



THE generous and practical friend of Scouting who in February of last year made possible the All-Canada Scout Leaders' Winter Course, by a further generous special contribution made possible the holding at Ottawa, November 25-29 last, of the First Canadian Gillwell Course for Cub leaders—the Akela course. The course was attended by 22 leaders or prospective leaders from Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

It is hoped to hold a second course in Western Canada during the winter or spring.

Those attending the Ottawa course included such well known leaders as Commissioner Frank W. Thompson of Manitoba, Cub Commissioner H. M. Jockel and Provincial Secretary E. R. Paterson of Montreal, and Assistant District Commissioner E. O'Callaghan and Field Secretary Edgar Jones of Toronto. The course was held in the indoor tennis room at Rideau Hall, which had been offered for the purpose by the Chief Scout, Lord Byng.

The lecturing staff of the course consisted of the Dominion Camp Chief, Rodney C. Wood; Lt. Commander A. E. Eagar of Halifax, an Akela graduate of Gillwell Park, and District Secretary Norman Leach of Ottawa, also a Gillwell Park Akela graduate.

Those taking the course were divided into three Sixes:—

Grey Wolves—F. W. Thompson, Winnipeg, Man., Sixer; E. Russell Paterson, Montreal; T. E. Heywood, Montreal; Miss E. F. Glover, Toronto; Rev. E. A. Slein, Stayner, Ont.; Edgar T. Jones, Toronto; Harold J. Provost, Ottawa.

Red Wolves — Miss Reba Riddell, Sixer; F. M. Blackburn, Bernard H. Fogle, F. E. L. Coombs, Fred McCann, Miss Catherine Rutherford, all of Ottawa.

Black Wolves—H. M. Jockel, Sixer; John A. Stiles, Ottawa; E. O'Callaghan,

The 1st Canadian Gillwell Course for Cubmasters

Toronto; Miss Marianne Riddell, Ottawa; Mrs. F. M. Blackburn, Ottawa; Carl A. Johnson, Toronto.

Senior Sixer, Frank W. Thompson, Winnipeg.

While the program of lectures was planned so as to cover the full Gillwell Park Akela training, an incidental purpose was the discussion of each lecture, with a view to discovering to what extent, if any, in the opinion of the course, the syllabus would require

The subjects covered included the following: Cub Nature; Pack Ceremonies; Jungle Dances; One Star Work; Story telling; Drawing; Tracking and Pack Museum; Games; Physical Training; Birds, Trees and Pets; How to Make; Star Work; Compass Games; Cub Camping and Feeding; Camp and Personal Hygiene; Camp Medicine Chest; Suggested Pack Evening; Relationship of Cubs, Scouts and Rovers.

In addition to the several game sessions, games were scattered through the program.

The busy week of lectures and games was concluded with a banquet, during which the jolly play spirit of the course Pack alternated with close attention to brief but arresting addresses by the Chief Commissioner, Dr. James W. Robertson, Assistant Chief Commissioner John A. Stiles, Assist. Dist. Commissioner O'Callaghan of Toronto and Rodney C. Wood. The "Senior Sixer," Commissioner Thompson, occupied the chair, and further established himself in the regard of the Pack by his happy direction of the occasion. The banquet also was memorable as marking the farewell appearance of Rodney Wood as Dominion Camp Chief prior to his departure for his home in Central Africa.



LEFT to right, top row—John A. Stiles, Norman J. Leach, Harold J. Provost, Ottawa; Frank W. Thompson, Winnipeg; F. E. L. Coombs, Ottawa; Rev. E. A. Slein, Stayner, Ont. Second row—H. M. Jockel, E. Russell Paterson, Montreal; Carl A. Johnson, Toronto; Dr. James W. Robertson; E. O'Callaghan, Toronto; F. M. Blackburn, Bernard H. Fogle, Ottawa. Seated—Mrs. F. M. Blackburn, Ottawa; Miss E. F. Glover, Toronto; Miss Marianne Riddell, Miss Catherine Rutherford, Miss Reba Riddell, Ottawa; T. E. Heywood, Montreal, Edgar T. Jones, Toronto.

modification to meet the Canadian Cubmaster's problems. At the conclusion of the final lecture session, a general discussion was held, with the Chief Commissioner present, and the Assistant Chief Commissioner in the chair. It was unanimously agreed that the course as a whole was adequate and satisfactory; that such modifications as might be desirable were minor, and would be taken care of by the flexibility of the program covered in the course syllabus and the interpretation which the individual Cubmaster might properly give it.

Pack Problem Paragraphs

The discussions brought out many interesting experi-

ences, suggestions and expressions of opinion on various phases of Cubbing. One of the first subjects debated was

The Minimum Cub Age

While the majority approved the present minimum of eight years, a number of opinions were expressed in favor of nine as preferable for the average Canadian boy. The difficulty appeared, however, to be a matter of suitable program planning to meet the particular interests of the boy of 8 to 10, and the boy of 10 to 12. Winnipeg had found a solution by temporarily re-grouping Sixes for special play and special work. (Continued on page 27)

The Scout Leader

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

Chief Commissioner
James W. Robertson, C.M.G., LL.D.

