



## The 1928 Scout Santa Claus



*THE Saint John, N.B., 1927 Scout Toy Shop with the help of the Girl Guides, played Santa Claus to 1,200 children, including 164 settlers' children, on New Brunswick farms and 27 in the West.*

**O**UR Scout Toy Repair Shop Chain is once again in operation from coast to coast preparing Christmas morning happiness for approximately 40,000 children,—including four or five thousand little new settlers who just now are wonder apprehensively if Old Santa is going to find them in the new land.

The actual number of shops in the chain is not yet known; at the time of going to press 48 had been reported, including Halifax on the Atlantic and Vancouver and Prince Rupert on the Pacific.

### Hints for the New Shops

**S**ECURE the official approval and patronage of the Mayor, and have this announced in the newspapers.

Don't overlook radio appeals for toys. Your nearest radio station will be found very ready to oblige.

**The Shop Committee.**—The District Toy Shop usually is directed by a special Toy Shop Committee of Scout leaders. If men of suitable experience are not available in the Scout organization endeavour to form a Directing Committee of practical craftsmen,—a painter, tinsmith, saddler, carpenter, etc. This will help in the obtaining of tools. Also it probably will mean the continued interest of these men in Scouting.

The single troop shop should be directed by the Troop Court of Honour.

**Service Club Backing.**—If not co-operating with a newspaper it may be an excellent plan to work under the patronage of a local service club.

**Equipment.**—You will require benches, a few tables, and a vice or two. Benches can easily be made by



A  
Merry Xmas  
of

Many Merry  
Good Turns

borrowing 10-foot 2x8 inch or 2x10 inch planking from a lumber firm, and laying three of these on pairs of packing cases. Be careful that none but necessary nails are driven into the benches, and see that these nails are all removed before the planks are returned. Four boys can work comfortably at such a bench; more interfere with one another.

Tables for doll repairing, metal work, painting, etc., can be made in a similar way with lighter planking, where trestle tables cannot be borrowed.

See that painting tables, and the floor beneath, are protected by heavy paper or some other suitable covering.

**Tools.**—These will be supplied largely by the boys themselves. Some of the more elaborate tools may be borrowed.

**Supplies.**—You will require: Glue; assorted nails, and finishing nails; screws; stove bolts; wire; scraps of sheet tin and sheet iron; short ends of planed lumber; paint, (red, black, yellow, green, grey, white). A lot of this may be donated; in any case they do not make a large item, costing not more than \$10.00 per thousand toys repaired.

Paint and brushes are quite generally donated. A blow torch probably can be borrowed from a plumbing firm. It should be used only by older Scouts, and with all necessary precautions against fire. It may be wise to invite a plumber in for an evening

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*ONE of the Vancouver Scout Toy Repair Shops which last Christmas turned out no less than 10,300 gifts, to be distributed among 2,100 families, including newly arrived settlers.*

## The Scout Leader

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Association.

Chief Scout for Canada  
His Excellency Viscount Willingdon,  
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Chief Commissioner  
James W. Robertson, C.M.G., LL.D.

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

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### "The World's Greatest Peacemaker"

IN a Christmas Message to the "Glasgow Bulletin" General Sir Ian Hamilton wrote that providentially by the same post as the request for a message came inspiration in the form of a Christmas card, "from my old war time comrade, General Sir Robert Baden-Powell. . . . He is the world's greatest peacemaker. His Boy Scouts and Girl Guides are the greatest peacemakers the world has ever seen since A.D."

### "Scout Rescue Credit Goes Back to S.M. and Troop Committee"—the A.C.C.

BEFORE a large gathering at the Balderston Theatre, Perth, Ont., the honorary diploma of the Royal Humane Society and the Scout's Silver Cross were presented respectively by Mayor T. E. Rogers and the Assistant Chief Commissioner, John A. Stiles, to Patrol Leader John Kanalakos of the 1st Perth Troop. The awards were made for saving a little girl from drowning in the Tay Canal last spring. In presenting the Silver Cross the Assistant Chief Commissioner emphasized the fact that much of the credit of the rescue went back to the Scoutmaster who had trained the lad to "be prepared," and to the Troop Committee which supported Scoutmaster Holmes in his unpaid work for the boys of the community. Mr. Stiles then spoke at some length on "The Piper of Pax."

### A Valuable Magazine

#### to Scoutmasters

"MAKING Your Bed in the Bush," "Men of the Trees," "The Trees Prepare for Winter," "The Transformation of the Canadian Prairie" (by tree planting), "Some Sporty Fishing in British Columbia," "A Queer Fellow of the Woods" (the story of the snail), "The Uncalled Moose," "Wild Life in a Forest Fire,"—these are some of the articles in November *Forest and Outdoors*. In addition there are several good stories, including one of a series for Scouts.

The very practical value of such material to Scoutmasters attracted attention at Dominion Headquarters, with the result that an arrangement was entered into with the Canadian Forestry Association, publishers, by

which *Forest and Outdoors* is now made available to Scouts and Scout leaders at the special subscription rate of \$1.00 per year. In making the arrangement the assurance was given that the magazine would continue to carry practical woodcraft matter of the type noted above.

In order to secure the special rate leaders and Scouts will state their troop connection, and give the assurance that they are active.

### The B.-P. Gift Fund

SCOUTMASTERS and Cubmasters are once more reminded of the 5-cents-a-boy B.-P. Gift Fund to be presented to the originator of Scouting at next year's Jamboree by the Scouts of the world. It would be appreciated if leaders would make every effort to complete subscription lists and send them to Provincial Headquarters by January 6th at the latest. Be sure to give the number of subscribers. Con-



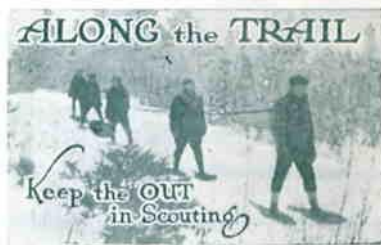
THE 1927  
Toy Shop  
of the 1st  
Chatham  
Troop pro-  
vided gifts  
for 450 chil-  
dren.

tributions from Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Assistants and Rovers should not exceed 25 cents; those from other members of The Boy Scouts Association are not limited.

A letter in Braille expressing warm appreciation of the gift of "Scouting for Boys" in the blind alphabet was received by Ontario Provincial Headquarters from a member of the Scout Troop of the provincial School for the Blind at Brantford. "We feel sure that this book will do much toward furthering our knowledge of Scouting," said the young writer. "Its illustrations will enable us to get a clearer view of things as they are. We hope that in the future we will do something to merit such a kindness."

### The Scout Type—a Standard

AN announcement of a plan initiated by Lord Lovett to bring British youths to Canada next spring, all chosen by the Empire Selection Committee adds that they will be 16 and 17 years old, "and of the Boy Scout type."



While giving special attention to Toy Shop work, do not overlook other Christmas Good Turns of all kinds.

Kitchener Scouts acted as a guard of honour for Lord Willingdon when His Excellency visited that city in November.

The Ninth Annual Conference of Patrol Leaders of the Pacific Northwest will be held Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 and 2 at Olympia, Wash. Governor Harley will be chief speaker at the opening banquet.

Mr. G. H. Anderson, for some years Scoutmaster of a thriving troop at North Bay, while Mrs. Anderson directed an equally successful Cub Pack, has been selected as supervisor of boys' work of the Toronto Kiwanis Club.

Many newspaper accounts of Armistice Day ceremonies mention the part played by Scouts—distributing programmes, ushering, acting as wreath bearers. Numbers of troops also served in various capacities during the poppy sale of Saturday.

Will directors of all Scout Toy Shops, whether able to send gifts to settlers' children or not, kindly send in the Toy Shop form, and state the number of children they expect to take care of locally. Thank you!

Through misunderstanding by someone, an arrangement made by the Ottawa district Scout office with the Civil Aviation Branch to provide an examiner for the Airman's Badge resulted in a widely used press despatch to the effect that such a badge had just been created for Boy Scouts.

Manitoba Scouting has experienced loss in the departure for Montreal of Mr. Jackson Dodds, president of the provincial council, and who has been active in Scouting since 1922. At the same time the province has been most fortunate in securing as a successor to Mr. F. Stanley Long (moved to London, England) as Provincial Commissioner of the Hon. Mr. Justice J. T. Kilgour of Winnipeg.

In the departure of Lt.-Gen. Sir Archibald Macdonell, to reside in Kingston, Calgary Scouting has suffered a very real loss. From the time of his appointment as District Commissioner, "Sir Archie" took hold with that same whole-hearted energy that characterised him as one of Canada's great military leaders during the World War. No Scouting activity in the district was too small, none too large for his personal attention; and into all he injected something of his own up-and-doing enthusiasm. One of his practical contributions was the organization of the Calgary Scout Leaders' Training Troop.

