gives older people a wrong idea about you. When you are stuck for something to do of an evening, look up Dick or some of the other boys. Or run up and see me; if I'm busy there are some good books to look at. I'm counting on you to come through as a King's Scout in another year."

—Bear in mind that your boys are constantly "snap-shotting" you, and many of them are copying you, consciously or subconsciously—the language you use, and the mental attitude which your choice of words and your mannerisms reflect; your constant courtesy—or careless lapses; your care to be scrupulously just in awarding patrol competition points, etc.; your respect for the rights and opinions, and feelings, of others; your reverence, and the example you set in church attendance and other observance of your religious duties. And remember that in none of these things can you "bluff" your boys for long. They are acutely conscious of inconsistencies.

—Never assume, or allow it to be assumed, that you know something that you do not. You lose nothing by frankly confessing to boys that you do not know this or that about scouting; but you will lose a great deal with them if you assume to know something which they presently discover that you do not.

The New S. M. and First Aid

A PERPLEXING problem for the new Scoutmaster of a new troop, where a suitable outside instructor is not available, is the first aid work for his would-be Second Class Scouts. Many good S.M.s. have avoided the subject until their boys crowded them to the wall.

The mountain is only another grimacing molehill. Here is the simple solution: With the aid of the Handbook, the Ambulance Man, or Starting to Scout, study and practice at home one particular case—a broken collarbone, for example. Then do it at meeting, "preparation, demonstration, explanation, imitation, interrogation." You will find it surprisingly easy, interesting, and confidence-inspiring. The bigger problems will go through just as easily.

And remember that one first aid problem really learned in an evening is reward enough.

Finally to drive it home, or as a "refresher," dramatize it. When on a hike for instance, without warning (except to the "victim") have an accident "happen." Make it as realistic as possible, with red ink, etc. The realism of the sudden accident on the road is worth a dozen practices indoors, on the clean floor, with prepared bandages, etc.

Of a B. C. S. M.

7.30 Rally in Corners. Dues. Points for best kept jack-knives.

7.35 Break Flag. Explanation of next game by P. L.

7.40-7.50 Construction of staff and rope ladder, knots and lashings done in any manner.

7.50-7.55 P. Ls. demonstrate correct square lashing.

7.55-8.05 Reconstruction of ladders correctly; race to top. Points for speed, correct construction, etc.

FREEZE

8.05-8.15 Patrols decorate their own notice boards with drawings, diagrams, verses, etc.

8.15-8.20 Patrols observe one another's corners.

8.20-8.35 Patrols spy on each others' corners in dark, noting misplaced articles, kinds of knots tied in various places, etc.

8.35-8.45 Camp fire. Show three or four constellations (sheets of cardboard with holes punched representing stars, flashlight behind). Patrols go out and locate real stars, if fine. Assemble. Good night.

WE SET off on our hike at 4.30 on Tuesday afternoon, August 21, 1923. It was a fine day, with a light breeze blowing from the west. Our sealed orders were to be opened when we reached McPhee's lane.

We reached the lane, and were about to open the orders when we spied our deadly enemies the Bobwhites. They did not see us, so we moved under cover, and there read the instructions and studied the accompanying map.

(The Journey objective was the re-discovery of an old placer mine referred to in an Indian legend as having been located at the head of Thunderbird Lake. An abandoned stone quarry at the southern end of the lake was designated as the first minor objective.)

We decided to head for the quarry travelling in two sections, about 100 yards apart. Our course was due north; and we agreed that whichever party first reached the quarry would wait a half hour for the other, and then would leave a message in a secretly indicated spot, and carry on to the lake.

We proceeded—myself and Skipper, and the Pilot and the Sheik—with this idea in mind. When we were a short distance from Quidbait Road we heard a Bobwhite whistle, and also our own call. We made in the direction of the whistling Canada Birds, found our own party and joined them.

As it was getting dark and there were signs of rain, we decided to move on in patrol formation. We spread out along the side of Quidbait Road, which was well sheltered by alder bushes, and set out to discover the brook marked on the map, in order that we might be sure of hitting the quarry by laying a course due north from it.