F. E. L. Coombs - - - - - Editor

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What Are You Giving Your Boys?

IN THE course of a very striking address to a group of English college men reviewed in a recent issue of the *McGill (University) Daily*, the speaker enumerated practically every article in the dining room, and elicited the acknowledgment that not one of the young graduates present possessed any knowledge of the handicraft involved in the articles' origin and production. This lack of knowledge he declared demonstrated that the education they had acquired was purely theoretical, and lacked practical qualifications for life and the development of a true sense of values. He quoted another educator as having declared that "if ten Bachelors of Art were wrecked in mid-ocean they could not build a pontoon to save their lives! They would be equally helpless in any critical emergency where practical knowledge of the ordinary things around us was imperatively necessary."

This may illustrate to some Scoutmasters the important supplementary role which Scouting can play in preparing boys for the actual every-day eventualities of life.

The above quoted speaker concluded by emphasizing the fact that Christ, had He been present—like them, a young man—could have replied to the question regarding the table on which they ate, "Yes, I could make one myself. I am a carpenter."

Major R. W. Gordon, M.C., A.D.C. to His Excellency Lord Byng, and for some years Ottawa's Assistant District Commissioner, has been lost to Canadian Scouting through the necessity of returning to Scotland. Major Gordon's frequent visits to the district troops were a great encouragement to Scoutmasters, and his suggestions practically helpful. Former District Commissioner Pinard, who has been connected with the Ottawa association since its inception, has taken Major Gordon's place.

Mohamed Abdul Aziz, Patrol Leader of the Abbassia Secondary School Scout troop, Alexandria, Egypt, also would like to correspond with a Canadian P.L. His letter states that he is 19 years old, and is "fond of embalming insects, tree leaves, collecting fossils, stamps and feathers."

Rodney C. Wood

THE departure, November 29th, of Rodney C. Wood, the former Dominion Camp Chief, on the first step of his journey home to Nyassaland, Central Africa, may be said to have marked completion of the first stage of a new advance in Canadian Scouting. During that period new standards and new methods in courses of training for Scoutmasters have been developed, particularly in outdoor Scouting.

Early in 1922 the Dominion Executive Committee decided that something more must be done to provide adequate training in Canadian Scout leadership, and to re-emphasize the importance of outdoor activities. Sir Robert Baden-Powell was appealed to and asked to send the best man available to conduct a series of summer camps for Scoutmasters along the lines of Gillwell Park, in England. It was realized that the undertaking would be to a certain extent experimental; that the natural attitude among Canadian Scout leaders would be to question the ability of an Englishman to



A recent picture (second from the left) of the retiring Dominion Camp Chief.

teach woodcraft in Canada. With his usual wisdom, B.P. sensed this situation. He chose the strongest man procurable, a man with overseas experience; and Rodney C. Wood was called by cable from Cape Town and dispatched to Canada.

That Rodney Wood thoroughly knew outdoor Scouting—camping, hiking, woodcraft, tracking, both from the theoretical standpoint and out of much personal experience, was at once made clear. The first Canadian Gillwell course, held near Ottawa in June, 1922, showed also that the newcomer had the ability and personality to "put it over."

Proof that the lead he had given us, and the matter he had brought from Gillwell Park were essentially suitable to Canada was demonstrated the following summer, when Imperial Headquarters found it necessary to recall Mr. Wood to England to take charge of Gillwell Park. In his absence the Canadian camps of that summer were conducted by graduates of the first year's courses; and according to all reports they were equally successful. In attendance they surpassed the first year's camps.

(Continued on page 29)



Keep the OUT in Scouting
A Happy New Year of many happiness-creating Good Turns

Part III (b), the winter class course based on the Second Class Scout tests, is now ready.

Toronto Scouts again distinguished themselves at the big winter fair by their usefulness and courtesy. Boys required for duty during school hours were released from school for the purpose, the experience being regarded as educational.

Mayor Sulman of Chatham, Ont., 28, and said to be the youngest mayor in Canada, is a King's Scout. It is told of him that he used to roam up and down the streets of Chatham with a first aid kit in his pocket, looking for a "job."

A dinner-conference of T.L.s., P.L.s. and Seconds of the London, Ont., District was held Saturday, Nov. 15th, and attended by 40 boys. Scoutmasters were invited, but requested to "be seen and not heard." Following the dinner, chairs were moved back into a circle, for the discussions. Many practical ideas were brought out.

The Fifth Annual Northwest Pacific Coast Patrol Leaders' Convention, held at the University of Washington, Seattle, Nov. 28-30, was the fine success anticipated. The attendance of more than 500 boys included some fifty from British Columbia. All arrangements were handled by the boys themselves. Visiting Scouts were guests in Seattle homes.

When it was learned by our Scout friends at American Headquarters that Rodney Wood was returning to Africa, arrangements were made with him to travel through the U.S., and to conduct a number of training camps enroute. The circuit will conclude with a full training course in Hawaii, from whence he will sail for the Seychelles, and Africa.

