

The Scout

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for Boy Scout & Wolf Cub



Leader

Leaders of the Boy Scouts
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"WHO hath smelt woodsmoke by twilight?"—And where is it more fragrant than at Gillwell? Come this year!

For the 1926 Field Days

AS usual, various troops will be planning field days for Empire Day, Dominion Day or King George's birthday. Scoutmasters and Courts of Honour working on programmes for such occasions may find helpful suggestions in the following articles to be found in back numbers of the *Scout Leader*: "The Scout Field Day" (Signalling, Signal Tower, Staff Throw, Equipment Race, Fire Building and Water Boiling, Treasure Hunt, First Aid Race, Fire by Friction, Rescue Race, Knot Tying), May, 1924. "Field Days," "A Comprehensive Troop Display," "Local Displays and Jamborees," May, 1925.

A very successful and scouty inter-patrol field day held in November last by the 1st and 2nd Kingsville, Ont., troops for the Bishop Shield was made up of these items:

- 1.—Burning the cross-bar.
- 2.—Blindfold knot tying.
- 3.—Scout's pace.
- 4.—Undress and dress (or Equipment) race.
- 5.—First aid.
- 6.—Signalling.
- 7.—Throwing a life line or lasoo.
- 8.—Tent pitching.
- 9.—Scout spirit shown.

The judges of the contest, Assistant District Commissioner Nichols and Scoutmaster Lemmon of Windsor, made the following report:

It was a revelation that boys organized less than a year could produce such results. The fire lighting test was the burning of a cross-bar 18 inches from the ground, the fuel being two pieces of 2"x4", 18" long, with two matches. The Otters burned their bar through in 12 minutes.

In the blindfold knotting no mistakes were made, and points were awarded for speed.

The Scout's pace test was the least successful event, as none of the boys finished closer than 14 minutes.

The Dress and Undress test (equipment race) was interesting and amusing. Five points were taken off for each mistake.

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A Message from B.P.

Dolton, Devon,
25 March, 1926.

My dear Brother Scouts of Canada:

I have not forgotten—how can I ever forget the good time you gave me when I was last in Canada!

Although I shall be on your side of the Atlantic when you get this I'm afraid it will be impossible for me to get to Canada, but Pickie—(well, he is known to the outside world as Sir Alfred Pickford, but in the Scout brotherhood we only know him as "Pickie")—Pickie is going to you in my behalf, and if you treat him only half as well as you treated me he will have a good time.

He is not a bad sort (N.B. I have to say that of him because he is a good deal bigger than me), but you will doubtless find out for yourselves what to think of him.

Anyway, he manages our Overseas Branch at Imperial Headquarters, and has himself visited the Scouts in India, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Also he has had the management of our Training Department at Gillwell Park. So he is better qualified than anyone else in the Movement to tell you how things are going on in our brotherhood in the different parts of the Empire: he can tell you how everywhere there is more and more of the true Scout spirit—the spirit of goodwill and helpfulness, more of campcraft and nature lore, and

less of the formal parade show which so many used to think was the object of Scouting.

He can tell you of the big development which has lately gone on in the Rover branch and what a fine body of young men it now comprises; how they now render Service to the community in many different lines; and how they are forming a valuable nucleus for the supply of Scoutmasters in the near future.

Also he can tell you, Scoutmasters and Commissioners, at first hand, how keenly the Scouters over here have taken to going to school in their old age and are learning how much there is still to be picked up about Scouting, even for many who have been Scouters for years.

I can assure you, one and all, that I shall be most interested and anxious to hear Pickie's report of you on his return, and to learn how Scouting is going on in Canada. I know I shall be wanting badly to come back there—and, especially, to visit Newfoundland, where I have never yet been.

This year, however, I have to go to South Africa (After I have visited America and Hungary and have attended the International Scout Conference in Switzerland): so haven't much time. Meantime I hope Pickie will give you all my warmest greeting and best of wishes for "Good Camping" all your days.

Yours very sincerely,
ROBERT BADEN-POWELL.



Morning inspection at Ebor Park, Ontario's beautifully situated permanent Gillwell camp site.

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.

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OTTAWA, MAY, 1926

CANADIAN Scout Leaders will join in extending the sympathy of the Boy Scouts Association of Canada to the Boy Scouts of America in the recent loss by death of their President, Mr. James J. Storrow.

N.S. Department of Education Pays Winter Course Expenses

THE Nova Scotia Provincial Normal School Part III-A Winter Training course was notable in several respects. The course was given at the request of the principal of the school, and the expenses were borne by the Provincial Department of Education.

At the conclusion of the course the principal of the school was quoted as expressing his intention of making every effort to put on annually a course in Scouting, Cubbing, Girl Guiding and Brownie leadership; that he believes these subjects as important as any others taught in the school.

It is interesting to note that when the winter training course in Scouting was first suggested two years ago there was some difficulty in persuading the Normal School authorities of its value.

The 1926 course was put on by Provincial Secretary J. L. Kaulbach, and the sessions were held on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings for five consecutive weeks.

FAKE SCOUT GLOBE-TROTTERS

ADVICES from the Boy Scouts International Bureau at London state that the following "globe-trotters," wearing imitation Scout uniforms, and posing as Scouts, are in fact not such, and should not be in any way assisted:

A Schmidt, aged 22, and K. Thorenfeldt, 23, Danish, traveling together. Hilmar Stubb, Danish. Esben Jacobsen, Danish, at one time a member of Det Danske Spejderkorps. Chr. Sandholt and Chr. Busslag, Danish; both were expelled from Det Danske Spejderkorps. R. Faber, A. J. Keikes and G. Londermann, Dutch, traveling together. W. R. Bak, B. Haagoort and W. J. van Willigenburg, Dutch, traveling together. Hersz Szwiner and Viladis Konik, Polish, traveling together. Stanislas Pokladal, Ant. Al. Krasula, Arnost Burkert, Josef Prochazka, Czechoslovaks, traveling together.