## THE 1928 SCOUT SANTA CLAUS

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or so, to take charge of the soldering. Similarly a good painter, or even a local artist, might be glad to participate, helping or directing the finer paint work.

**Shop Organization.**—One man should be appointed Shop Director, to be responsible for the whole, with several Department Heads under him. The practice of handing the actual management of a shop over to the Rovers has met with excellent success, and has been adopted by several of the larger district organizations. Under the direction of the district senior Rover leader, Rovers are designated as the heads of various departments, and are made fully responsible for their operation.

The shop departments include those for receiving and sorting, woodworking repairs, mechanical toy repairing, painting, bookbinding, doll surgery, etc. Dolls, after the replacement of limbs, eyes, wigs, etc., usually are turned over to a group of Girl Guides for dressing.

**Sorting.**—The sorting is very important. Use someone with a knack for knowing what to scrap in order to produce parts for something requiring less repair work. For receiving parts have a number of cardboard cartons suitably labelled. Use the same system for finishing goods. And get finished articles out of the way as soon as repaired.

**Working Hints.**—Have your Scout workmen concentrate on volume rather than the making of a very elaborate job on a few toys. Kiddies are not critical as to how a thing is repaired, so long as it works and lasts; and a touch of paint will take care of appearances. Don't fuss too much with mechanical toys in an endeavour to make them work. Cut out the works, and some kiddie will equally enjoy pulling it around on a string.

If dolls faces are badly scarred, don't try to restore an Anglo-Saxon complexion. With black or brown paint turn them into nigger or Indian dolls. Children just love these.

Where a Scout bookbinder is not to be had, endeavour to secure the advisory services of a professional. Occasionally local amateur binders of considerable skill may be interested.

**Distribution.**—The method of distribution will be suited to the size of the community. In smaller places hand-sleighs and toboggans may be used; in large places team-drawn sleighs, cars, or trucks, with Santa Claus at the reins or wheel, and a retinue of Scout "helpers."

Both collecting and distributing should be done by Scouts in uniform if at all possible. A Scout hat and button at least should be worn.

Children in hospitals, sanitariums and orphanages, etc., should not be overlooked; inquiries may be made as to whether they would be fully taken care of, or whether toys from the Scout Shop would be acceptable.

For hospitals and sanitariums, games, books and the smaller toys are preferable.

**Surplus Toys.**—Any toys left over may be given to such institutions and

to V.O.N. and Red Cross workers, for later distribution during the year.

**Expensive Toys.**—A practice adopted by one of the city shops of last year was to give the larger and more expensive toys to crippled children.

**Checking Addresses.**—Where names are provided by local welfare bureaus, addresses should be checked up before delivery if possible. Experience has shown that a considerable percentage will be in error, and that parcels will reach the wrong parties, or will be returned.

**Use the Firemen.**—Do not overlook the possibility of city firemen as auxiliary Toy Shop workers at their various fire halls. They have done excellent work in connection with several of the city Toy Shops, particularly in the painting of toys.

**Take Pictures of Your Shop.**—Be sure to secure several good pictures of your Toy Shop operations, for record, —and kindly do not overlook sending copies to Dominion Headquarters.

If pictures are taken by professional photographers stipulate that they shall not be copyrighted, and a charge made for their use. (It does not seem appropriate that Scout public service activities should be exploited in this way.)

*RADIO Station CJRM co-operated with last year's Rover Scout-Tec H Toy Shop of Moose Jaw, Sask., in securing toys. When rejuvenated, these were distributed among 125 children. The picture shows one day's collection at the Radio station.*



## Suggestions from Last Year's Shops

ONE suggestion made was that Toy Shops in neighboring communities report to each other deficiencies or surplus stock in certain "lines," and help one another out,—as in the case of a shortage of story books or games, a surplus of dolls of a certain type, etc.

Larger toys requiring some considerable time for repair, or for which needed parts were not readily procurable, were placed aside by the Montreal Shop for repair by individual troops during the year.

The local toy distribution of the Ottawa Shop was used as a means of distributing cards for free groceries provided by the Merchants' Association. A card was placed in each bundle of toys.

A number of Toy Shops in communities having a fortunate lack of families in needy circumstances, collected and repaired toys and sent them in bulk to the nearest large Toy

Shop centre. Examples were Strathmore, Alta., whose troop sent toys to Calgary, the 1st Chilliwack Troop, B.C., which sent toys to Vancouver, and troops at Sussex, Campbellton, Westfield and Rothesay, N.B., which sent toys to Saint John.

The Calgary shop was open on Christmas morning from 9 until noon. Twenty-six emergency requests were found, one of these in a letter thrust beneath the door. The Fire Department was called upon, and a truck was immediately sent to deliver the parcels.

Some Ottawa suggestions from 1927: That money be set aside for use by the Toy Shop in the purchasing of dolls' heads, paint, bolts, and wheels for larger toys, and to provide car fare for Scouts collecting and distributing toys. That cars or trucks be secured for the collection of toys, since many homes provide more than the average boy can carry or handle on a sleigh.

A doll and cradle-making competition for Brownies produced a nice little contribution of these for the shop.

Three vacant rooms were secured for the Winnipeg Cub Shop and fitted with tables, empty packing cases and trestles. There was a reception room,

a work shop and a room for finished toys. Over each table was a sign designating its department.

The goods, as they came in, were placed to one side, unwrapped and turned over to (1) "INSPECTION DEPARTMENT." After examination there they went to (2) "WASH JOBS" to be thoroughly washed or cleaned. Then they went to (3) "PAINT JOBS." From here the painters took them as required to (4) "PAINT SHOP," where they were painted and sent back to the Inspection Department. Those that did not need washing or painting, or at least needed repairs first, were sent to (5) "REPAIR DEPARTMENT." When done with in that department they went either to the Paint Shop or to the tables for (6) FINISHED TOYS.

Books which came in and needed repairs were sent to (7) "MATERIAL DEPARTMENT." They were there examined, cleaned, pasted and packed in parcels of three, according to sex and age, and were then sent to either

(8) "BOOKS GIRLS" or to (9) "BOOKS BOYS."

There was another table labelled (10) "GAMES." Here the games were very carefully checked, and made complete where necessary, by adding extra counters, dice, etc., or by writing instructions where none came along.

We must not forget another table bearing a sign (11) "TOOLS." Here all the tools were kept ready, so that everything needed was at hand, together with a pot of glue, some sand paper and a few nails. Beside this was another sign read (12) "SPARE PADTS."

The painting was done with Rogers Brushing Laquer, donated by the Winnipeg Paint & Glass Co. and Valspar Brushing Laquer, donated by District Commissioner Hargreaves, of G. F. Stephens & Co. Ltd. Both are excellent, and dry quickly. The wrapping was done by the Cubmasters and two or three Scouts and Cubs. Each parcel was labelled with a gum sticker reading "From a Wolf Cub." There was no confusion, although new people came almost every night, and we all spent some very happy evenings.

Toys were provided the local immigration depot for distribution to children arriving during Christmas week, and consignments provided a number of institutions, including the Cubs and Brownies of the Children's Home. Gifts sent to the Children's Hospital consisted chiefly of books, games and small toys.

All lacquer, glue, brushes, files, sand paper, wrapping paper, string, printed labels, and cards were contributed. The total cost to the Akela Club, who conducted the shop, was \$4.17.

### The Toys for Settlers' Children How the Children Are Allotted.

AS the lists of settlers' families are received at Dominion Scout Headquarters from the Dominion Land Settlement Branch, the C.N.R. and the C.P.R. Immigration Departments, they are located on large pin maps, and assigned in groups and blocks to certain Toy Shops. In addition to the distribution maps one large Dominion map is used on which to locate by large coloured pins the chain of Toy Shops, and the troops and packs not operating shops but which are taking care of a certain number of settlers' children.

### Selecting, Wrapping and Mailing.

**Selecting.**—This may to advantage be placed in the hands of a committee of Scout mothers.

It is not possible of course to send very large or heavy toys, unless the Toy Shop is unusually well financed. The plan adopted by one of last year's larger shops was to select for each family one or two games and books which might be used by all, and for each individual child, toys or dolls of about equal attractiveness from a child's point of view, allowing for difference in age.

Care should be taken that the same careful standard of selection of toys

is maintained throughout. Where a hundred or more family packages are made up there may after at time develop a tendency to haste and lack of care on the part of some of those selecting. Keep in mind the great importance of each package to the little folks receiving it.