Writing before Xmas, the Scout Toy Repair Shop promises to be one of our big Good Turns this season. Newspapers tell of shops operating in Halifax, Calgary, and Chatham, Ont., in addition to a large one in Ottawa. In each case a down town store has been secured, and the boys are receiving the heartiest cooperation from the public. In Halifax "Christmas Inc.," as the shop has been named, is receiving the active support of the Rotary, Gyro and Progressive clubs. Ye Editor is counting on a good report from each Scoutmaster or District operating a shop, so that the ideas and experiences may be exchanged through the *Leader* for next year's Santa Claus operations.

Now available, the booklet "Rules for Rover Scouts," 5c per copy, Stores Department, Ottawa.

1ST GILLWELL FOR CUBMASTERS

(Continued from page 25)

It was noted that certain districts made their own rules regarding the lower age limit.

The Chief Commissioner felt that the need of the boy should determine the minimum age; that this might vary in different localities. Doubtless it would be desirable to reach certain boys in certain neighborhoods as early as possible, in order to "get them off the street."

In illustration of this variation of problems, Cubmaster Provost, of an Italian Pack, explained that he began his meetings at 8 o'clock, in order to hold his Cubs until an hour at which they would go home, instead of remaining on the street. Some Italian parents allowed their children on the streets at a very early age.

Size of Pack

While packs numbering up to 60 apparently were being run successfully, they were exceptional—with exceptional Cubmasters and an ample staff of capable assistants. The Toronto packs averaged around 40. Commissioner Thompson was strongly in favor of the 24-Cub pack, with one Cubmaster and two A. C. Ms. The opinion was unanimous that there should be an Assistant Cubmaster to each 12 Cubs.

Rovers and Rangers as A. C. Ms.

"O. K. if they have been Cubs or Brownies. Otherwise they may have too much of the Scouting or Guiding viewpoint," was one opinion. The general feeling was that an experienced Patrol Leader under Rover age was preferable.

Lady Cubmasters

Experience in England as reported by Rodney Wood was that the average Lady Cubmaster was more successful than the average male Cubmaster. She was naturally more patient and understanding with the small boy, and could give the "mother touch" which was still needed by the younger Cub.

This agreed with the experience in Canada. Mr. Thompson's comment was that there were forty-nine Lady Cubmasters in Winnipeg.

The Six System

Mr. Thompson expressed himself as not in favor of the Six System for the first year of an entirely new pack. In his experience, Sixers were not successful under 11 years. A boy of 8 would accept the leadership of a boy of 11, but not of a younger boy.

The Jungle Dances

The use of the Jungle dances was unanimously approved, with the exception of the Brownies' dance. Commissioner Thompson confessed that he had at first not favored the dances, but now was a strong believer in their use. They were valuable in developing and maintaining pack discipline, and as well, where properly led, were greatly enjoyed by the boys.

Games

It was again emphasized that to the Cub age boy, "the game's the thing," and anything else an interruption. The entire pack meeting should be made up of play, or work through play.

Games should be used which permitted every boy to participate.

While team games are desirable, for inculcating good sportsmanship and (to the Cub) the new idea of teamwork, such games should not be overdone, for fear of certain boys overtaxing themselves. For this latter reason the Cub tug-of-war was discontinued a year ago in Winnipeg. The full sized medicine-ball also was ruled out as dangerous, both for the thrower and the boy hit; and for the playing of Dodge Ball it was suggested that the rule should stipulate hitting only on the legs.

A good game should not be done to death by playing every night, until the interest of the boys is exhausted.

The Cubmaster should be definitely prepared for the evening's games; their selection should never be left to a last-minute argument among the boys themselves. Where a Sixer's Council is used, one of its functions should be the planning of the games program for the succeeding meeting.

Games without equipment should be given particular attention, especially where the pack uses a school gymnasium or basement, and has no suitable



A Gillwell Journey problem—Ont.-Que. Crows and Robins improvising a raft to cross the Rideau River.

place in which to store away pack gear.

Finally, to successfully put on Cub games the Cubmaster must get right down to the small boy's viewpoint. To the boy the "imaginary animal" is for the moment real; he is into the game heart and soul, and with all his weight and strength.

Chief Commissioner on Games

At the banquet the Chief Commissioner had this to say on the subject: "The boy of Cub age has little idea of 'playing the game'; he is an individualist. Each game should leave him with a little better grip on himself; should leave him a little less the boy and a little more the man.

"Small boys delight in old games. So let us give preference to old games, so long as these have the right qualities. Probably twelve or fifteen popular and well chosen games will suffice. And not too much originality in games; preferably not more than four or five new games a month. I think the same rule applies to Scouting."

Six Competition

It was noted that this was not mentioned in the Gillwell Park course, although being used successfully in

Canada, in a simple form. It was agreed that competition points should be given only for "things under personal control," as cleanliness, deportment, and punctuality; and that a competition should not run for a longer period than a month. Mr. Jockel of Montreal placed the limit at 3 weeks; Mr. O'Callaghan of Toronto used only the one-night's competition.

A new idea in competition awards, contributed by Cubmaster Fogle of Ottawa, was the tying of the winning Six's pennant to the pack Totem Pole.

Uniform

The importance of a pack being properly uniformed was stressed. The story was related of a New Brunswick Cubmaster who had opposed adoption of the uniform until practically driven to it by his boys. He was then quoted as saying that he "got the surprise of his life. The boys were 100% better Cubs."