Registration and the Court of Honour

A CERTAIN Manitoba Troop whose boys were not over well situated financially, were offered their registration cards for 1926 gratis. The troop Court of Honour decided that they did not wish to take the cards without paying for them. "They have," wrote the Scoutmaster, "decided to start a saving scheme so that they will have the money available for 1927 cards." He added that he had been careful not to express his own views, leaving the decision entirely with the boys.

The Salute at an Investiture

THE correct salute for the troop during the taking of the Promise at an Investiture has been the subject of some difference of opinion. The procedure now used as standard, and which is described in the latest edition of P.O. and R. for Canada, calls for the full salute, with or without staves, by all taking part, with the exception of the Scoutmaster and the boy taking the Promise. These two alone make the half salute. It is the only occasion on which the half salute is now used. The direction given by the Scoutmaster, after the candidate has placed his left hand on the troop flag, would therefore be, "Troop, salute!"



THE Manitoba Gillwellians of 1925 played some of their games on the lake shore.

Have Your Committeemen Seen The Handbook?

WHILE on the train one of our Scoutmasters was reading the new edition of the Handbook for Canada. One of his committeemen, also on the train, asked to see the book, and retained it for some time. On returning it he said, "That is the most wonderful book I have seen for a long time. It would be a treasure for any man away at his summer cottage or on a trip to the north. Its binding is of the serviceable, hard-usage kind. Will you please get one for me. I think every one of my fellow committeemen should have one too."

—An Ontario District S.M.

Speaking before the Alberta Patrol Leaders Conference, Bishop Gray expressed the belief that the Boy Scout Movement would prove the solution to the problem of leadership for which all the world has been looking.

Mayor G. H. Webster of Calgary, addressing the annual B.-P. Banquet of the 10th Calgary Troop, declared that the Scout Good Turn alone justified the existence of the Boy Scout Movement, through the effect for good it would have upon the coming generation, and the world.



Preparatory to the big summer camp, the Border Cities P.L.'s are arranging a week-end training camp over Empire Day.

Although Easter week was extremely cold in many sections of Canada, there were numerous reports of special holiday hikes and short camps.

A Guest House and about four acres of wooded land was the splendid gift of Mr. W. J. Christie of Winnipeg to the 4th Winnipeg Rovers.

To the missionary troops may be added the 1st Kingston, Ont., which has organized the 1st Portsmouth, also a Lone Patrol in another neighboring community.

Sir Robert Baden-Powell is making a brief visit to the United States as a guest of the Boy Scouts of America. The time at his disposal will not permit a visit to Canada. He will attend the big May Day rally of Scouts at Washington in company with President Coolidge, who is Honorary President of the Boy Scouts of America.

On his last tour of Canada Lord Byng as usual is not overlooking the Scouts and Cubs. As a beginning, 63 Scouts and Cubs met Their Excellencies at North Bay on April 17th. The smallest Cub was called upon to present Her Excellency Lady Byng with a beautiful bouquet of roses.

Saint John, N.B., has suffered a loss in the resignation of Secretary "Len" L. Johnson, who abandons Scouting for business. During his secretaryship Scouting in the district reached a new high standard; and credit for this success was freely credited to Secretary Johnson's enthusiastic leadership and ability.

The big annual Halifax Spring Motor Show was again held this year under the auspices of the Boy Scouts Association. The opening of the exhibition was preceded by a parade which included a thousand Scouts, the Fire Department, five bands and the fife and drum corps of the Halifax Industrial School.

First aid teams from eight troops, including the 1st Glace Bay, competed at Sydney, N.S., in a first aid competition. The contest was put on in a hall which permitted all eight teams to work simultaneously, and the effect was impressive. Watches were presented to the 1st Sydney Troop (Christ Church) team as winners, and pocket compasses to the members of the 3rd Sydney Troop, who took second place.

What is declared to be the finest Scout building in Manitoba was opened with the holding of a 25-member Vestibule Course at Dauphin by Field Secretary Earle Davison. The building was formerly the local station, and was placed at the disposal of the Boy Scouts Association by the C. N. R. through the efforts of Division Superintendent J. P. Johnson.

The Quebec Conference

PROBABLY the inspiring address of the Chief Commissioner at the closing banquet, the ample and cordial personality and Scout wisdom discovered in the guest of honour, Sir Alfred Pickford, the efficiency with which the conference was organized, and the more than generous hospitality of the Montreal leaders were the outstanding memories carried away by the nearly 100 outside delegates who attended the first Quebec Provincial Scout Leaders' Conference held April 6-17 in Victoria Hall, Westmount.

The four sessions of the conference were presided over respectively by Provincial Commissioner Major J. A. Ewing, K.C.; District Commissioner W. G. E. Aird, of Three Rivers; District Commissioner W. E. Paton of Sherbrooke, and Mr. A. L. Caron, Assistant District Commissioner of Northern Montreal and Vice-President of the Provincial Council. The invocation opening the conference was delivered by the Rt. Rev. J. C. Farthing, Bishop of Montreal, and the official welcome was extended by Acting Mayor S. F. Rutherford of Westmount.

The Chief Commissioner, Dr. James W. Robertson, delivered the opening address. He brought a message of cordial greeting from the Chief Scout for Canada, Lord Byng, who he described as the keenest man on Scouting in the Dominion. "Scouting in Canada will live all the more vigorously for the help he has given it," he added, indirectly referring to the termination of Lord Byng's period of office as Governor General.

Touching on some of the practical details of Scouting, the Chief Commissioner emphasized the necessity of the Court of Honour being made a real Court of Honour. "If it does nothing more than educate its own members," he added, "it has achieved something of value."