Through the generosity of business firms or service clubs several of the last year's Toy Shops were able to include in each package a bag of candy and nuts. Needless to say this was the touch which made Santa's visit complete.

**Wrapping.**—See that each parcel is well and attractively wrapped, and securely tied. If possible have each individual child's gift wrapped separately, in tissue paper, and marked with his or her first name. Girl Guides will help very effectively in this.

Include in each family package one of the special Toy Shop Santa Claus cards which will be received from Dominion Headquarters with the settlers' list; also any other Christmas card or specially written letters of greeting and good wishes.

*It wasn't the fault of the Brownies if any of the Calgary Toy Shop dolls failed to reach their new little mothers "all spick and span."*



"Do Not Open Until Christmas" and other attractive stickers will finish the parcels at comparatively little expense.

It is a good plan to pick especially careful and deft boys for wrapping the family parcels, with one boy appointed as head of the department. Have an expert wrapper come in from one of your big stores to give a few hints.

**Mailing.**—As noted in the November Scout Leader, where the expense of this is beyond the means of the troop or troops concerned, it is suggested that service clubs or other organizations be invited to meet the cost, as was done in a number of cases last year. Another idea is that packages neatly wrapped and ready for mailing be placed in the Toy Shop window with a placard inviting passers-by to participate in the Good Turn to little New Canadians by stepping inside and paying the postage on a parcel.

The necessity of mailing settlers' packages early will not be overlooked. In most cases the first week in Decem-

ber would not be too soon. In some sections of the west families only get into town for their mail at long intervals.

Address parcels to the mother of the family.

In order to ensure the receipt of packages the Calgary and Toronto shops last year mailed post cards announcing the coming of the parcel and requesting to be advised if it failed to arrive or if the contents were damaged. In a number of cases packages or certain toys, particularly dolls, were duplicated. In at least one case the reply indicated the serious need of a family for warm clothing, and this was at once provided.

**Doll Work.**—If not yet under way, this should be started as soon as possible. The laundry work, repairing or making of new dresses takes a considerable time. And it is especially desirable that the dolls going out "look their best."

Help with doll work may in some cases be had from sewing classes in the public schools.

### And For Next Year

Certain big departmental stores have been turning over all broken or defective toys to the local Scout Toy Shop. In some cases such toys are thrust under counters during the holiday rush, and cleaned out immediately after Christmas. This is the time to get them. If necessary, ask your local departmental stores about it.

### Not Forgetting Other Christmas Good Turns

THESE practical Good Turns were carried out in other years:

A Montreal Troop collected illustrated and comic sections for a children's institution.

A B.C. Troop ran a free Christmas parcel Delivery System, with headquarters in a vacant store. The service was advertised in the local paper and by hand posters.

An Ontario Pack provided a Christmas tree with decorations and gifts for a needy family of six.

New Brunswick Scouts assisted in decorating a hospital.

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# Scouting from Coast to Coast



**M**EMBERS of the 51st Toronto Troop were guests of the 50th, at the annual Hallowe'en masquerade held in Eglinton School. Appropriately first prize went to Scout Halliday as "Robinson Crusoe."

A combined Hallowe'en troop meeting and party in costume attended by 120 Scouts of the 1st and 2nd Truro Troops was a great success. Prizes were given for best costumes and the evening concluded with a council fire sing-song.

## 16th Halifax Makes a Big Night of It

The costume Hallowe'en party of the 16th Halifax (College St. School) was made the occasion of presenting prizes by District Commissioners Bradford and Dwyer to the winners of various camp competitions, and badges to eight Scouts who had completed their First Class tests. Visitors included parents and the members of the Troop Committee, and refreshments were supplied from the Sacred Heart Convent. Costumes were judged by Rev. Fr. MacManus, Rev. Bro. Murphy and the commissioners.

A Father and Son affair in costume was "the best Hallowe'en we ever had," according to the boys of the 4th Border Cities. The father of Troop Leader Isall won the distinction of being the longest to conceal his identity. The special games were participated in by all.

## A Hallowe'en Patrol Competition

A very lively Hallowe'en party of the 4th Yorkton, Sask., included a patrol competition in bobbing for apples, rooster fights, badger pulling, a peanut scramble, blindfold boxing, stories, jokes, chocolate bars and soft drinks.—after which, as a good turn to Scoutmaster Love, the boys all went straight home and to bed. Eight members of the U. C. T. who sponsor the troop, were present and joined in the fun.

The 14th Hamilton (St. Thomas' Church) Troop varied a weekly programme by going on an observation hike for an hour prior to the meeting. Back at the Sunday-school, they went on with the usual programme. A Court of Honour followed the meeting.

The boys of the 6th Winnipeg (Calvary Baptist) wrote essays on the subject after a visit to the printing plant of *The Winnipeg Tribune*.

## Scouts Made Useful at Air Force Base

Scouts of The Pas, Man., had the time of their lives this summer, when brought by Commander Maudsley of the R.C.A.F. to Cormorant Lake Base (42 miles from The Pas on the new Hudson Bay line) for a combination of holiday and work. The boys tidied up the grounds generally, laid out the walks in white stones, etc., meantime observing all the varied ground activities of an air station and the coming and going of the planes.

At a Court of Honour of the 17th Hamilton, held at the home of Scout Roy Smees, it was decided to assist the Cub Pack to secure a pack flag.

At a joint meeting of the 12th Moose Jaw Troop and the Girl Guides of St. George's a talk on the British Empire was delivered by Dr. J. H. Smith.

## Fire Chief Outlines Fireman's Badge Test

Fire Chief Mathieson was invited to attend the meeting of the 1st Kirkland Lake Troop at St. James' Parish Hall to explain to the boys the requirements of the Scout Fireman's Badge. At the same meeting a Thanks Badge was presented by the Scouts, Cubs and Rovers to Mr. Fraser Reid in recognition of his services to the troop, a warrant was presented to Cubmaster E. H. Hicks and Rev. H. Cox told the life story of Sir Robert Baden-Powell, emphasizing the soundness of the principles of Scouting.

Fredericton's 8th Cub Pack has been organized in the suburb of

The 1st, 2nd and 4th Kitchener, Ont., troops held a combined social evening, with a programme which included inter-troop relay competitions.

## Aid Kit and Stretcher for 17th Hamilton

The presentation to the troop of a splendid first aid kit and a stretcher, the gift of A.S.M. Johnston; an original humorous skit on various Scout activities, the awarding of several all-round cords, an address on "Scouting Ideals" by Alderman Alfred Smees, and refreshments, made up a Parents' Night of the 17th Hamilton.

Rev. A. E. Avery, of Pense, Sask., has been appointed Assistant Provincial Commissioner in charge of Rovers.

A new Scout troop for Verdun, Que., is connected with the local High School, and has its meeting place in the basement.

## Honour Cubmaster Who Gave His Life

At an Armistice memorial service for men of the 58th Overseas Battalion at the Church of the Trans-

*TRY to total up the happiness carried by these dolls to as many little girls spending their first Christmas on a Canadian prairie farm.—The work of Girl Guides in the Winnipeg Scout Toy Shop.*



Devon with a membership of 28, meeting in Church of England Hall.

Following out a programme drawn up by the Court of Honour of the 3rd Cobalt (Baptist) Troop, "a better system of points was introduced, and a blackboard used to score on," so that each Scout might know just what his patrol was scoring or losing.

## Outside Leaders Visit Crack Montreal Troop

Fifteen Sherbrooke leaders, headed by Assistant District Commissioner Giovetti, motored to Montreal and were guests of the 70th Montreal Troop, under Scoutmaster Rush and District Commissioner Allan, for an evening of demonstration games. "Several novel instructional games were demonstrated and the whole meeting conducted in a manner indicating complete and efficient organization."

The Ladies' Auxilliary of the 9th Regina Troop is assisting in raising the necessary funds to send one member to the 1929 Jamboree.

figuration, Toronto, tribute was also paid by the Scouts and Cubs of the church troop to the memory of Cubmaster John Holt, who in October last gave his life while endeavouring to rescue a man overcome with gas fumes at a manufacturing plant.

The silver trophy offered annually by Shute and Company of Fredericton, N.B., to the Scout troop having the largest number of First Class Scouts qualified during the year, was won for 1928 by the 3rd Fredericton (Cathedral) Troop.

Returning a visit of the Fort Frances, Ont., Troop on Labour Day, the Troop 1 of International Falls, Minnesota, crossed the boundary to participate with the Fort Frances Scouts in their annual War Memorial service.