Books

The books on Cubbing by Vera Barclay were unanimously approved as excellent, and sound. It was recommended that these, the Wolf Cub Handbook and Kipling's Jungle Book be read and reread by all Cub leaders.

Miscellaneous

A general uniformity in Cub training is desirable; not necessarily in minor detail.

The right start for a pack: First the man, then the hall, then the boys. The order usually is reversed.

The opinion was expressed that the Canadian boy of Cub age is more self-dependent than the English boy, but possibly not so far developed mentally.

As to the Cubmaster-Scoutmaster, the opinion was that real adaptability to both Scouting and Cubbing in one leader was a rarity.

Two of the leaders most experienced in both Scouting and Cubbing declared there was much more real pleasure in handling boys of Cub age.

The Mouse Howl—the Grand Howl whispered—which was originated by Commissioner Thompson, was used frequently during the course, in demonstration of its effectiveness in securing attention before a change of program. It was also used, standing, at the conclusion of the banquet, prior to "the King."

Commissioner Jockel of Montreal was telegraphed home to meet a new Brownie. His good wife sent him back by the next train, so that he might miss nothing of the course—providing a nice little illustration of that "missionary spirit" in Scouting of which we spoke in the December Leader. Mr. Jockel was warmly congratulated both on the daughter and the wife.

A clever contribution to the banquet fun was the "translation" by Provincial Secretary Paterson of Montreal of "an ancient Egyptian tablet discovered at the Victoria Museum," this describing in ancient phraseology the gathering of "certain Old Wolves in the land of Canada," and the resulting haps and mishaps.

The '24 Winnipeg Display

THE district Scout and Cub display held in Winnipeg on the evening of October 22nd last was a notable success from every angle—variety, originality and excellence of presentation of its various features, the smoothness with which the program was run off, the impression made upon the large crowd present, and financially. An outline of the program will offer many excellent suggestions for troop or district displays elsewhere.

1. Opening

The 1500 Wolf Cubs first appeared, running in behind their Cubmasters, and forming a ring four deep around the rink. The Scouts followed, at a smart walk, forming a circle inside the Cubs. The flag, hanging just over the main box (occupied by Premier Bracken, Scout Commissioner Long, the Commissioner of Guides, Mrs. Dennistoun, and other prominent officials), was broken out, with everyone at the salute. The Cubs and Scouts then knelt on the right knee to sing the first four bars of the National Anthem, softly, then sprang to their feet and sang the remainder in full voice. This new way of singing the anthem was most impressive, and provided a striking opening. The Scouts then filed out and the various troops began preparation for their part in the program.

2. Cub Grand Howl

Taking their time from Commissioner Frank Thompson—as Akela, on the Rock in the centre of the great circle—the 1500 Cubs gave the Grand Howl, nearly “raising the roof.”

The three rings were then occupied by Scout troops, as follows:

3. Ring A Uses of the Scout staff, demonstrated by the 43rd Troop, as per Scout Chart 23. Unison demonstration of quarter-staff play by 50th Troop. Indian wrestling and Kangaroo game.

3. Ring B Trek cart demonstration by “B” Rovers. Took their cart to pieces, climbed a fence, reassembled the cart; dismembered it to get through a narrow opening, and again assembled. The whole accomplished in 2½ minutes. This demonstration followed by a Monkey race and Hop-ping race.

3. Ring C Eight Scouts demonstrated uses of the lariat; including spinning.

4. Ring A Log Cutting by the 17th Troop. Underground race and Dressing race by Wolf Cubs.

4. Ring B Friction fire demonstration by eight Scouts. Maze tag and Relay race simultaneously.

4. Ring C “A” Rovers constructed Monkey-bridge across the centre of the rink about 15 ft. in the air.

5. Ring A Second trek cart demonstration by “B” Rovers. Game of Guard the Staves by 21st Troop and Daylight Stalking by 45th Troop. The latter brought in with them imitation rocks, bushes, etc.



Composition and history of the Union Jack as presented at the big Winnipeg Display.



5. Ring B Life-saving drill and First Aid by 9th Troop. The troop then were presented with Royal Life Saving Society medals which they had recently won. Mop fight and Horse-back wrestling on the side.

5. Ring C Monkey-bridge finished and Scouts cross over.

6. All Rings Miscellaneous demonstration of signalling.

7. All Rings Miscellaneous clown circus stunts, including “trained elephants,” Spark Plug, an imaginary baseball game, etc. Following this number the Wolf Cubs formed three large rings and gave their Jungle Dances; concluded with the Grand Howl, sang O Canada, and were dismissed (shortly after 9 o'clock).

8. A and B Rings Pyramid work by 9th and 52nd Troop.

9. A B and C Trestle bridge construction.

10. Ring B A series of tableaux portraying the origin of the Union Jack. A herald first appeared, and blew a trumpet blast, then came three boys in legendary costume, bearing respectively the cross of St. George, St. Andrew, and St. Patrick, followed by the three patron saints, then three knights in armor. In the centre of the ring were three Scouts holding a board background, and on this the bearers placed their crosses, and thus constructed the flag. It was one of the features of the display.