He stressed the importance of the Troop Committee as a connecting link between the troop and the community, and spoke of the importance of the Investiture. "It should have dignity and dramatic qualities. The left-over of that five minutes may fix the attitude of the boy toward life."

On the subject of camping the Chief Commissioner spoke in particular of the value of simple, nourishing menus. Of every 12 boys in Canada, 2 are badly fed, he said. In some localities the proportion is 5 out of 12. This did not mean lack of food, but unwise feeding. "I have seen boys camping who made me feel sad. They were not getting the right food." Scout-

masters should make sure that the milk used came from a pure source. Where there was uncertainty, powdered milk should be used. This is safe and satisfactory.

The Overseas Commissioner

Pickie—6 foot 3½ inches, and constructed in proportion—quickly won the regard of the gathering as an all-round good Scout and a capable leader with sound ideas. The personal greeting which he brought from B.P. was warmly received.

Sir Alfred made his first formal address at the council fire following the first conference banquet. He spoke of the "splendid sound views expressed" in the papers and discussions of the day, and declared it was "tremendously comforting to find all branches receiving attention here."

Referring to the world aspect of Scouting, he mentioned that an International Gillwell will be held this summer in Switzerland. Two hundred German Scouts, he said, attended the International Scout Jamboree at Copenhagen, and later three of the German leaders came to Gillwell Park for training. On their departure one of them was quoted as declaring, "In that direction future peace must lie."

After speaking of the attention being given singing and folk dancing by Scouts in England Sir Alfred, as Commissioner for Migration, dwelt at some length upon the work and aims of this department of the Imperial Scout



stick one another on tracking problems. organization. Last year, he said, 600 Scouts went out to the colonies with the assistance and advice of the bureau. The department has been organized two and a half years, and so far not one failure has been reported.

He appealed for help in placing and looking after Scout migrants coming to Canada. The agencies required were, (1) an official to give advice and guarantee a job; (2) the human touch. "And what better could that be," he asked, "than the welcoming handshake of a Canadian Scout?"

A reference to an occasional inclination to find fault with "promotions" to commissionships was followed by a declaration that was greeted with warm approval. This was that "promotion from that high and splendid office of Scoutmaster or Cubmaster is impossible." Business men who can give time to Scouting as Commissioners, the speaker added, probably could not run a troop. In such a connection the word "promotion" should not be used.

At the provincial Annual Meeting Sir Alfred spoke briefly regarding Rovers. "I do not think any one has



Gillwell style: Out in the sun until 4 p.m., unless it rains

yet solved the problem of how to treat the young man," he said. "The boy of 17 is more convinced than at any other age that he is a man. You probably have done everything you can for him in the development of character. What he requires is training to maintain what you have given him. We must not wait for the Rover age before applying a fully balanced training."

"Rovers should not be a separate organization. We regard the complete troop as comprising Cubs, Scouts and Rovers. We do not wish Rovers to be merely hiking clubs. Still less, jazz clubs."

He noted that in England Toc H is contributing materially to the training of Rovers.

He congratulated the Provincial organization on the slow but steady increase of its numbers. The Movement was showing the same steady advance everywhere. "There is something in the Movement," he added, "which makes its quick expansion fatal."

The following is a necessarily brief summary of the important points developed in the series of papers, discussions and demonstrations which filled the busy two days of the conference:

The Patrol System.—By District Scoutmaster William Giovetti of Sherbrooke.

Mr. Giovetti spoke from the experience of one who had grown up in Scouting, and who had worked without and with the Patrol System. The Patrol System had been found most successful with his own troop, the 2nd Sherbrooke. As an illustration of its possibilities he mentioned the 4th Sherbrooke Troop, which since losing its Scoutmaster six months ago has carried on successfully under the Patrol Leaders and A.S.M. The Patrol System alone, he believed, had made this possible.

The 2nd Sherbrooke had adopted the Patrol System for camp two years ago. Previously the massed camp had been used. With the first year the patrol camp was a complete success. It developed a Scout spirit that had never before been apparent.

The Patrol System provides more opportunity for individual training—one of the important considerations. It develops a quality of leadership that is called for in every phase of life. If a boy becomes a leader in his troop, he becomes a leader in his community.

An illustration: "A little timid, white-faced fellow joined our troop some years ago. You would never have picked him as a born leader."

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N. S. 1925 Gillwell patrols trying to—

THE CAMP CHIEF'S PAGE

OUTDOORS IN MAY

If you know your common birds well perhaps you would like to start bird banding? For information write the Parks Branch, Department of Interior, Ottawa.

This is the month that brings scores of brightly colored birds back from the tropics. For example, the Warbler family. If you watch carefully every day will bring surprises.

Your boys may be interested in building a bird bath for their gardens. Or a water garden. This will serve as a bird bath, and as a vivarium where frogs, toads, fish and water plants may be studied.

Suggest preparations for bird photography by boys having suitable cameras.

This is the time when many of the wild animals have their young. When on the hike watch, and try to learn some of their family arrangements for feeding and protecting the new generation.

CAMP TALK

This is the month when camp talk and camp planning begin to take definite shape. Here are a few reminders:

Discuss and plan everything with your Court of Honour and your Troop Committee.

Make full use of your Troop Committee. Give each member something specific to look after,—as transportation; food supplies and their delivery at camp; tents; camp finances, etc. Phone them frequently to learn progress.

Take your P.L.'s out on camp problem hikes, if possible overnight. Practice plain camp cooking; choose camp and individual tent sites, location and kind of kitchen fire, location of grease pits, refuse pits, and other sanitary arrangements.

Refer to the cooking test card published in the February Leader, if you have not already made use of it.

Work some camp first aid games into your troop programmes, covering such accidents as cut fingers, cut foot, nail in foot, sprained ankle, heat prostration; also water rescue drill and Schafer resuscitation.