## Scout Troops in Every Sydney Church

The annual report presented by District Commissioner Carter showed Scouting in Sydney, N. S., and nearby communities to be in a thriving con-

dition, with a total of 18 active troops. The troops are connected with schools and churches, including those of every denomination. There is one coloured troop, and a troop connected with the Whitney Pier Community Club.

The Richard Coeur de Lion Conclave of the Most Noble Order of Crusaders were Hallowe'en hosts to the 17th Hamilton Troop, and through their secretary expressed a desire to promote the success of the troop and of Scouting in general.

The success of other local troop auxiliaries has brought about the formation of a Ladies' Auxiliary for the 2nd Regina Troop, with Mrs. N. R. McLeod as President.

#### An Example Church Troop

The important place which the troop and pack may secure in a church organization was impressively reflected at the second annual banquet of the 64th Winnipeg (Robertson Memorial) Troop, with Rev. J. Mutchmor in the chair and an attendance of 150. The chief speakers were Sir James Alkens, K.C., Chief Scout for Manitoba, and the Hon. R. A. Hoey, Minister of Education. A carefully worked out programme brought Scout and Cub choruses alternately between each of the addresses and toasts, and included a report on the year's work by Scoutmaster Mason. This report included Bible memorizing and attendance at a Scout and Cub Sunday-school class which during the year had an average attendance of 20. In appreciation of their work with the troop and pack, Scoutmaster and Mrs. Mason were presented with a silver cake basket. The banquet was served by Girl Guides, Brownies and the C.G.I.T.

According to the first fall number of the Chilliwack "Wonk Eye" Inter-troop affairs and a combined rally are to feature the winter activities of the troops of the Fraser River Valley, B.C. Chilliwack now has five troops.

Scouts served at the first fall season banquet of the 2nd Fredericton (Cathedral) Cub Pack, held in the gymnasium of the Cathedral Memorial Hall. There followed a Cub work demonstration and an investiture by District Cubmaster Pugh.

#### Real Woodsmen

The 1st Moose Jaw Troop, according to the Moose Jaw *Times-Herald*, have completed the excellent and appropriately scouty job, begun in July last, of cutting a path a little more than three-quarters of a mile in length through a local picnic grounds. "Through the densely wooded part of the second picnic grounds the boys have cut a path a little more than three-quarters of a mile in length, and the opinion of all who have been through it, is that the boys have opened up a beautiful walk. Entering the grove at one end, the river can be followed by a winding path clear to the other end of the point. Next year the troop intends opening up the other side so that it will be

possible to go right around the peninsula. They are real woodsmen."

Talks on "Camp Menus and Food Supplies" and "Camp Kit and Equipment" were November meeting items of the 18th Winnipeg Rovers, and for variety "Grain and the Grain Exchange," by Mr. S. Leventhal. A Rover librarian was appointed.

More than \$100 was realized for the 2nd Calgary Troop funds from a tea sale held under the auspices of the Ladies' Auxiliary in the Scout hall of Christ Church. The hall was decorated with blackcats, witches and other Hallowe'en embellishments.

#### Games and an Observation Test

For a combined meeting of the 6th and 1st Chatham Troops at the latter's hut, the programme included five games, a special first-aid problem and an observation test. The games were Three Deep, Staff Jump Relay, Knot Chariot Race, Square Tug-of-war, and Crows, Cranes and Crabs. For the observation test District Commissioner Buesnel during the meeting changed his shoes, brown to black. Two patrols failed to note this.

The 1st Granby Troop, Que., has added curtains to its patrol corners equipment.

**DON'T fail to study these COAST TO COAST items for good ideas, or reminders of "good old ideas." Mark those that appeal to you and read them to your Court of Honour.**

By way of reciprocity the leadership of the 1st Chatham Troop, Ont., has been taken over by Scoutmaster E. Cox, formerly the Scoutmaster of a Texas Troop.

#### N. B. Troop Improves Old Burial Ground

The 1st St. Andrews Troop, N. B., under Scoutmaster Ideson, has been clearing dead trees, saplings and weeds from an old and long neglected local burial ground. The work has brought many approving comments. The boys of this troop took an active part in the local poppy selling campaign preceding Armistice Day.

The 6th Winnipeg (Calvary Baptist) Troop held a shower for a sale of the church Ladies' Aid.

A special exhibit of camp cooking was one of the attractions in the Boy Scout section of the Cape Breton Island Fall Exhibition. Other sections of the exhibit included garden produce, flowers, carpentry, fretwork, carving, model lashing, collections of leaves, pen sketches, stamp collections.

#### Bowmanville Scouts Receive Flag at Rotary Luncheon

A beautiful Union Jack, handsomely mounted and tasseled, was presented to the 1st Bowmanville Troop by Dr. B. J. Hazlewood of Oshawa at a lunch-

eon of the Bowmanville Rotary Club at which the Scouts were guests. The flag was received by Scoutmaster Palmer, and handed by him to the troop's youngest member, who then passed slowly down the room between two lines of Scouts standing rigidly at salute. A Thanks Badge was presented to Mr. E. Smith Ferguson, and a Swastika pendant to Brent Hazlewood the first boy enrolled in the original 1st Bowmanville in appreciation of services to the troop. A number of Proficiency Badges were presented by Field Secretary Padden.

The 6th Winnipeg Troop (Calvary Baptist) assisted the ladies of the church at their annual fall bazaar. They served at several booths, sold calendars, text cards, and toys which they had themselves made, and helped in various other ways.

#### Raising Funds for Jamboree Scout

Some 200 persons were present at a demonstration given by Weyburn Scouts at the Canadian Legion club rooms for the purpose of raising funds to send a Weyburn Scout to the 1929 Jamboree. Programme items included the presentation of a Certificate of Merit to Scout R. Miller, a proficiency badge examination and the investiture of the leaders of the 1st and 2nd Weyburn Troops, conducted by Assistant District Commissioner J. T. Hearson. Luncheon was served by members of the Scout physical training class, after which an orchestra supplied music for dancing.

Twenty-four Scout staves were presented to that many members of the 2nd Weyburn Troop, Sask., by the President of the Local Association, Mr. G. J. G. Jaffett.

Rev. S. C. Jarrett was guest of honour at the Hallowe'en banquet of the 3rd Oshawa Troop, Ont., held at Holy Trinity Church.

#### A Cub Sixer Conference

Cub Sixers of Winnipeg South District held a Saturday afternoon conference, Nov. 3rd. They listened to talks on "The Duties of a Sixer," on First Aider, Observer and Guider badge work, and games were played.

St. Thomas' Scouts and Cubs of Winnipeg held a get-together weiner roast near Oman's Creek, with an attendance of fifty. The evening included a camp fire sing-song and treasure hunt.

#### Town Council Votes Free Light for This Troop

Free light was voted by the Town Council for the new headquarters of the 1st Hantsport, N. S., Scout Troop, opened in the old Presbyterian Church. The four members of the Troop Committee and School Principal Purdy were present for the occasion. Various prizes for efficiency were presented by Scoutmaster Rev. H. T. Gornall.

A coloured troop has been organized at Chatham, Ont., with Rev. Reed as Scoutmaster.

### A Troop Annual Fall Fair

The Annual Fall Fair of the 1st Moose Jaw Troop was patronized by hundreds of visitors. Ven. Archdeacon F. Wells Johnson, D.D., formally opened the fair and congratulated the Scouts on the excellence of the display. The various booths included wall quoits, a fish pond, novelty stalls, etc. Afternoon tea was served by the Ladies' Auxiliary. The second night of the fair took the form of a monster whist drive and dance.

Troops and packs of the district were invited by announcement to attend the annual church parade of the 23rd Hamilton (Calvin Presbyterian) Troop.

### Tell Your Headquarters Problem to the Rotarians

When Scoutmaster Arnold of the 1st Swift Current Troop, Sask., addressed the local Rotarians, on their invitation, and stated that the troop had been unable to secure suitable quarters for their winter meetings, Manager Daniels of the Empress Hotel solved the problem by placing the hotel's private diningroom at the service of the Scouts twice a week.

"The 17th Hamilton troop will make its usual visit to the San on Saturday to cheer along the little patients there." — Hamilton Scout News.

### Troop Presents Flags to Cubs and Guides

Scout, Guide and Cub colours were dedicated by the Rev. T. A. Courson in an impressive ceremony at St. Matthew's Church, Winnipeg. The Guide and Cub flags had been presented to the Guide Company and Cub Pack by the Scout Troop, and the flag for the troop was received from an anonymous donor in memory of his mother. Other city troops and packs were represented.

The Scout troop at Arcola, Sask., has been reorganized, with Rev. W. Brant as Scoutmaster and Rev. W. R. Ashley A.S.M.