11. A and B Tumbling, balancing and other acrobatic stunts by the 9th and 52nd Troops. This was exceptionally good; in fact not often bettered on the stage. Particular mention should be made of the 52nd, a troop of Polish boys.

12. Ring C A pageant of 70 boys representing the coming of the white men to Canada and the making of a treaty with the Indians. Costumes were excellent, and included 20 genuine Indian costumes loaned by the Hudson's Bay Co., provided a fine climax to the program.

Closing

The Scout troops were rallied, the flag lowered, a minute's “Scout silence” was observed, then God Save the King—as at the opening, the first four bars sung softly, kneeling, the final bars in full voice, standing.

The incidental music of the evening was provided by the excellent 40-piece band of the Jewish Orphanage.

Why Not a Study Circle?

ONE of the effective and enjoyable features of the winter class and summer camp courses is the social troop or pack atmosphere that develops from the get-together in study and play.

For Scoutmasters and Cubmasters out of reach of such advantages the Study Circle is recommended.

Membership

The Circle may consist of the Scoutmaster or Cubmaster and Assistants, members of the Pack or Troop Committee, and other local citizens interested. In the case of an Akela Circle, wives of committeemen and mothers of Cubs also may be included to advantage. Mothers of small boys especially will find much of interest in the Cub course studies.

Procedure

The Circle leader writes Dominion Headquarters for two sets of instructions and studies for the Scoutmaster's or Akela Course, Part I, as the case may be. On receipt, Study I is cut into slips and the numbered questions distributed among suitable members of the Circle. Each person with a slip prepares a brief talk on the subject indicated, and leads the discussion at the next meeting of the Circle.

Organization

If large enough the Circle may be organized as a troop or pack. Sixes or patrols for this purpose may consist of as few as three persons each. This will greatly help to an understanding of the Patrol or Six System, will make the playing of demonstration games doubly effective, and add that touch of fun and competition that will give the atmosphere desired.

❖ The Scoutmaster's Five Minutes ❖

*Along thy glades, a solitary guest,
The hollow-sounding bittern guards
its nest.*

—Goldsmith, in "The Deserted Village."

The Mystery of the Swamp

A SWAMP is a place of many mysteries. For all its unseen voices it may well be called the "Haunted House of Nature." One of these hidden voices had haunted me persistently for years. I called it the "swamp pump," for a better counterpart of an old water-pump in action could scarcely be imagined.

For four summers I had heard it almost daily, and I must have followed it half as often, yet the hope of discovering its mystic creator became each time only more remote. Often I would hear the strange monologue coming, it seemed, from but a short distance before me, and at this range sounding like hugh bubbles rising to the surface of a pond and breaking there. Yet, on going to the suspected spot, I would find only the omnipresent sphagnum in place of the imagined pool. So it was that even after four long seasons of close intimacy with the swamp and its wild folk, the "swamp pump's" secret was still his own. Then I abandoned my last hope of unfolding the mystery.

In the early evening of May 23rd, I was in the swamp watching my feathered friends, the Warblers, return from the South. Two or three "swamp pumps" were at work near by, as usual. I had been standing immovable for about ten minutes, hoping that a hidden Warbler would soon display himself from a more conspicuous stage, when I caught sight of a white object perhaps 60 feet away, and greatly in contrast with the dark-clothed clump of alders and laurel through which it could be seen. Soon it was lost to sight again; but then there came from behind the shrubbery, as if to bewilder me the more, a thunderous sound—gung-ge-gung, gung-ge-gum gung-ge-gum. It was the "swamp pump"!

Breathlessly I began to edge my way sidewise to a place where the clump of shrubbery would no longer obstruct my view. It seemed to me that I could not possibly reach this point of vantage before dusk, but with this long-sought opportunity in sight, I was willing to move by inches rather than risk revealing my presence. However this process ended much sooner than I had imagined, and when finally I had a clear view I soon made out the camouflaged form of a Bittern (a familiar acquaintance, though seldom seen except when startled into flight). But my white quarry was nowhere to be seen. I thought of going further, when the Bittern—standing like a stick, with his back toward me—turned slowly half around in my direction. Then, a moment later, he quickly opened and shut his long bill several times, producing as he did so a sharp sound, click, click, click. Now, with a

striking performance there followed the notes, gung-ge-gung, gung-ge-gum, gung-ge-gum. The "swamp pump" was only the Bittern!

After giving the three introductory clicks, during which his breast became greatly inflated, the bird jerked his head suddenly downward, until he appeared to have no neck at all, and uttered the first syllable of the triplet. Then, throwing his head as suddenly upward again, the second note was produced, and followed immediately by the last as the head was darted frantically forward. The second syllable was a note or two higher than the others, and strongly accented, and all of them were accompanied by a peculiar undertone, like a choking person gasping for breath. The bird duplicated his strange act several times, the triplets being uttered three

A Good Program

- 7.30 Patrol Corners; roll call, dues.
- 7.35 Flag Break. Scout Silence. General Inspection. Special Inspection (right shoe, left ear).
- 7.45 Tag ball. (Freeze)
- 7.55 Corners, as arranged. (Freeze)
- 8.10 Law baseball, Bulldogs vs. Wolves.
- 8.20 Push and Pull, Owls vs. Foxes.
- 8.25 Tracking problem in sand box, written answer by P.Ls.
- 8.30 First Aid demonstration and quizz, broken ankle, S.M. Same, competition patrols. (Freeze)
- 3.50 Council Fire. Song as suggested, Talk Sixth Law. Song. Few words Good Turns. O Canada. King. Flag. Dismiss. Court of Honour.

or four times at each repetition, and the distension of the breast disappearing at the end of the last. The entire exhibition was not only ludicrous, but so spasmodic and convulsive as to appear entirely involuntary on the part of the actor, but rather in the nature of some torturing affliction.