Finally, if you have not one already, get a copy of the latest (Third) edition of the Handbook for Canada, and study the up-to-date section on "Camps and Camping." It includes a list of supplies and menus, a new section on camp first aid, and hints for the making of tents.

TENTS FOR 1926

It is now possible to announce, on the authority of the Deputy Minister of the Department of National Defence, that the arrangement of 1925 for the renting by Scout troops of tents, shelters, blankets, etc., will be in effect for the summer of 1926, with the following modifications:

The rental for tents to be \$1.50.

The rental for Marquees to be \$7.00.

All other conditions of loan as to rates and time to be as in 1925, viz.:

2. For a period not exceeding 14 days:

Tents (including Bell: Kitchen Shelters: Small Wall Tents, etc.) \$1.50 each. Blankets, \$1.00 per doz. Sheets, ground W.P., \$1.00 per doz. Tents, marquee, \$7.00 each.

3. For a period exceeding 14 days and up to 28 days the rental charge will be twice that shown above, and for a period exceeding 28 days and up to 42 days the rental will be three times that shown above, etc., etc.

4. For all other articles, the regular rental rate of 5% per month, or part thereof, will be charged.

5. In addition to the rental charge, the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides organizations will be responsible for all transportation charges, and will also be responsible for the washing of blankets and any loss or abnormal depreciation.

6. District Officer Commanding will approve locally applications for loans from bona fide Boy Scouts or Girl Guides organizations. Each issue will be covered by a completed agreement on the regular rental agreement form, para. 1 (c) of which has been amended by substituting para. 2, 3 and 4 of this letter, prefaced by the words "Pay prior to issue a hiring charge."

7. The same procedure is laid down for all loans on a rental basis.

An important point to note in the above is that rental must be paid in advance.

For Scout Use Only

The equipment is to be used for Boy Scout and Girl Guide camps only. Scout leaders are trusted not to sign applications for equipment for other than Scout camps.

Apply Early

Applications for equipment should be in not less than a fortnight before the date required.

Rental period dates from day of receipt to day of return shipment.

HIKE HINTS

A BOTTLE or little bag of malted milk tablets will make an excellent hot drink at the end of a day's tramp. They are both food and drink, besides being light and concentrated. Build a small fire and heat a cup of water, dissolving the tablets in it. The drink may be further strengthened by adding half a cake of sweet chocolate. For emergency rations or night trips this is hard to beat.

Do not let blisters go unattended until they become inflamed and raw. Drain them. Sterilize a needle, thread it with sterile cotton string or soft thread, insert the needle at one edge of the blister, and draw it through and out of the other. Clip off the string so that the blister may drain for

several hours. Powdered boracic acid used generously inside shoes and socks will dry up blisters and toughen the feet, besides keeping them fresh and antiseptic.

—Scout Dispatch.

THE MAY STARS

It is two months since we last drew attention to "what to look for," and in that time a vast change has come over the night sky. Glorious Orion has almost set in the west, and will not be visible to us again until November. Possibly if you look out early, you might see Betelgeuse, the bright star of his right shoulder, but that will be all. The Big Dipper, which with the stars south and west forms the Great Bear, is in ideal position for observation this month, high in the northern skies. Extend the curve of the bear's tail to twice its length and you will come to Arcturus, which you will remember is the bright jewel in the belt of Bootes, the Shepherd. Again extend the curve to twice its length, and you will find Spica, the bright star of the constellation of Virgo, the Virgin. Spica is called the ear of corn in the left hand of the Virgin. Draw a line from Spica to Delta, the little star where the handle joins the Dipper. It will pass through a fairly bright star, which is Epsilon in Virgo, and forms the right hand of that constellation. Epsilon is also called the Herald of the Vintage. Spica is explained by some as representing "The Seed of the Woman," of Genesis III, 15, and who on Easter Day (when the constellation begins to be beautifully visible) completed the victory over the powers of evil. Arcturus, which is a great sight in May, June and July, is a giant sun, so great that 24 of our suns could be spread across its diameter. Slightly north of the Herald is a faint but lovely cluster of stars called Bernice's Hair. Hercules and the Dragon are now appearing in the northeast. These two constellations should be of special interest to Scouts, as they seem to stand for chivalry. Vega, with her shimmering pure light, seems to stand for all that is loveliest, and Hercules the Scout is doing his best to keep the monster from injuring her. The writer likes this group the best of all, for together they tell us what Scouting really is. We are not a military organization, but it is a mistake to say we are not militant, for the real Scout has a battle to fight and is no shirker. Our battle is against every evil thing, and to make the world safe for purity and beauty. Between Hercules and Arcturus is a gorgeous circle of stars called the Northern Crown. If you are good at telling stories, don't miss the chance to build one up, and don't forget to use the Crown in the last chapter. The Queen's Chair is below the Pole Star in the north. Both Vega and Capella are visible this month, the former in the northeast and the latter in the northwest. It will be remembered that, taking the Pole Star as centre, these two stars are always opposite one another. Their constellations of Lyra and Aurega respectively are at right angles with the Chair and Dip-

per (taking Polaris as centre), and these four constellations form a key to the positions of all our constellations in the Northern Hemisphere. That triangle of stars appearing in the southeast is *Libra*. *Leo* the Lion is still nicely visible in the high western sky, and is easily recognized by the bright star *Regulus* and the sickle which form his heart and head. In the northwest the *Twins*, *Castor* and *Pollux*, are still visible, and between them and the *Big Dipper* is stretched out the *Lynx*. The planet *Saturn* will be visible in the east this month at night. In the morning *Saturn* will be towards the west, and turning our gaze eastward we shall come first to *Jupiter* and *Mars*, quite close together, and then *Venus* in the far east.

THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 59)

He soon began to develop keen interest and signs of ability. He became a Second, a P.L., the Troop T.L.,—and today he is one of our best A.S.M.'s. The Patrol System did it."

The advantage of the small patrol was emphasized, particularly because of the greater opportunities offered for developing leaders than under the large-patrol plan. Six was suggested as the maximum number.

The idea of the Patrol in Council, for the discussion of distinctly patrol problems, should be encouraged. This should not be held during the troop meeting, but on another evening, at the home of the P.L. or other member of the patrol. The Scoutmaster may to advantage drop in occasionally, to show his interest, and perhaps to join in the discussion of certain knotty questions.

A variety of patrol competition features is needed to maintain the best interest. One suggestion: "Observation Nights,"—when points are given for the observation of things moved or changed in headquarters, certain uniform details incorrect, etc.

Regarding patrol instruction by Patrol Leaders: You cannot expect P.L.'s to successfully instruct in Tenderfoot, Second Class and other work during Patrol Corners. One solution is to divide the troop into classes for instruction by certain P.L.'s during a designated period of the troop meeting.

Encourage the use of patrol corner names,—as the "Eagle's Nest," the "Beaver's Hut." This will add to the interest of the boys in their corners.

The Court of Honour is inseparable from the Patrol System.

In the discussion, the Overseas Commissioner emphasized the fact that the P.L. gets the most out of Scouting; that therefore the patrol of six is preferable to the patrol of eight.

Building the Troop on a Solid Foundation.—First speaking of the "missionary spirit" disclosed by the boys themselves in response to that appeal in connection with registration (in order to provide the means to carry Scouting to boys in outlying districts), the Editor of Publications made a plea for more missionary troops,—troops which organize or bring about the organization of other troops in their district. The 1st Kingston Troop was cited as a recent

example, it having brought about the organization of a troop in one nearby community and a lone patrol in another.

Following up the suggestion that every Scout leader should be able, if asked, to offer sound advice on the organization of a troop, the following brief points were offered:

That practical experience in Canada suggests the following general rules for sound troop organization:

(a) A Troop Committee of capable men interested in the boys of the community, or of the church or other organization with which the troop is to be connected.

(b) Reading by members of the Troop Committee of "What Scouting Is and Does" and other informative literature which is supplied free from Provincial Headquarters; and taking by the Troop Committee and others interested of the new three-nights' Vestibule Course in Scouting.

(c) A suitable meeting place, which will be regularly at the service of the Scouts on a fixed night; and where games may be played without disturbing others.

(d) A Scoutmaster suggested by or agreeable to the boys.

(e) Taking by the Scoutmaster of one of the several available Gillwell training courses.



Scouting is a ten days' game at Gillwell. "Over and Under" at the New Brunswick '25 camp.

(f) Notwithstanding pressure, a small beginning, with four natural boy leaders.

(g) Registration of the Scouts at Dominion Headquarters as soon as the troop is completely organized,—for the practical value to the boy in the possession of the registration card, in addition to other reasons.

Advice to be offered for the actual first steps of organization:

(a) Open meeting of boys interested.

(b) Election of Patrol Leaders by ballot.

(c) Patrol Leaders choose Seconds.

(d) Patrol Leaders, Seconds and Scoutmaster study and pass Tenderfoot tests.

(e) Meantime, weekly hikes for all boys interested.

(f) Patrol Leaders, Seconds, and Scoutmaster invested, if possible, by Scoutmaster of a neighboring troop.

(g) Patrol Leaders and Seconds choose individual boys and train them in Tenderfoot tests; Scoutmaster, P.L.'s and Seconds on Second Class work.

(h) Weekly meetings begin with P.L.'s, Seconds and two candidates forming each patrol.

(i) Court of Honour formed.

The Use of the Badge System.—Provincial Secretary E. Russell Paterson likened the Scouting programme to a broad trail with by-paths, the broad way representing the rank test work, from Tenderfoot to King's Scout, and the by-paths the Proficiency Badges. He advocated a good start on the highway before much exploration along the by-trails.

The importance of handicrafts and hobbies was not alone the possibility of discovering to a boy his life's vocation, but the opening up of new interests which contribute to enrich life. Badge work means the purposeful use of spare time. One of the fateful stages in a city boy's life is the point which may produce the question, "What shall we do tonight?" and the answer, "Oh let's go to a show."

Hobbies are more readily caught than taught. Hence, for instructors secure men with hobbies. But don't choose an instructor simply because he knows his subject. Experienced army signallers are not always good instructors, and doctors have killed the boys' interest in first aid. In our experience non-professional St. John's instructors have been found the most successful. Your padre may make a good instructor on one of his hobby subjects.

The Scoutmaster may be considered an organizer with a corps of experts.

Scoutmasters should use Scouts for instruction on badges which they wear. Don't allow boys to pass badge tests and then forget all about them. Hold re-examination of all badges, with the idea of keeping before your boys the importance of the subjects.

The Scoutmaster should guide his Scouts in their selection of badges for study, the older Scouts being encouraged to take up the more difficult subjects.

With reference to varying standards of examiners: One Montreal district examiner holds a meeting of instructors on his subject (usually Patrol Leaders), and explains his system of examination.

Discussion emphasized the desirability of awarding badges for effort rather than for a finely drawn standard. Also the importance of badges which prepared for emergencies calling for quick action.

Camping and Hiking.—This topic, handled jointly by Mr. Frank C. Irwin, Assistant Provincial Commissioner for Ontario, Mr. C. W. Thompson, Assistant District Commissioner for Quebec City, and District Scoutmaster G. W. Loke of Lennoxville, Que., developed the points for and against the Patrol System and massed camps, based on personal experience.