We followed the road in a northerly direction, and then retraced our steps until we struck the cross road. We could not locate the brook, and decided that the best thing to do, as we wished to camp that night near the quarry, was to go to Alton station, and follow the railway.

Presently we heard wood chopping ahead, then other sounds behind us. We went under cover, and stalking the nearest sound I discovered Scout Walker of the Crows cutting wood. I was about to return when I heard a noise such as made by someone climbing a wire fence. I froze, but two Crows appeared, and by bad luck, almost walked on top of me, and discovered me. They had been after water, and had already discovered the remainder of my patrol.

I returned to the patrol, and we decided that since the Bobwhites and Crows were both under cover, and the Crows were not stalking us, we would move on, in order to get as far away as possible before choosing our camping ground. Also we figured on getting a good start on the other patrols in the morning.

We hiked on for a considerable time, following the railroad line, and finally, about a mile beyond Brocktown, made camp. The site was on the left of the railroad, and was well sheltered from wind, and near water. We had supper, and turned in immediately. We were

The 1923 Journey of the N.S. Canada Birds

up at 4 next morning, had a light breakfast, and hit the trail at 4.35.

It was cloudy and there was a heavy wind blowing from the south, so that we could easily hear anyone behind us, while we ourselves would not likely be heard by anyone in the rear.

We followed the track under cover wherever possible, and in patrol formation, until we reached Brookfield station. There was no sign of the spur siding we were looking for, or No. 131 elevation marker.

On the other side of Brookfield there was a big swamp—apparently the bog referred to on the map. We skirted the north end of the bog and continued our search for the spur.

It began to rain heavily, and we used our rubber sheets for capes. On the way we observed six crows (real ones) perched on a fence. Recalling the old saying "Six Crow Gold," we hurried on, sure that our goal was not far distant.



Always
remember
Scouting
is
a
Game!

However, the crows must have been birds of ill omen, for we missed the head of the lake and landed at Hildon station. We then knew that we must have missed the railroad siding spur the night before when we skirted the railway track to avoid the Crows' outposts. But we vowed we would find the head of the lake if it took all day; we were determined to do our best to live up to the good name won by the White Throated Sparrows of the previous year's camp.

Again consulting our map, we decided that the shortest route to the lake was the crossroad from Brookfield station, which ran in a west-south-westerly direction. We retraced our steps to Brookfield. On taking a bearing there, we found it to be correct according to the map. To make up for lost time, we left our kit at the station, and set off at our best speed.

When nearing the head of the lake we struck three diverging roads, one leading to the left in a southerly direction, one to the right toward a small village, while the main road carried on about two miles, to a small lake. We followed this road for a distance, until we saw that the lake was not the right one. Then we retraced

our steps and followed the southerly road, and finally landed at the head of Thunderbird at 2.33 p.m.

Staring us in the face was a claim staked out by the Owls.

We however, washed some sand from the brook, found signs of "gold", tied a sample in the corner of a handkerchief, and proceeded to stake out a claim. Our claim read as follows:

Fifty paces $E\frac{1}{2}SE$ then 50 paces $N\frac{1}{2}E$ then 50 $W\frac{1}{2}N$ then 50 paces $S\frac{1}{2}W$, measuring 50 paces at each direction, giving a square of Northern Portions of shore of Lake Thunderbird. The discovery pace being an iron stake due N three paces from the end of Lake at water line, and 30 paces due South of the old Mill.

(Signed)

The White-Throated Sparrow Patrol,

For Gillwell, Aug. 22/23.

Time: 2.33 p.m.

P. L. Sparrows.

(Note: The Patrol included the Scoutmaster of a Newfoundland Sea Scout Troop, which doubtless explains the nautical bearings given.—Ed.)

We returned immediately to the Brookfield station, nothing of importance occurring. The road had dried up and the sun was shining, and all were in good spirits. On the way we saw footprints which we recognized as those of Dunlop of the Bobwhites. At Brookfield we ran into our rivals of the previous night, the Crows. We rested for five minutes, and began the hike back to the camp.

We still traveled in patrol formation, partly by road, partly along the railroad track. Before reaching Alton station we had a half hour rest and ate a light supper. At Alton we took Big Thunder road, which led us to the cross roads below the camp, and reported back at Headquarters at 7.10 p. m.