Finally, the bird's performance was concluded, and he proceeded to move slowly away, but then came to a sudden halt again. What followed I hardly dared to believe. Suddenly, miraculously, there arose from beneath the feathers on each shoulder a white plume, which spread itself over the wings as immaculate as newly-fallen snow. In all his little-known grandeur the Bittern paraded to and fro. At last, his vanity being satisfied, his resplendent plumes were sheathed again in their somber disguise. Then he arose, clumsily, and, with a hoarse squawk, flapped heavily away.

The picturesque and graceful had once more become dull and awkward.

Nevertheless, the mystery of the swamp was solved; the Bittern, unknowingly, had disclosed his long-guarded secret, and another—little suspected—as well. So it was that May 23rd, though still "Warbler Day," became what was of greater consequence—the "Day of the Swamp Pump."

NOTE:—The above Prize Essay, by Frederick Hermann, of Calumet High School, which won a \$50 prize offered by the Northern Michigan Sportsmen Association, was published in the magazine of the Audubon Societies, *Bird Lore*. This is a magazine which we heartily recommend to Scoutmasters for its unusually interesting articles and remarkable photo-illustrations of bird life. It is published by the well known firm of D. Appleton & Co., at Harrisburg, Pa., at \$1.50 per year, with special Christmas club rates of 3 subscriptions at \$3.75 and 5 at \$6.00, to individual addresses.—Ed.)

The Eclipse of Jan. 24th

THE eclipse of the Sun, which will occur on the morning of Saturday, January 24th, will be visible in Canada from a point east of Winnipeg. It will be total in southwestern Ontario, including Hamilton and Toronto, nearly so as seen from Ottawa and Montreal, and within 92 per cent. at Halifax. In Ontario and Quebec it will occur about 9 A.M. and in the Maritime Provinces about 10 o'clock.

The eclipse will not be seen at Winnipeg and west since it occurs before daylight.

Preparations have been made by scientists to make various observations during the progress of the eclipse, including further tests of the Einstein theory and spectroscopic observations of the solar corona. It has been suggested that radio experiments also be carried out, to determine the effect, if any, upon radio transmission and reception.

The central line of the eclipse will pass over the Atlantic at a point near New York City, and across the ocean north of the British Isles.

During the progress of the eclipse it is likely that temperatures will fall slightly, due to the cutting off of the sun's rays. Probably poultry and other early risers, such as Scouts, will think they have made a mistake, and return to their roosts for an additional nap. Scouts planning an early morning start on the Saturday hike should be cautioned against this error.

Scout leaders interested in Scouting in a broad way will find new and helpful matter on boy problems in "The Child, His Nature and Needs," a recent 500-page, well-indexed publication of The Childrens Foundation, of which Lorne W. Barclay, formerly of London, Ont., and late Director of Education of the Boy Scouts of America, is vice president. Contributors include leading American educationalists. Price, \$1.50; address Childrens Foundation, Valparaiso, Ind.

Help !

WE ARE gathering material, suggestions and photographs for an article on "The Scout Troop At the Local Fair," to be published in an early number—in order that early plans may be made for Scout service or other participation at fairs throughout Canada next fall.

An excellent account, accompanied by good activity photographs, has been received of a very effective Scout display put on at the North Muskoka county fair by the 1st Huntsville Troop.

Sit down and write us what your troop did at your fair this year. Even if the contribution was small your account of it may contain some excellent suggestions. Add any ideas for Scout service that may occur to you, or suggest items for a Scout display or a Scout Fair Field Day.

A well planned Scout display would be welcomed as a program feature by practically any county or township fair, and many other larger fairs.

The Winter Courses

THAT last year's Winter Courses for Scout leaders were a success in their practical results seems indicated by the interest shown in the courses planned for the present season. The probabilities are that in number and enrolment these will double the classes of '23-'24.

Highly successful part III (a) courses already have been completed at Yarmouth, N. S.; Acadia University, Windsor, N. S.; New Toronto and Windsor, Ont. The Yarmouth course was given by Assistant Provincial Commissioner Eaman. Its enrolment of 25 included four clergymen and two school teachers. The New Toronto course was under Scoutmaster Phillips, of the 1st Oakville Troop, assisted by Messrs. Irwin, Jones and Nunn of the provincial staff, the course troop numbering 16.

Brother Silvín, Director of Boy Guidance of the London Diocese, and a Gillwellian, headed the Windsor, Ont., course. A considerable proportion of the troop of 27 were Catholic brothers and clergymen.