In introducing the subject Mr. Irwin offered it as a rule that there was no satisfactory substitute for the Scout-

(Continued on page 62)

❖ The Scoutmaster's Five Minutes ❖

How Trees Prune Themselves

PERHAPS, says Mabel H. Wharton, in *American Forests* (Washington, March), you have seen an ancient pine-tree with long, straight-boled trunk perfectly branchless until high in the air the branches shoot out and form a green crown. Did you ever stop to think how this came to be? Why is it that this special pine is not like the forest of young pines at its feet, which are well branched from ground to apex? She goes on:

"This is just another example of the wonderful way Mother Nature has of making things work together for the best good of all. She causes the forests to prune themselves, thus giving us long, straight, tree trunks, containing good board lumber with which to build our mills, our houses and our ships.

"When this pine was young, as young as the saplings at its feet, it, too, was many branched from root to tip, but growing around it, pressing closely together were many other pines of the same age and height. As they grew larger and larger they became crowded and, needing more room, they chafed against each other. Their branches grew quickly, and the upper branches shaded those beneath until they could not get the light, and so became yellow and sickly. Now a tree needs light and air as much as it needs moisture and plant food which it draws up from the ground. It breathes through its leaves as we breathe through our pores, and to do this must have light and air in great abundance. When it finds that the sickly yellowed leaves are unable to digest the sap and get the most good from it, it does not care to bother with them any longer, but pumps the sap directly past these places, and on up to the topmost branches which are thrust up into the air and sunshine, and which drink the precious sap, and grow quickly upward and outward.

"The shadowed branches with their useless burden of yellowed leaves stop growing from day to day, and become more and more and more shadowed. Finally they cease to grow at all, the moisture becomes parched within them, and they shrivel and die.

"Now, when the branch dies, the tree has no more use for it, and wishes to get rid of it as quickly as possible. When it is putting on its layer of new wood each year it does not put it on the dead branch, but works around it so that the branch seems to be set in a little hole, with the bark ruffling around it like a collar. Each year a new layer is added in this manner, and each layer squeezes in upon the branch more tightly until finally it squeezes so hard that the dead branch falls off completely. Then the tree closes the hole up gradually with bark, and soon the branch is entirely forgotten, and no trace of it remains.

"So it was with this one ancient pine. It was a sturdy tree and it grew upward very rapidly, and soon overtopped its brother trees. Year after year the branches which grew beneath

in the shade fell from it, leaving its trunk tall and straight and unscarred, until it stood forth in all its majesty, with its green, tufted head in the clouds. Thus Nature has worked out her own wonderful method of pruning, and relentlessly, year by year, she goes through the forest doing work that man, had he many lifetimes to live, could never find the time to do."

Another Fire Fighting Troop

A LETTER of appreciation from the superintendent of Rocky Mountain Park was received by Scoutmaster Rev. T. Montgomery of the 1st Banff Troop, in acknowledgment of the work performed by the troop in preventing the spread of a fire which destroyed a portion of the Banff Springs Hotel, April 7th.

Said the letter in part: "Supervising Warden Warren and many others have told me that if it had not been for the efforts of your boys in putting out flying embers and sparks from the building, a serious fire would almost certainly have resulted."

"The Patrol Corners, with P.L.'s in charge, have come to our troop to stay."—5th Saint John (St. Jude's) Troop.



MUST have been mosquitoes or blackflies at the '25 Manitoba. They didn't prevent the Crows winning the flag, and being proud of it.

THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 61)

master in camp. "It is his big opportunity of the year to tie together a good many ends of things that have been started during the fall and winter."

It is to be the Patrol Leaders' big opportunity for demonstrating his ability to lead.

The Scoutmaster should not go to camp to be the camp cook, chief dishwasher, etc. He should have time to supervise and to work with his boys. To help make this possible there should be an A.S.M. or other older leader for every two patrols.

Whatever the camp organization, some system should be used which definitely fixes the work of every senior and junior leader in camp.

And safety should be the big consideration.

The points for the Patrol System camp developed by D.S.M. Geo. Loke were substantially those outlined at

various times in the *Scout Leader*, emphasized out of two years' successful experience, following earlier and less successful years with a mass camp. The Lennoxville camp was laid out completely on the Gillwell system,—each patrol in a tree-hidden corner of its own, but all in view of the Scoutmaster's tent.

"The system brings out P.L. leadership to the full," the speaker declared.

An A.S.M. was assigned to supervise the cooking of each patrol.

"The Patrol System camp is the only system, except for the new troop and the new Scoutmaster."

District Commissioner Thompson did not question the all-round effectiveness of the Patrol System camp,—but the first question was the leadership available. "As regards camping, there are two kinds of troops: the one with plenty of leaders, and the one with few or no leaders who can get away for the camping period." He believed that the mass camp best solved the problem for the troops in the latter class,—which included the Quebec district. The nature of the camp-site available might also be the controlling factor.

For their permanent camp the Quebec district was given a location in the virgin woods on Lake St. Joseph, and it was consequently necessary to "carve out" the site. This meant very limited tent space. The boys themselves cleared the land; which had given them excellent pioneering experience, as well as a particular and personal interest in the camp. Three years of camping and clearing had produced a playing field in the centre of the camp, but the street arrangement of tents and central cooking had been continued, and found very satisfactory.

Last year's camp of a hundred Scouts was directed by one senior and several junior leaders. The senior leader posted a card of camp orders and swimming rules, and the junior leaders saw that these were carried out. In addition daily orders were given at the evening conference with the junior leaders and P.L.'s. One of the older juniors was definitely placed in charge of the camp whenever the Scoutmaster was absent, even for a short period. This is very important. In case of some unexpected happening during the Scoutmaster's temporary absence it may prove vitally important, and may make the difference between confusion and effective orderliness.

Discussion brought confirmation of the success of the Patrol System by Scoutmasters who had used it.

Regarding cooking, the fact was emphasized that woodcraft is the key activity of Scouting, and that the necessity of woodcraft is the ability to cook in the woods. "Woodcraft would be of little avail if a boy were to starve to death in the woods because he could not cook."