### Scout Medals Presented at Massey Hall

A gathering under the auspices of the Anglican Young People's Association which filled Massey Hall to hear an address by Canon Allen Shatford of Montreal was made the occasion incidentally of presenting the Silver Cross for life saving to Scout Charles Hinchcliffe of the 113th Toronto and the Gilt Cross to Scout Jack Davis of the 104th Toronto. Presentations were made by the District Commissioner, W. K. George.

Playlets "A Backwoods School" and "Tin Can Ranch" were effective humorous numbers of the first concert of the 1st and 2nd Assiniboia troops, Man., in the United Church. A roping contest and boxing were other popular features. In conclusion Scoutmaster Sheward gave the audience an outline of Scouting and what it means to the boy.

Moving pictures of the Calgary and High River stampedes, and other Canadian subjects provided an entertainment given with the co-operation of Captain Walsh, O.C. of the High River air force station, in aid of the funds of the 1st High River Scout Troop, Alta.

The 3rd Chatham Troop, Ont., will soon be in its new specially built Scout hut in Victoria Park.

### Court of Honour Divides Big Troop

At a Court of Honour of the 2nd Winnipeg (Holy Trinity) it was decided to divide the troop into two sections. This was found necessary on account of the increasing number of recruits. As the first step the existing patrols were reorganized into six. A committee of four was named to plan a paper collecting drive.

The annual St. Catharines' District observation hike was won by Scout Jack Pratt of the 4th St. Catharines Troop.

In connection with a local campaign to raise funds, a model patrol site camp was erected on the grounds of the Provincial Normal School at Fredericton, N.B. Scouts from all the troops in the city participated in flag raising and prayers at 8.30 a.m., and in flag lowering at 5.30 p.m.

### Jamaican Commissioner at 23rd Toronto Banquet

Two hundred guests sat down to the Father and Son banquet in St. Clement's Parish Hall of the 23rd Toronto Troop and Pack, after which "a good musical programme with much community singing was heartily enjoyed." During the evening Rev. W. G. Nicholson was invested as Troop Chaplain. The visitors included Colonel Ogilvie, Scout Commissioner in Jamaica.

### Crusaders Donate Shield for Hamilton Competition

At a meeting of the executive of the Hamilton District Council a delegation from the Most Noble Order of Crusaders, headed by S. L. Heaton, presented a beautiful shield for competition between the troops in Hamilton. This shield will be competed for annually at Camp Teetonkah and will be given to the winners of the general efficiency competition.

### French Troop Committee Set an Example

Over \$1,000 was realized for the 41st Ottawa French-Canadian Troop, from a Kermesse organized by the Troop Committee. The Kermesse ran from October 17th to November 3rd, and throughout this period members of the committee were in attendance from 7 p.m. to a late hour. As a result of such splendid support consistently given the 41st is one of Ottawa's strongest and most active Scout organizations.

### Again—First Aid Training

WHEN one of the crew working on a "combine" (reaper and thresher) at Frontier, Sask., had his hand cut off in the machine and the bone splintered to the elbow, he was given effective first aid by Scout R. Daniel, was rushed in a car to Frontier then to the hospital at Shaunavon. Armstrong, the victim, also displayed iron nerve "by whistling continuously all the way." The Scout's action was described in the press despatch as "one of the outstanding heroic acts of the year in southwestern Saskatchewan."

"Growing old means an incapacity to accept a new idea." Successful Scouters are always young.



**GIRL** Guides department of the Ottawa Toy Shop, under District Commissioner Kay Symes. This shop last year sent gifts to 647 settlers' children, in addition to a large local distribution.

### Investiture of Patrol Leaders

THE investiture of Patrol Leaders into their rank is not yet as widely practised in Canada as it should be. There is no question but that such a ceremony, well carried out, deeply impresses a boy with the responsibility of his leadership, and also enhances his position in the eyes of the other boys.

From time to time The Scout Leader has published P. L. Investiture ceremonies as used in outstanding troops. Herewith we give the ceremony used with excellent effect by District Scoutmaster E. C. Reason with his own troop, the 59th Toronto:—

**Troop in Horseshoe Formation. Colours in center.**

**Scoutmaster:** Boys of the 59th Toronto Scout Troop, we have reached that period in the troop year where it is necessary for us to appoint several members of the troop to the rank of Patrol Leader. I therefore call upon Scouts . . . . . to take their place before the troop.

(Elected Scouts take their position.)

We have now before us the . . . . . Scouts chosen to fill these important positions.

To you who are about to take this responsible work, and before you are invested with this rank, I would ask that you seriously consider the responsibilities that will be yours. As members of this troop, you have done good work as Scouts. We know you have lived the life of a Scout, kept true to your Promise, and accepted the Ten Scout Laws as a guide in your daily thoughts and actions. You have been loyal to Scouting and the 59th.

In appointing you to this rank, we feel that you have reached a standard of good Scouting that fits you to take your place as leader, friend and guide to those who are members of your particular patrol.

Every boy who joins the troop looks up to his Patrol Leader as a real Scout; and the officers of the troop believe that you will live up to this responsibility, and that no matter where you may be, or whatever you may be doing, your thoughts, words and actions will bring no disappointment to the boys placed in your charge, or discredit to the fair name and honour of the 59th.

(Colour Party lowers Colours; all to the Centre.)

In investing you with the rank of Patrol Leaders of the 59th Toronto Troop, I will ask you to face the troop, placing your left hand on the flags and with the other coming to the full Scout salute.

Your left hand, placed on the Colours, means that you love and respect these flags that inspired the traditions of the troop. The right hand raised to the full salute, signifies that with the strength of your physical being, and the intelligence that is yours, you will keep this promise as a Scout:

"I, (inserting name), promise on my Scout's Honour, that I will do my best,—

To instruct, help, and guide the Scouts entrusted to my charge;  
To inspire them by my thoughts, words, and deeds to a full understanding of the Scout Spirit,

And at all times to be loyal to my patrol, brother Patrol Leaders, and the 59th Troop."

(Patrol Leaders take the promise.)

**Scoutmaster:** I herewith present to you the badges of your new rank, and trust you on your honour to keep this promise. May Good Luck, Good Health, and Good Scouting go with them. Patrol Leaders of the "Incomparable 59th," I salute you!

### Imagination and Scouting

NO Scoutmaster whose imagination is not in good working order can hope to run a Troop successfully. Merely to go into Scouting with the idea of "taking the boys off the streets," and "keeping them in the right path" insures failure. Scouting is not that kind of thing. True, it does do that; but it won't and can't do it where the Scoutmaster and his supporters lack imagination. First, last, and all the time, Scouting is a game—a make-believe to a large extent—in which imagination plays a leading part.

If the Scoutmaster and his boys do not think they are out on an adventure, they lose the best part of their experience. They soon tire of the

their imaginative youth.

Let Scoutmasters read such books, and find these flowers, and having found them, let them tend and cultivate them with greatest care. Then will they be able to go into the wilds of Suburbia and stalk tigers and rescue victims from bloodthirsty savages, although the wildest animal to be found is probably a tom-cat, and the only savages, the philistine destroyers of the beauties of nature. When a man can live this life, if otherwise he is a manly man, he is fit to be a Scoutmaster and run a Troop. Always provided, of course, that he is blessed with the virtue of common sense.

—Scouters' Gazette, New South Wales.

### A Calgary Training Troop Evening

THE Calgary Scouters' Troop, a model training unit, resumed its regular meetings for the fall and winter at St. Stephen's Memorial hall, under District Scoutmaster Florence. The meeting opened with the troop in horseshoe, flag break, "O Canada," and inspection of patrols. In corners patrol books were entered and dues collected. For the first fifteen-minute period J. T. Slingsby gave the troop

THE summer's campment of the 1st Dahinda, Sank., Crown. Note the rack for the natural wood staves, the "pot and pan tree," and other gadgets."



game—there is nothing in it. They might as well, or better, be at a school picnic, or a lecture on petrology by the learned Doctor Dryasdust. To capture the imagination of youth, one must possess some portion of that precious treasure one's self. One must be able to visualize, to live, for the time being, in a world which is not the world of everyday life. The ordinary man loses this power too soon. The cares of this world spring up like weeds, and choke and destroy the lovely and tender flowers of the imaginative life. Here and there an exceptional man is able to fight the weeds, and the flowers in his garden of imagination are strong and vigorous.