In addition to the above, two special courses were held in Montreal by Provincial Secretary E. Russell Paterson.

Part III (a) courses now under way or shortly to be opened include groups at Halifax, Truro (Normal College), St. John, Toronto, Oakville, Hamilton, Peterboro, Winnipeg, Lethbridge and Cardston. University courses to open after New Years include those at U. of A., Edmonton; Huron College, Western University, London, Ont.; Toronto University, and Pine Hill and King's, of Dalhousie, Halifax. A course also is being talked of for Mount Allison, Sackville, N.B.

So much interest in the Gillwell courses has been aroused among Nova Scotia college men that a special college summer course, to be held immediately after college closing, is being talked of.

Here

I

am

Again



I just wanted to tell you some more reasons why I am anxious to get acquainted with your boys.

I want to HELP MAKE THEIR GOOD TURN A DAILY HABIT, like breakfast. I do this by encouraging them each night to jot down in me the letters GT, checked off.

I want to INTEREST THEM IN THEIR PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, by using my Quarterly Development Record.

I want to ENCOURAGE BUSINESSLIKE HABITS by the use of my Cash Acc. and Troop Fee Record.

I want to teach them to KNOW OUR CANADIAN TREES AND WILDFLOWERS AT SIGHT, by the habitual use of my 5 pages of tree leaves and 63 pictures of wildflowers.

I want them from time to time to look over my illustrated hints on WATER RESCUE AND RESUSCITATION, so they may BE PREPARED for such an emergency.

And to those who own, or sometimes HAVE FIREARMS IN THEIR HANDS—which means practically all boys—I want to say BE CAREFUL every time they open me.

It is these, and a dozen other such aids to every day GOOD SCOUTING that have made me more popular every year as an

ALL-THE-YEAR GIFT BOOK

Single copy	-----	\$.25
12 copies	-----	2.76
24 "	-----	5.28
36 "	-----	7.56
48 "	-----	9.60

THE STORES DEPARTMENT

The Boy Scouts Association

DOMINION HEADQUARTERS

203-205 WELLINGTON STREET

OTTAWA,

::

CANADA.

Pinched !

THE JUDGE was stern. "What is the prisoner charged with?"

"Your honor, he doesn't get the idea. He has been commissioned to be a Scoutmaster, but he's gone dead wrong."

"In what way?"

"Your honor, he doesn't seem to get the idea at all. He has no active troop committee; he doesn't call them in to help him in any way with the troop. He doesn't even try to keep his troop closely tied up with the parent institution. He's in such a rut that he doesn't even attend the Scoutmaster's conference meetings. He sort of entertains the boys at troop meetings, but they aren't getting any real Scouting. He hasn't even tried to give the patrol system a fair chance after all that has been suggested along that line. And we know that he could get out on a hike with the boys once in a while if he'd only tried. I think he ought to be vaccinated with a new Spirit of Scouting."

"Prisoner, guilty, or not guilty?"

"Guilty, your honor."

"Are you prepared to hear sentence?"

"Give me one more chance, Judge! I'll do better! I'll use my committee more, I'll give the patrol system a real try, and I'll take the boys on a hike at least twice a month."

"Released on parole. Report to me monthly. Next case!"

—Scout Summons,

Waterloo, Iowa.

But They Carried On

QUITE recently an Ontario Scoutmaster learned that a troop of which he last winter had acted as advisory S.M. was again without a leader. He visited them and found the P.L. and Second of the Bulldogs, aged 15 and 16, living up to their name and carrying on. Not only that. They were also running the associated Cub pack of more than 30 small boys.

For the Scout meeting some 25 boys appeared, and a group of onlooking candidates. The meeting was opened in due form by the breaking of the flag, troop in horseshoe, etc.

The P.L. showed a time-scheduled program of games and work in Patrol Corners which he and his Second had planned out for the meeting. He mentioned that the two of them had spent all of the previous evening at his home in drawing up a special progress wall chart, to show the fellows just where they were in their test and badge work.

Since last winter each of the two boys had grown several inches; they were dressed to a neatness beyond criticism; they went about their work with a confidence and sureness that not a few Scoutmasters lack.

It was worth while going back to see it, and more than repaid the inconveniences of some of last winter's visits.

The Patrol System did it—that and the discipline secured by "freezing," hand signals and the weekly patrol competition, plus the pre-arranged meeting program.

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

THE DUFFEL BAG

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

Scout Remembrance

HALIFAX Scouts, who did so many splendid things during the tragic days following the Great Explosion, did not forget the recent anniversary of the catastrophe. Says a Halifax paper:—

Today, the seventh anniversary of the Great Explosion, the Boy Scouts of the North End visited Fairview and Mount Olivet cemeteries and placed wreaths on the graves of all the unidentified dead. It was regrettable that the weather was so unpropitious, but the boys showed the true Scout spirit, and marshalled in gratifying numbers. All the graves were visited and sorrowing scenes were recalled, of the long funerals of the explosion time, including those of little children.