"Our first objective is training boys to be leaders. We should teach to be leaders. We should teach to cook and teach to lead."

Securing the Support of the Community.—"It is your fault if you have not 'sold' Scouting to your community," declared Assistant District Commissioner C. S. Allen, of Montreal. Publicity, he said, should begin with the parents and the Troop Committee.

Ninety per cent of Scout parents, he believed, do not really understand Scouting, and so do not support it as they should. One hundred per cent support would be given if parents were shown the full possibilities of Scouting for their boys.

A District Commissioner not infrequently sees "dead" troop committees,—dead chiefly because the Scoutmaster has not given them something to do. Committeemen must be used; this is the first step in securing their full understanding and support.

It is equally important, if yours is a church troop, that the Scout programme should be fully understood by the priest or minister of your church. One way of bringing this about is to discover the padre's hobby, and get him to instruct for the proficiency badge concerned in that subject.

School teachers have to be shown that Scouting is educational, and that it will produce good results. The teacher's hobby also may be made use of as a point of contact.

Regarding the opposition to Scouting on the part of some labour groups,—tell them that the American Federation of Labour was formerly opposed, but that it now fully endorses Scouting in the United States.

A personal experience was related to illustrate the responsiveness of a community to the Scouting idea if this is effectively presented. When on a fishing trip the District Commissioner found himself in a small place where a Scout had been awarded a medal for life saving. He was asked to do something to make the presentation of the medal impressive; and incidentally it was complained that the town had not shown itself much interested in the Scoutmaster's efforts. The Vicker's Troop Scout Band was brought from Montreal for the occasion, and provided music and a display of Scout work. In the course of his remarks following the medal presentation the visiting Commissioner commented upon the voluntary work being done by the Scoutmaster for the benefit of the boys of the town, and suggested that other men might give at least an hour a week to help. There was a good response, and the troop today has the support of the entire community.

All kinds of community good turns, hobby shows, displays and field days were mentioned as effective means of securing local publicity, and the support of the community. The troop should always be ready also to serve other organizations in such ways as are permissible.

(Continued in June)

FOR THE 1926 FIELD DAYS

(Continued from page 57)

The first aid exhibition was quite remarkable. The patient was supposed to be unconscious; a description of the injury—a fractured jaw and fractured forearm resulting from an

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The special Leaders' Edition of the 1926 CANADIAN SCOUT DIARY, bound in rich dark blue leather, stamped in gold with the Scout Emblem, is one of the neatest Diaries published. You should have one! Price 50 cents, postpaid.

SUPPORTING THE STORES DEPARTMENT

Supplying of the best quality of Scout uniforms at prices lower than uniforms of similar quality can be secured elsewhere is only made possible by the patronage of those Scoutmasters who have given the Headquarters Stores Department their loyal support.

Since the profits of the Stores Department are used for the extension and improvement of the Movement, every order received from a Scoutmaster contributes to this end.

Loyalty within the Movement might therefore well be considered as an additional reason for patronizing

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CANADA.

automobile accident—being hidden in a breast pocket. The accident had occurred on the street as the boys were returning from school, and the victim was lying unconscious. It was explained to the "patients" that there must be no hint or assistance from them, and that their acting of the role would be part of the success of their patrol. The first thing that three of the patrols did was to dispatch one boy for a doctor. The winning patrol, the Otters, did really splendid bandaging. In addition they carefully worked three coats beneath the patient, and covered him with two more. This we considered good thought, as the ground was damp. With the exception of one or two of the patrols being a little rough, the work was equally good, and speed proved the deciding factor.

The life line test was the throwing of a noose over or within 3 feet of a peg representing a man in the centre of an 8 foot circle representing a hole in the ice. The Owls and Eagles had six perfect throws, the Wild Geese 5, the other patrols 4 each.

The tent was a 7x9 wall tent, and was lying folded, with the stakes neatly piled. The competition was to erect and dismantle, leaving the tent in the same condition and position as found. The Lynx patrol performed the feat in 10¼ minutes and the Whip o'Wills in 10½ minutes. In all cases the tents were well pitched, and few penalties were given for poor pegging or crooked lines.

The question of "Scout spirit" seemed to us originally to be a difficult subject to judge; although I believe it should have a place in every competition. I cannot speak too highly of the spirit exhibited by these Kingsville boys. In every case the winner was heartily cheered, and not a complaint or objection was raised during the entire afternoon. Each patrol was 100%.

Citizen-Making

OF the 50 boys in the 7th Lethbridge Troop early last year, 36 were Canadian born boys of foreign parentage. "Through training these boys in British ideas and love for their adopted country," wrote Scoutmaster Charles T. Wood, "we have been able to overcome the prejudices of their parents, and through the conduct of their sons have made them, against their wills, friends of the Scout Movement and things British. . . . In the last six months, through the example of our troop, we have been instrumental in forming another troop, the 9th, which consists of 38 boys, all foreign parentage. These boys during the last week won the majority of the badges awarded for proficiency in the Lethbridge district."

Patrol Horse Race.—Patrols in single file at one end of room, smallest Scout (the jockey) standing beside the P.L. On "Go!" the jockey mounts the back of the P.L., who runs to the end of the room, and back. Jockey, without touching the floor, changes to the back of the next Scout in line. And so on. If the jockey touches the floor in changing mounts he is disqualified, or loses a point to his patrol.

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.

The Red Deers Get Out

NOW that the long summer nights are here, the 2nd Red Deer Troop will hold its meetings out of doors. The meeting was held at the "old swimming hole" on Friday evening, May 15th, and we are pleased to report a full attendance. Two of the Scouts started right by practicing for their swimmer's badge, and report the water fine, while another started the season wrong by getting his feet wet. As the only time-piece that was around was a Big Ben carried by a husky patrol leader, we were not very sure of the time, but we had a good hour and a half's fun. It being the first evening out, most of the time was spent in games, and the neighbours must have thought a band of Indians were on the war path.