Such a man is our chief and founder, and of such, also, are men like J. M. Barrie and Kenneth Graham. Those who have never read "Dream Days" and "The Golden Age," two very charming books by Kenneth Graham, have something yet to live for. In those two books he gives to the "Olympians," the "grown-ups," a glimpse into the mind of the child. He recalls to their remembrance the days of their own childhood, and they find still growing in their garden of weeds, hidden away under thorns and briars here and there, the tender flowers of

an insight into the art of tumbling and setting-up exercises. Geo. Taylor followed with a half-hour demonstration of bandaging.

One period was given to games under Scouter Trainor. Several new games were introduced, including a bandaging relay, tenderfoot knot relay race and an indoor version of "Stalk the Scoutmaster." The latter game utilized the "freeze" signal, the troop being required to cover 25 yards of open territory without its movements being detected by the game leader, who stood at the end of the course, back turned to the participants, but at liberty to turn at any time and catch them moving.

Scouter Hawes led the troop in campfire songs, giving some valuable hints on how to get best results from this class of singing.

### The Court of Honour

At the Court of Honour, several important matters were discussed. These included suggestions that the attention of the proper authorities be drawn to the number of flags in the city being flown incorrectly hung; the annual Scout Toy Shop; completion of the erection of bird houses in Union Cemetery and on St. George's Island, and the date of the next Scout dance.

### Boy Scouts and the Church

The following excellent article, originally prepared by Provincial Secretary E. R. Paterson for The Montreal Churchman, may prove of value in other Scouting centres, as a new presentation of the subject.

THE purpose of this article is to show some of the value received by a Church under whose auspices a Boy Scout unit is conducted, to offset the expenditure of energy and patience necessitated by the fostering of such a lively organization.

One of the most important benefits to the Church comes through the providing of practical, active service which may be rendered by the boys. We are taught nowadays that the only way a boy will learn is by doing, and one of the problems of the Sunday-school teacher is to find a practical outlet for the lessons in Christian principles which he or she teaches week by week.

Those who study Scouting are soon brought to realize that the Scout life for a boy is an excellent expression of the Christian life. On assuming membership in the organization his first promise is to try his best to do his duty to God. A further promise pledges his best efforts to live according to the Scout Law, which is as fine an expression of the ten Commandments in a boy's language as can be found anywhere. The teacher, therefore, who deals with Scouts can always drive home a moral lesson by speaking of the Scout life, knowing that here is a simple, practical application of right living which will readily be grasped by the boys. Action follows naturally, and the lesson becomes developed from an abstract truth to a concern of real life.

In this connection the importance of the uniform and investiture ceremony of the Scouts may be emphasized. Both of these impress the boys with the reality of their entry into a new way of life when they assume membership. The step is never referred to as "joining the troop"; instead, the boy is made to realize that he "becomes a Scout," which is a very different thing. The wearing of his uniform reminds him periodically of his obligations, and the title of "Scout" so-and-so helps him to remember that he is a different person from what he was as a mere boy.

A second value of the Church is the attracting of boys to the Sunday-school and Church life. Action is interesting. Scouting activities are fun, and where these are added to the routine work of the Church there is an attractiveness that appeals to normal boys. The Scout troop bearing the name of the Church acts as a publicity agency that is not to be despised.

As important as the above is the value to the Church of the training for leadership. The need of leadership in Church activities is apparent on every hand. Who will teach in Sunday-school, who will act as an officer of societies, who knows how to take up

some new line and carry the rank and file with him, and who is willing to do these things? The answer is coming with increasing clearness, "the trained ex-Boy Scout."

For the development of leaders among boys is one of the most important things the Scoutmaster and his Assistants undertake to do. The organization of a Scout troop is so arranged that boy leaders are provided for from the first, and the efficiency of the troop work depends largely on how much responsibility these leaders are trained to accept. Each patrol in the troop includes 6, 7, or 8 boys, and has its own Patrol Leader and Second. To these officers is entrusted the training of the other members of the patrol just as completely as they are able to understand it. The ideal troop consists of three or four of these patrols, each practically self-contained, with the adult officers guiding from the background.

Boys trained through such a system pass out from Scouting with the habit of leadership already established. It should be a simple step for them to go on to other church organizations and work up to the point where responsibility may be placed upon their shoulders. The Scout troop, therefore, may act as a feeder for parish activities.

A fourth benefit to the church comes from the moral foundation secured by allegiance to the Scout Law and Promise. Here is a boy who is thoroughly ready to receive religious instruction, for it is only a slight step to replace the motive of "being a Scout" with that of "being a Christian." The life is there, the background is ready, and the church has material ideally prepared to receive its message. Just as the younger boy who has been a Wolf Cub (the junior Scout organization) is better prepared to become a Scout by reason of his previous training, so the Scout comes to the church better prepared than he would otherwise be to enter her full membership and life.

### Other Christmas Good Turns

(Continued from page 15)

An Ontario Troop collected nearly a hundred story books for the boys of a nearby sanitarium.

Numerous troops and packs assisted in the decoration of churches and Sunday-schools.

#### Other Possibilities

Provide Christmas trees for families unable to purchase or otherwise procure them.

Visit and entertain war veterans in hospitals, or sanitariums.

Visit boys in similar institutions.

Help entertain children at orphanages.

Visit country homes, old folks' homes, etc.

Assist in newspaper or other Christmas Cheer parcel delivery.

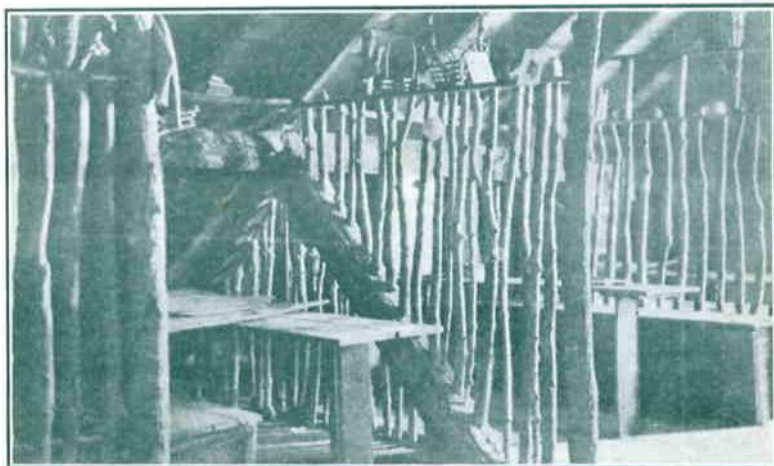
Assist in controlling street traffic on the big shopping days.

In all Christmas Scout activities have it in mind to bring boys into personal contact with those being helped whenever possible,—in order that they may learn, if necessary, just what it means to be in need. Many boys have little idea of actual want; and the lesson is especially effective at Christmas.

Do not overlook the janitor of the church or school where your troop meets. You probably give him work which he would not otherwise have been called upon to do. A little practical expression of appreciation at Christmas will help things to run smoothly through the New Year.

### French Scouts at Grave of Roland Philipps

A very kindly little action has just been performed by our brothers the "Scouts de France" of Picardie. On July 8th, a party of them made a pilgrimage to the grave of Roland Philipps and covered it with flowers and I understand that it is their intention to do the same kindly act each year, on the anniversary of his death. I am sure that their thought will be gratefully appreciated by all British Scouts.—The Scouter.



ANOTHER view of the up-stairs patrol den of the 1st Moose Jaw Troop (an earlier view appeared in the Scout Leader for May). The equipping of this fine troop headquarters—a converted office building given by the Robin Hood Company, on a site given by the city—was recently completed by the installation of a furnace. The lower floor includes a spacious assembly hall, lecture room, a dining room and a kitchen. It is now a busy Scout Toy Shop.



# The Scoutmaster's Five Minutes



## The Star in the East

(Reprinted from Scout Leader of December, 1925)

AS with all who have studied the stars, many Scouts will at this Christmas time be asking questions concerning the "Star in the East" that led the "wise men" to the scene of the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. What kind of star was it? Was it a "miracle star" that came into being for its special purpose, then disappeared? Was it a comet? Just what was it?

Bible students and scientists do not always agree; but it is interesting to note that Sir Isaac Newton, one of the world's greatest astronomers, believed that the "Star in the East" was some unusual heavenly visitor. He declared that he had come to the conclusion, from a close study of records, that all great events of history have occurred at a time when there was some unusual condition in the heavens; and he believed that the birth of Jesus was marked by some heavenly phenomenon.

So we have the Bible and the reasoning of a great scientist as authorities for believing that the "Star in the East" was a fact, and was something out of the ordinary.

Just what was it?