We had covered between 55 and 60 miles, in about 27 hours. Had we not missed the old railroad siding spur, and the quarry, the map would have been useful, but after missing those points it was of little help, as there were many roads on either side of the railroad which were not indicated.

During the hike we noticed various animals. We found the remains of a dead fox, and saw a black fox, a porcupine and a skunk, and the tracks of several moose. We heard and saw several Canada Birds.

Regarding timber and game (a report on which was called for): We saw some good timber, but not in any quantity. Logging it probably would not pay, since there were no rivers near. We struck a number of old lumber camps. Very little game was seen, although in season we judged that partridge and rabbits would be plentiful. We recognized twenty-five varieties of wild flowers.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the adventure, and as a result will be better able to lay out a journey for our candidate First Class Scouts, and to give them suitable instructions—including the things to take and not to take, to do and not to do, and various other bits of wisdom that one can only acquire through personal experience.

1924 Catalogue--Spring & Summer

Ready March 15th

We take great pleasure in announcing the fact that our SPRING and SUMMER CATALOGUE will be ready for distribution MARCH 15th next.

We have endeavoured to make this issue as complete as possible, and we feel sure that when it reaches your hands its contents will meet with your entire approval. Notwithstanding a very unsettled market, with a tendency towards higher costs, we have been able to maintain our extremely low prices, and in some instances prices have been materially reduced.

This happy condition has been made possible through the wonderful support we have received during the past season from the entire Dominion, and we take this opportunity of expressing our sincere thanks for the many kind letters of appreciation we have received testifying to our SERVICE and the QUALITY of our Supplies.

Your Co-operation——Please!

This year we are anxious to give our Catalogue a much wider distribution than in the past, and with this end in view we are requesting that each Scoutmaster and Cubmaster send to us a list of the names and addresses of the members of his Troop or Pack and we will gladly mail to each boy a copy of the Catalogue, post-paid.

This is Important

Kindly let us have your lists at the earliest possible date in order that we can determine the number of Catalogues we are likely to require.

THE STORES DEPARTMENT

Dominion Headquarters

THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

203-205 WELLINGTON STREET

:-:

OTTAWA, CANADA

A page of helpful ideas from wherever and whomever we can obtain them.

THE DUFFEL BAG

If you have a good one worked out with your own Troop, please send it in.

Freezing!

Nothing will so quickly give control of a troop as frequent "freezing," used as part of a well run patrol competition, points being marked up for patrols acting promptly on the whistle.

The "freeze" may be used three or four times each evening—during patrol corners, or games; in fact at any unexpected moment. The middle of an exciting Tag Ball contest, or a game of Black and White, provides an ideal opportunity.

The boys think the test great fun, particularly when it comes in the midst of a game, leaving them "frozen" in all sorts of ridiculous postures.

The "freeze" signal is simply the single blast of the "Alert!" whistle, followed after a few seconds by the two blasts of "Carry on!"

Strange!

DURING the evening a "stranger" went round to each patrol for two minutes, and was questioned by the members. The winning patrol was the one who found out the most about the stranger within the given time, and in this the Wolves were successful. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Try it and you will be surprised at the simple things which are sometimes left out. One patrol even forgot to ask the visitor's name.

The "stranger" in this case was Scoutmaster Heywood of Burnaby, who at the end of the meeting gave a short talk to the troop, and then led them in the "Zhig-a-ma-lia" cry. That's the way it is pronounced, although I very much doubt the spelling!

—S. M. Leyland,
4th Vancouver Troop.

P. Ls. Given Chance

to Run Troop Meeting

ONCE a month for several months past each Patrol Leader has been taking his turn running the troop meeting. On the last occasion, after roll call, inspection, etc., the troop went by patrols to the class room where P. L. Selbie gave them some tough nuts to crack in the deciphering of five or six jumble of letters which are capable of being turned into the name of some Scout badge, e. g., NRMSOEISI, which, being interpreted, means missionary. The Hawks finished first, the Eagles, Curlews and Otters following close. An adjournment was then made to the school basement and a lively game of "defending the line" followed, in which the Eagle and Curlew patrols proved victors over the Otter and Hawk patrols. After the usual yells and the "Promise," the troop dismissed.