Using the New Tracking Book

HERE are a few suggestions for the use of ANIMAL TRACKING FOR BOY SCOUTS, whose publication (75c, Stores Department) was announced in the December Leader:

Procure two books, cut out the life-size tracks, mount on cards, and pass around the troop during a talk on certain animals, their habits and tracks. (Matter for such talks may be secured from books to be found in most public libraries; or see Stores Dep't Price List.) Later use the cards for identification quizzes or games.

As a means of fixing details in the boys' minds, cards may be stuck up in patrol corners, and the boys directed to copy them. This may be made a patrol drawing competition, with particular attention to the reproduction of the chief characteristics of a track.

Next, inter-patrol track identification games may be played, the cards being placed on the floor, and the boys allowed so many seconds for observation. Tracking problems may then be given, overlapping tracks indicating the pursued and pursuer, etc.

When the boys have learned to readily recognize complete tracks, give them fragmentary identification; that is, track outlines only, and fragments such as toe marks. This will provide the final step prior to actual tracking in the snow and on the ground.

The cards may be taken on hikes, for checking up on observations.

The Q. M. Apologizes

THE Scout and Cub Christmas cards and the Scout Calendar advertised in the December Leader were an experiment, not having been sold previously by the Stores Department. The demand greatly exceeded the several thousand stocked, and it was unfortunately impossible to fill a considerable number of orders. This the Q.M. greatly regrets. With this year's experience as a guide, he promises that all orders of next year will be taken care of.

A New Year's Message

Dear Brother Scout,—

Youth has those fine qualities that belong to unsullied life and those handicaps that accompany inexperience. It is your privilege and mine to do what we can through Scouting to nurture the former and to replace the handicaps by advantages.

For us the supreme test of progress in Scouting is in the improved quality of the Scouts and the appropriateness of the opportunities we provide for their wholesome development—health, honour, good will, intelligence, ability, service—all yielding abundant harvests of happiness. No one of us is wholly sufficient for these things; but in individual life, in Troop life and in national life they are greatly to be desired and prized.

Please set apart five minutes a day to think about what more you can do and be to help Canada to become great, beautiful and glorious and yourself worthy of our cause and our country. Work, play and pray for that.

I wish you a Happy New Year.

Faithfully yours,

JAS. W. ROBERTSON,

Chief Commissioner.

Ottawa, Christmas Day, 1924.

Ye Scout Almanack

January

1st—New Year's Day. Every Scout starts his 1925 Scout Diary with a Good Turn entry.

1st to 3rd—Some of the following:—

A ski hike.
A skating hike.
A snowshoe hike.
A bird observation hike.
An animal tracking hike.
A Tree identification hike.
A summer-camp-locating hike.
An over-night hike or winter camp for older Scouts (See Winter Hikes, Leader, Jan., '24.)

Hockey matches.
Toboggan parties.
Sleighb parties.

5th—Schools reopen.

24th—Total eclipse of Sun, observable east of Winnipeg. Give a talk on the subject at previous meeting.

During the month—Plans completed for a Father and Son Banquet or other observance of B.-P.'s birthday, Feb. 22nd.

Now available, the booklet "Rules for Rover Scouts," 5c per copy, Stores Department, Ottawa.

Another Scout Service

AT 5 P.M. of a recent Monday the Toronto district Scout office was appealed to to help locate a boy who had been absent from home for several days. That evening a message to Scouts, with a description of the missing boy, was broadcast from Stations CFCA and CHNC and Scout Gordon McClain's station. The boy was located the following morning in Nia Falls.

Xmas Trees After Xmas

HAVE your boys erect them in back yards and gardens as feeding places for birds. Bits of suet stuck in crotches or tied to branches will soon bring a family of appreciative little visitors.

A Winter Bird Hike

HOW about a bird observation hike during the Christmas school holidays? Last year an Ontario Christmas bird hike by eight parties, on snowshoes and skis, resulted in the reporting of 450 birds of 18 varieties. Go in small groups, and rendezvous for a hot lunch around a fire out in some cozy nook among the pines or spruce.

A Real Log Book

ONE of our P.L.s is Keeper of the Log. It is a big book, 20 by 30 inches; and in it each week is pasted our column of Scout news clipped from the Reporter, and illustrated with snapshots we get from the fellows. We have a complete record since January, 1922.

—D. L. Young,

S.M. 1st Kincardine, Ont.

Scouts and Athletics

THE above subject was one of those discussed at the recent international Patrol Leaders' Convention at Seattle. The opinion of the convention was that "major athletic activities and competitions, such as baseball, football, basketball, etc., should not be a part of regular troop activities. Scouting supplements, and should not include these sports."

Rags

THOSE live Chatham, Ont., Scouts have produced another idea. The 3rd Troop collected rags, washed them, and sold them to factories wiping machinery, rubbing furnaces, etc., at 13c per pound. A thousand pounds at 13c would be \$130.00, the cost of soap. Perhaps the Third didn't collect that much; but anyway it looks like a real idea. Rags not suitable for factory use should sell readily to paper collecting firms or shoddy mills.

A Swedish Scout, Thor Forslind, Tagagatan 9, Halsingborg, Sweden, architectural draughtsman interested in sports and Scout photos, (not stamps), would like to correspond with one or two Canadian Scouts. This may interest Rovers.