Let us look at the Gospel of St. Matthew, in which the story of the star alone appears. The references read: "... we have seen His star in the east ..." "enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared." "... and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

A star that "went before" of course would be a moving star, presumably of the nature of a comet. One suggestion has been that it was in fact a comet such as Donati's Comet of 1858. Against this assumption, however, is the fact that although astronomers since long before the coming of Christ have left records of comets, there is no recorded mention of such a heavenly visitor being seen at any date approximating the time of Christ's birth.

Some Bible students believe it possible that in the translation of St. Matthew's Gospel from the original Hebrew into Greek, and later from Greek into English, certain grammatical errors may have occurred, and that if corrected these would make the references to the star coincide with astronomical observations, while taking nothing from its significance. According to one commentator, for instance, the translation from the Greek which gave the words "went before" might with equal correctness have read "led them on"; and a further slight change of grammar would have given, "till they came and stood over (against) where the young child was."

If this commentator's suggestion has a good foundation, the expression "led them on" could have referred to

a star having an apparently fixed position over Bethlehem; a star new in the sky, whose brilliant light "led them on" toward their destination.

On this assumption several astronomical explanations have been offered. One was that the star represented the conjunction in the year 7 B.C. of Jupiter and Saturn, or in 6 B.C. of Jupiter and Venus. The difficulty here is that the most careful calculation places the date of our Lord's birth not earlier than 5 B.C. (according to our calendar).

Another theory is now more generally regarded as a possible explanation. This is that the "Star in the East" was in fact Sirius, the particularly bright star of the constellation of Canis Major; for it has been established that this constellation during each of the four years 4, 5, 3, and 2 B.C. appeared at sunrise on the first of the Egyptian month Messori—corresponding to the latter part of our December. And in turn, this phenomenon (to the people of that generation) is involved both in astronomical forecasts and in biblical prophecies of the coming of Jesus.

The "wise men" were not Jews. Not being Jews, they possibly were not familiar with the Jewish scriptures and their prophecies. How then did they know of the coming of "the King of the Jews"?

The Egyptian name of the month, Messori, apparently provides the answer. Messori means "Birth of the Prince," or in other words, "the month of the Birth of the Prince." Now let us see where the Egyptians got that name.

Some three hundred years earlier Egypt had become the centre of the world's astronomic study, and all the wisdom and records of the then known world were gathered in a great Museum of Philosophy. On studying the records of the Babylonian "magicians and astronomers," which doubtless included Daniel, the Egyptian astronomers found forecasts of the unusual position in the heavens of the star Sirius in the years 4, 5, 3 and 2 B.C.

Now let us go back there ourselves, in the biblical records; and in the Book of Numbers, Chapter xxiv, 17, we read this prediction of the prophet (and also doubtless astronomer) Balaam: "There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel."

The assumption is that the biblical prophecy of the coming of the "Prince of the House of David" and the astronomic prophecy of the unusual position of Sirius were combined, and this suggested for that month the name Messori—the month of the "Birth of the Prince."

So while the "wise men" may not have been familiar with the Jewish scriptures, they would as astronomers have knowledge of the predictions of the "astronomers" Balaam and Daniel, and the great event that was to fall in the month "Messori."

"Scouting" through Ancient History is a wonderful pastime, for over and over again we find the trail of truth centuries old; and the trail of truth always brings us to God. Sir Isaac Newton was a "Starman Scout," and he followed the trail through the records of the starmen of Rome, Egypt, Greece and Babylon, and back again to Bethlehem; and he was so convinced of the correctness of his deduction that he became a great preacher of the "glad tidings" that came to us with the "Star in the East."

The Christmas stars are so wonderful in their beauty that we must take a look at them. Orion is magnificent this month—and east of Orion is Canis Major, with Sirius shining like a diadem. You will study Sirius with a new interest, a new awe.

On the other side of Orion is glaring Aldebaran, the great eye of Taurus the Bull. Away in the south-west is Formalhaut, and in the north-west shimmering Vega in the Lyre. You will remember that if you draw a line from Vega to the North Star, and on for about the same distance you will come to Capella in Auriga. If you look out early you will also see Altair in the west. It is the bright star between two others which together form Aquila. Towards the west, in the Milky Way, you will see the Northern Cross or the Swan. Those four bright stars in the south which form a square are the Stall of Pegasus, and if you look carefully you will make out the horse's head. Stretching from the most easterly corner of the square up into the Milky Way is Andromeda, the little girl who feeds the horse.

It was nearly two thousand years ago, but the stars that shone over Bethlehem shine for us as they did then. Gaze upon them until you catch their message of order and peace. Truly they seem to be a setting specially prepared for the happiest event of all the ages; and out from the glory of it all we seem to hear the angel voices singing, "Glory be to God on high and on Earth peace, good will toward men."

*Like Silver Lamps in a distant Shrine,*

*The Stars are sparkling bright.*

*The Bells of the City of God ring out,*

*For the Son of Mary is born tonight.*

And he who cannot sing and worship and spread goodwill seems strangely out of tune.

D.S.M. (Rev.) A. S. Mitchell,  
Markdale, Ont.

"Happiness is within the reach of everyone, rich or poor yet comparatively few people are happy. ... Many people think that pleasure is the same thing as 'happiness.' That's where they take the wrong turning. ... A joyful home, coupled with ability to serve others, gives the best happiness."—*Rovering to Success.*

### Scouts of Every Colour at Jamboree

ADDRESSING a rally of East London Scouts, Sir Robert Baden-Powell concluded by advising his young hearers to save up their money for the Jamboree, adding, "You will see brother Scouts from every part of the world. There will be Scouts of every colour—black, yellow, red, green." Loud laughter greeting the last allusion, the Chief Scout retorted, "Well, there are some coming from Greenland, anyway."

"There will be Scouts from every country you have ever heard of," he went on, "and a good many from countries that you have never heard of. They are all your brothers, so treat them like brothers. We don't want any more wars, and you Scouts can do a lot by making friends of these chaps when they come over here."

### A Complete Troop Organization

A meeting of the men of St. Luke's Community interested in the work of the 2nd St. Thomas Troop, Ont., was called to reorganize and form the 2nd St. Thomas Troop Council, as the Troop, now a complete organization of Cubs, Scouts and Rovers, required additional support. These men "pledged themselves" to serve on the various committees:

Wolf Cub Committee, H. Sadler (chairman), William Tales and J. Parker. Scout Committee, H. Redding (chairman), H. O. White, Robert Leitch, J. Robb. Rover Committee, William Briest (chairman), H. A. Colledge, J. McArthur, H. Poole, Jr.

A Troop Council was then elected, consisting of a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and publicity secretary.

The work of the council and committees will in general be to strengthen and develop each section of the troop. Each committee will have a badge secretary, to whom application for Proficiency Badges must be made. Each committee will hold regular monthly meetings.

### The Straightest, Cleanest Code

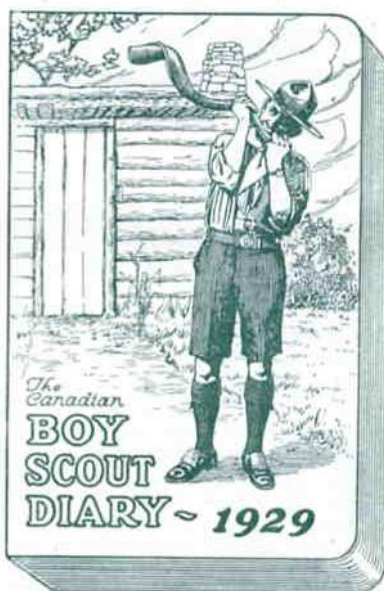
THAT the Scout Law was the best, the cleanest, and the straightest code ever invented by man was the affirmation of the new Lord Glanusk, County Commissioner for Brecknockshire, at the opening of the new headquarters for the 1st Brecon Troop of Scouts. He ventured to say, he went on, that if we all lived up to the Scout Law, a very great number of the social evils of to-day would be eradicated, and we should all be much more contented, and live very much happier lives. In every country in the world, continued Lord Glanusk, there were sections of the Boy Scout Movement, all trying to think of others before themselves, and working for a world-wide peace and the universal brotherhood.

This big object could be attained through the better understanding and the wider outlook of the Boy Scouts, who were to be the men and the leaders of men of their time.

## THE 1929 DIARY THE BEST YET! BRIGHT COVER NEW MATTER ONLY 20 CENTS!

Contents include:—How to Make a Bobsled—How to Play a Harmonica—Secret Writing—Railroad Signals—Combination Chart of Signal Codes—Many new Pictures of Canadian Birds, &—

Poisonous Plants of Canada, with 5 plates!



The Diary Cover picture represents B.P. calling to the 1929 Jamboree on the famous Gillwell Park kudu horn,—the horn used by a Matabele chief for signalling during the Matabele war, and captured and brought home by B.P. to be used later by him in calling together the first Training Course for Scoutmasters at Gillwell Park.