—S. M. Pickles,
8th Vancouver Troop.

A Scout Staff Test

IN VIEW of recent opinions anent the usefulness or otherwise of the Scout Staff, the following may be of interest to you:

Two meetings ago I told my troop (14th) that some time in the near future I would ask each patrol to demonstrate the various uses of the staff. They had not previously been told of any uses with the exception of the proper method of sitting upon it, and the correct way to salute with it.

Last Tuesday I called each patrol separately to the Court of Honour room, and gave them five minutes in which to demonstrate the uses of the staff, telling each patrol not to let the one which followed know what was going on.

The number of uses given were: Foxes 21, Beavers 27, Wolves 35.

All the uses named might have been employed by a boy or collection of boys between the ages of 12 and 14, and were sound common sense uses. The total number given by the troop must have amounted to well over 50.

—H. L. Fraser,
14th Ottawa Troop.

Works With the S. M. Away

ANOTHER tribute to the Patrol System! Last Wednesday was my troop meeting night, and I heard that everything went off, as one of my leaders put it, "as if I had been there." Had he spoken his mind I feel sure he would have said better. Do you know I feel as pleased as a dog with four tails, especially when you consider that I have twenty-six boys, of whom seven had only been present at one other meeting.

—C. V. Nunn,
57th Toronto Troop.

An 8th Vancouver Scout Law Play

The following story from the Scout News page of the Vancouver Province offers a good example of what boys might put into and get out of a Scout Law play.

At the last troop meeting the Curlew Patrol made their first attempt at the Scout Law plays, and succeeded very well. The Third Law—Helpfulness—was their subject. A studious youth appears on the scene—Scout Hough—strolling along deep in thought. He is accosted by a rough looking character—Scout Peerless—and asked for the price of a meal.

While fumbling in his pockets the rough sandbags his victim and rapidly goes through his pockets, taking all of value. On hearing someone approaching he takes to flight, in his haste dropping his cap and hurrying off without noticing his loss. Enter three Scouts—P. L. Clay, Secy. Ellard and Scout Knight. Catching sight of the inanimate form they run up, ascertain the extent of the injury and render first aid.

Finding a pocket book, they discover the identity of the victim and exit carrying the unconscious figure. A few moments later two of the boys return and commence a search for any possible clue to the identity of the perpetrator of the outrage. The cap is of course found and held as an important clue.

At this point the rough again appears on the scene looking around for his cap, which he fears may be discovered and lead to the disclosure of his identity. The Scouts ask if they can be of any assistance, and after a moment's hesitation the rough states that he is looking for a friend's cap. The cap is produced and the rough identifies it as his friend's cap and is about to beat a hasty retreat when he is seized by the Scouts and searched. A purse containing a considerable sum of money and a watch and chain are found in his pockets, and he is promptly marched off for delivery to the nearest policeman.

Considering that the Curlews have the smallest patrol and that they live mostly at considerable distance from each other, they did very well, indeed, and fully deserved the applause they received at the termination of their act. Next week the Otters are trying their cunning on the Fourth Law.

The new **Canadian Scout Camp Fire Song Book** contains songs for all occasions—entertainments, banquets, sleigh rides, etc. 15 cents per copy, \$1.65 per doz.—Stores Department, Dominion Headquarters, Ottawa.

Ye Scout Almanack

March 1st—St. David's Day. St. David is the Patron Saint of Wales.

March 4th—Shrove Tuesday, or "Pancake Day."

March 5th—Ash Wednesday.

March 9th—First Sunday in Lent.

March 17th—St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland.

March 20th—Last day of the winter of 1923-24.

March 21st—First day of spring, Full Moon, and Friday Night too. If possible have part of your meeting out of doors, but have a weather eye for the Equinoctial Storm.

During March—More Saturday hikes, and skating, snowshoeing and skiing as long as the cold weather lasts.

Also—Make preliminary plans for Clean-Up Week in co-operation with local Fire and Health Departments. Begin talking Scout gardens, including raising flowers for hospitals, church and school decorations, etc.