—Red Deer News,
May 20, '25.

This Interested Them

SCOUTMASTER Prader of Troop 26 gave his boys an object lesson in applied electricity. All the working parts of a dry-cell, a door bell and wiring were laid upon the table, the mechanism explained, the wires adjusted and the bell was rung. The Scoutmaster then disconnected the device and challenged any Scout to put it together again.

The boys were intensely interested in this experiment, and were successful in hooking it up.

—Scout Herald.

Cub Game Talk

WHO can tell me of two things they have in Australia? Wolf Cubs, yes,—and Kangaroos. Right. So we'll talk about a game that turns Wolf Cubs into Kangaroos.

We all know what a Wolf Cub is like. Who has seen a Kangaroo? . . . Well, he is about as big as a big sheep, and he looks something like a great big rabbit, and has a great big tail, something like an elephant's trunk. He's a funny looking animal, isn't he?

And he lives in Australia. He eats grass, and can make great big hops and jumps with his long back legs. His front legs are short.

Now, to get some idea of how he jumps Akela is going to tell you about the "Kangaroo dance," and how to do it.

Now everyone get in line, one behind the other, with plenty of space between,—for you must be careful not to step upon the tail of the Kangaroo in front of you. Now, crouch down on your back legs, and put your front paws up, just like a little dog when he is begging. That's how the Kangaroo sits when he is ready to jump.

And now, all together, take your time from the leading Kangaroo and begin hopping great big hops, with the feet together.

Every now and then the leader stops to pull a piece of grass, and holds it up to his mouth to nibble. You must watch carefully and do exactly the same. And all the time when you are jumping you waggle your head first to the right then to the left. . . .

You've got that fine! Now we'll start again, and every time you jump, say "Coo-ee" quite softly. And whenever the leading Kangaroo wants you to stop and feed he will call "Coo-ee" quite sharply,—and the same when he wants you to go on again.

—F.L.S. 13th Calgary Pack.

Try a Mystery Hike

THE title explains. The only directions given concern preparation—food; equipment to be carried; inspection of footwear; time and place of meeting. Objective a secret. Make it interestingly worthwhile.

Ye Scout Almanack

May

- 1st—May Day and Saturday. Hold a May Day hike.
- 4th—Last Quarter of the Moon.
- 9th—Rogation Sunday. Mothers' Day.
- 11th—New Moon.
- 13th—Ascension Day.
- 19th—Day of Pentecost. First Quarter of the Moon.
- 23rd—Whit Sunday.
- 24th—Victoria Day. Troop and Inter-Troop field day with Scouting competitions.
- 26th—Queen Mary's Birthday.
- 27th—Full Moon.
- 30th—Trinity Sunday.
- During May—Finish spring "clean up." Talk camp and camp funds and get in some real good practice hikes. Candidates for the Gardner's badge should be busy in their 12x12 plots.

June

- 3rd—King's Birthday. Corpus Christi. Last Quarter of the Moon.
- 10th—New Moon.

Circle Knot Tag.—Troop in extended circle, hands behind backs. One Scout designated as IT, and given a suitable rope. IT runs around the circle, drops rope behind someone and calls a knot. IT endeavours to run on around the circle and tag the boy with the rope before the latter can tie the knot. May be made a patrol competition, the rope being dropped consecutively behind patrols. One point for each knot correctly tied before the tier is tagged.

Humorous thumb-nail sketches add an attractive touch to the weekly mimeographed bulletin of notices sent out by the Vancouver office. "Notes on Scouting," issued from time to time, contains miscellaneous information and troop meeting suggestions from various sources.

Jobs to Buy Uniforms

AN Alberta troop, the 1st Strathmore, inserted this request in the Scout Notes column of the local paper: "Residents are asked to 'phone 98 if they have a small job to be done, and a Scout will be sent. His earnings will go toward the purchase of his uniform."

Montreal Test for Cub Guide Badge

From each Pack Headquarters boy should know:

The nearest Doctor, nearest Chemist, nearest Police Station, nearest Fire Station, nearest Fire Alarm, nearest Motor Garage, nearest Clergyman, all with addresses and telephone numbers.

All the above places should have been seen.

All the Hospitals and how to get there.

The four large hotels and how to get there.

All the Railway Stations and how to get there.

How to get to Place d'Armes, to Verdun, to Westmount, to Outremont, to Maisonneuve, with approximate distances and time required for each.

Also knowledge of all streets, lanes and short cuts immediately around Pack H.Q. Also something about any historic monument, building or event near H.Q.

Cub should know the best stores in his own district, also Morgan's, Goodwin's, Murphy's, etc., also Scout H.Q.

He should be able to answer all questions easily, and with the snap to impress a stranger.

Journeys in his own neighbourhood—He should know approximate time to walk, remainder by street car.

Questions and answers should be supplied to Examiner each time. He has not the local knowledge of every pack's surroundings.

Get and Read This Before Camp

A NEW book on trees which would provide most interesting and profitable pre-camp reading for Scoutmasters in practically every section of Canada is "Forest Trees of Ontario" recently issued by the Department of Lands and Forests, Toronto. The productions of leaves, fruit, seeds, winter twigs are exceptionally clear. Some 82 native and 49 foreign trees are described. Particular attention is given to tree identification, in both summer and winter. The book is by Dr. J. H. White, Associate Professor of Forestry, University of Toronto. The book may be had at 25 cents per copy, from the King's Printer, Parliament Bldg., Toronto.

A standard book on trees of the Dominion is "Native Trees of Canada," which may be had for 50 cents from the Forestry Branch, Department of the Interior, Ottawa.