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THE STORES DEPARTMENT  
The Boy Scouts Association  
DOMINION HEADQUARTERS  
172 WELLINGTON STREET  
OTTAWA : : CANADA

### More Blind Scouts

THE boys of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind at Newcastle, England, who have for some time constituted a Patrol of the 20th Old Benwell Troop of Boy Scouts, have recently been enrolled as the 26th Troop of the Newcastle West Division. At their formal enrolment, Professor F. Smith formally handed over the registration forms. He had been so impressed, he said, by the simple dignity of the initiation ceremony, which was a small representation of what was behind the great Boy Scout Movement—the spirit of brotherhood, friendliness, sympathy and help. The boys entered, said Professor Smith, with certain disadvantages in being blind, but everything would be done in the Boy Scout Movement to help them.

### The Natural Appeal of Scouty Activities

WATCHING the different boys' magazines I found the designs for making homemade skis. It was but a short time until the back of the school room was turned into a work shop and skis were being constructed. Then it was bobsleds that they turned to, the design coming from a Scout paper.

These same boys learned to signal with flags, learned to tie all the different knots in ropes, as I had a Scout Manual handy. They were signalling each other from hill tops, from straw piles, and across ponds; so interested that there was very little time for them to chase the smaller boys home with clubs and stones, as they had been doing.

—Marella R. Whitmore  
in Western School Journal.

### Bishop of St. Albans and Boy Scouts

WHAT was described as a definite and most useful step forward, for the welfare of youth in the Counties of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, England, was taken by the Bishop of St. Albans when he called together a week-end conference of Scoutmasters and those interested in the Boy Scout Movement in his Diocese.

In welcoming the conference, the Bishop said there might be a certain amount of surprise as to what he was up to. He was entirely innocent, as from earliest days of the Movement he had recognized the fineness of the ideals and methods of the Boy Scouts Association, and the fine self-sacrifice of the Scoutmasters in elevating the character of boyhood.

He thought the principles of Scouting:—(1) Duty to God, (2) Development of the individual boy, not in the mass, and (3) Membership of a big Brotherhood, with God at the back of it all, were sound principles.

The Bishop laid stress on the Religious Policy of the Boy Scouts Association, and commended it because it inculcated into each boy's life the following to the utmost in every particular of his own Religion, and not the mixing up of all Religions into a weak inter-denominational Creed.

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.

### "Head-hunter and Explorer"

THIS excellent indoor stalking game was devised by the Antelope Patrol of the 6th Sherbrooke Troop. One Scout from each of two patrols is selected, blindfolded, and placed at either end of the room. One represents a head-hunter, the other an explorer. The remainder of the troop then place obstacles about the room—chairs, tables, staves, etc.—to represent trees and bushes. At the word "go" head-hunter and explorer begin stalking one another, feeling their way, on hands and knees. Either is captured when touched on any part of the body by the other.

### Making an Annual Report to Your Troop Committee

THIS should not be overlooked as a matter of good business procedure and as a recognition of the interest shown by and expected of the Troop Committee. It is one of those details which strengthen and tidy up the whole troop organization. It increases the interest of the committee in the work accomplished, and the summary of an entire year's activities helps to a realization by the committee of the service rendered and the time and thought given the work by the Scoutmaster.

A good example type of annual report presented to the committee of the 2nd Montreal Troop by Scoutmaster R. G. Talbot began: "Gentlemen: I have pleasure in reporting on the past year's Scouting with the troop as follows: . . . ."

The detailed statement that followed was divided into paragraphs under the headings:—

#### THE TROOP

(Giving the membership figures, with average age, etc.)

#### GOOD TURNS

#### CAMPING

#### FINANCE

#### ATTENDANCE

Under the heading of GENERAL, miscellaneous information was given regarding the troop meeting place, various troop activities not previously noted; the readiness of the troop to receive visits from parents and friends; appreciation of interest shown in the troop by specified individuals; an expression of appreciation to the board of management of the church for use of the school room, and the personal thanks of the Scoutmaster to the Chairman, Secretary-treasurer and other members of the Troop and Pack Committee for their support and co-operation.

### A 6th Edmonton Pack Programme

6 p.m.—Howl; Song, "All Along the Trail"; Inspection by C.M.

6:10—Corner work (as planned).

6:30—Jungle dance (one of four).

6:40—Arrow game.

6:50—Game (or Investiture ceremonies).

7:00—Wrap Me Up in My Cub Sweater (6th special song); Howl and dismiss.

### A Good Combination Scout-Cub Hike

FOR a Saturday afternoon Sherbrooke district hike the Cubs were sent over a short route to the destination where Cub games were played pending the arrival of the Scouts, who meantime were working out the details of a treasure hunt problem. The information supplied was that robbers had stolen a team and a large amount of provisions from a local store, and had hidden the plunder in a certain place just before being captured by the police. To the Scouts had been left the location of the plunder, with the help of maps and compass. Following this was a game of "Bombing the Bridges," firecrackers providing the explosives. There was a "hot dog roast," then a jolly council fire of songs, yells and stories.

#### Scout Dates

1st—Every Scout and Cub reminded to order his copy of the 1929 Diary.

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd—Toy Shop big days.

21st—School closed for Christmas holidays. Help decorate Church and Sunday-school.

Christmas Eve—The year's jolliest Good Turn. Scout Santas make their rounds.

#### Christmas Week

Visit and entertain at hospitals, Old Folks' Homes, etc. Hold one or two Hikes, and if possible a Winter Camp. (See "Winter Hikes," The Scoutmaster's First Year, p 112.)

#### During December

Discuss at each meeting before Christmas Toy Shop activities and progress, or some other special Troop Christmas Good Turn.

Give special instruction re ice accidents. (See "Scouts and Ice Accidents," February 1928 Scout Leader.)

### Funds from a Puzzle Solution

A subscription puzzle proposition which may interest Scoutmasters and Scouts of a mathematical turn of mind, and for the correct solution of which money prizes are offered up to \$200, is carried in the November number of *Forest and Outdoors*. This should prove a means of raising funds for a number of enterprising troops. Copies of the puzzle may be had by writing *Forest and Outdoors*, 51 Sparks St., Ottawa.

### What's Wrong With the Dog?

A widely displayed billboard advertisement shows a small bulldog beside a radio battery which he has been unsuccessfully trying to pull to pieces. What is wrong about the dog? Make it a patrol competition question.

### "Pirates' Treasure"

THE spirits of the old pirates stalked abroad at the Scout meeting last Thursday night. Cryptic messages were posted on the walls of the troop room telling of buried treasure. First one and then another of the Scouts who thought they had solved the secret would dash outdo and begin a frantic search for the buried hoard. Two of the treasures were unearthed in a short time; the third was found ultimately. The treasures were bags of candy. A still hunt was then organized to find a hidden watch.—1st Amherstburg.

### One Pack's List of Games

THE following list of games played by one of Quebec's consistently successful packs, the 2nd Sherbrooke, may be worth checking over by other Cubmasters.

Cock-a-lorum.

Kangaroo Relay.

Blind Man's Journey.

Snatch the Scarf.

Soldiers and Sailors.

Knock the Blob (p 28 of Cub Handbook).

Buck-Buck.

Running Water—Still Water.

Swat Tag.

Hat Tag.

Skin the Snake.

Sentry-Go (p 45 Cub Handbook).

Zulu Boy (p 52 Cub Handbook).

Arrow Game and "Hidden Tube" (p 63 Cub Handbook). Also made competition of assembling of parts of Union Jack mentioned on p 63.

Shop Window Kim's Game, and Tracking, Smell and Hearing (p 79 Cub Handbook).

Observation on Hike (p. 79,80 of Handbook).

Sleeping Pirate.

Message Sent.

Act parts in Niagara ice accident (p 82 Handbook).

### Cubby Banquet Decorations

FOR the annual banquet of the 4th Moncton (St. John's) Pack the hall was decorated in the pack colours, blue and red; the guest table in yellow and green, and the other table "according to the programme"—the First Aid Table with red crosses, the Flag Composition Table with Union Jacks, the Signalling Table with crossed signalling flags, and the Knot Table with an exhibit of Wolf Cub knot work. Cub Joey Robinson, aged 11, acted as toastmaster. District Commissioner Buzzell responded to the toast, "B. P.", and Rev. J. A. Ramsay to "The Church." The Grand Howl, lowering of the flag and a prayer by the pastor closed a very delightful evening. Place cards bore in the upper left corner drawings of knots, a wolf cub head, a flag in colours, or a red cross.