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SCOUTS KEPT BUSY

British Boys Realize They Live in Stirring Times.

Patrol Leader Griggs and Pirate Have Adventures Which Would Seem to Furnish Quite a Number of Thrills.

"Me and Pirate saw her first," said Patrol Leader Griggs, when asked to recall the most recent maritime mishap of which, as a boy scout, he had official cognizance. "It was only the other day, and we'd been sent on special patrol along the cliff, two one way and two t'other, the sea fog being so thick. She was quite close in, but you could only just see her in the mist—a fair-sized steamer, and not moving, so I knew she was on the sand."

Griggs sent the Pirate back post haste, says "A. E. C." in London Daily Chronicle, that a rocket apparatus might be sent and the nearest lifeboat warned.

"The strange part was she didn't hoot or nothing," said Griggs—"not a sound. I holla'd, but they wouldn't be likely to hear. Also I took off my jersey and waved it, just to let 'em know help 'ud be coming, but I don't think they saw."

Within 45 minutes Pirate returned in company with the rocket apparatus and its crew.

"And what do you think?" exclaimed Griggs indignantly, "at first they wouldn't take his word for it up at the station. Was he quite sure he hadn't made a mistake, if you please! Just as if I don't know a stranded steamer when I see one!"

The rocket was successfully fired and the tackle made fast on the steamer. But crew and vessel owed their rescue to the alternative aid brought by the boys' summons.

"When the lifeboat came up," explained Griggs, "they passed her a warp, and she put an anchor out, and the steamer hauled herself back into deep water."

I asked about the scar on Griggs' knee.

"It was a beastly dark night," he replied, "when that happened. There was a parcel for the next station and I was taking it half-way, to meet one of their boys coming up—both on our bikes. I was going at a fair lick, and ran into a big biscuit tin that some silly ass had left in the middle of the road. At least it sounded like a biscuit tin, but I didn't go hunting round to find out what it was. The blood wasn't half running down my leg, so I got back as quick as I could."

"Do you find bicycles useful in coast watching?"

"They're all right to anyone used to them. I lent my bike to Pirate once—but never again! A mine was reported ashore a mile and a half along the coast. Pirate was told to hurry there and stand watch over it till the motorboat came to make it harmless. There's some sand holes and deep cuttings along the cliff, and being in too much of a hurry to see where he was going Pirate fell into pretty near all of them. Then he stuck the bike into a hedge and ran the rest."

"Have you ever had a mine come ashore and explode?"

"One did. It made a most tremendous loud noise, only I didn't hear it myself, being asleep at the time."

"Did it do much damage?"

"Depends on what you call much," replied Griggs judicially. "A man's shoulder put out of joint and about a thousand quids' worth of broken windows."

Little Romance of Today.

There is a flavor of sheer romance about that Partizanski flag with its Scottish thistle, English rose, and Russian bear embroidered by the English ladies of Kermanshah, which figures in a striking little dispatch from a correspondent of the Times of London. Partizanski is a Cossack under the command of Bicharakoff, "the man with the face of an iron dreamer" met, with his troop, by the way, at Kasri Shrin. There was a Colonel Leslie among that Cossack troop who spoke no word of English and only a word or two of French, having been an "exile," as he put it, "for over three hundred years," an ancestor of his having come to Russia in the reign of Ivan. He had read of pipes, in his family records, but it was at Mendali, on the inhospitable borders of Luristan, that he heard the music of them for the first time, and it was a Punjabi piper who played the Cossacks in.

German Chemists at Work.

The activity of German chemists is shown in technical journals received through neutral countries. One of the new products is a safety detonator, which is stated to be a cheap and effective substitute for fulminate of mercury. The latter, besides being costly, is very dangerous to handle and in the caps is unstable, a little dampness causing it to attack the copper or brass, forming a copper salt far more explosive than the fulminate itself. The new filling is a mixture of potassium chlorate and antimony sulphide—neither explosive. Held against this by a thin strip of tin is a varnish of gum lacquer containing ground red phosphorus and a little disphenylamine, and as the hammer strikes the cap, ignition is produced by friction of the phosphorous against the charge.

Safe and Sane.

"You bought a lot of Liberty bonds?"
"Yes. A Liberty bond was about the only thing I found that could be bought at its regular value during war times."

CLEVER.

"Jimmy, what are the advantages of living in the temperate zone?" asked the teacher at the close of the geography lesson.

"None," answered Jimmy, bluntly. "Why, Jimmy!" expostulated the teacher. "You know we live in the temperate zone."

"Yes, I know," declared Jimmy. "An' it takes all father can earn to buy ice in summer an' coal in winter."

A few weeks later Jimmy was going into the third grade, having successfully passed the holiday examinations, and his parting with his beloved teacher was tearful.

"Oh, teacher!" he wailed, "I wish you knew enough to teach the third grade, so you could come along an' teach me next year."

Jimmy is getting along well in these days.

Considering Her Feelings.
Mr. Husel—Why don't you get a job so your wife won't have to kill herself working over the washtub as she's doing?

Mr. Neversweat—Well, you see, she seems to enjoy her rest after a hard day's work so much I hate to take away the only pleasure she's got.

Safety First.

"You boys have been using that same deck of cards for months."

"Yes," replied Three-Finger Sam. "It's fur the perfection of home industry. We know all the bent corners an' finger marks by heart and any extra act that a tenderfoot tries to ring in is detected immediately."



AN APT COMPARISON.

Mr. I. M. Ill—Doc, you remind me of a bird.

Doc—How so?
Because you're forever sticking your bill in my face.

Unusual.
A curious cuss
Is Henry Gores,
He publicly admits
He snores.

His Exhibit.
"I heard the romantic young man you were interested in departed from his lady's presence inspired like a true knight."

"How was that?"
"Well, her father was booted and he was spurred."

Additional Data.

Young Hopeful—My teacher told us today that the tongue is the organ of speech.

Henpecked Father—But did she tell you that in women it is an organ without any stops?

Must Have Been Bad.

"Did the editor accept your manuscript?"

"No, returned it."

"Declined with thanks, I presume?"

"Worse than that. He didn't even include the thanks."

Very Uncertain.

"It is hard to tell whether Jim prefers blondes or brunettes, he is so illogical."

"How is that?"

"If he likes brunettes he keeps it a dark secret, and if he prefers blondes he makes light of it."



THE MAIN POINT.

"Phil, what are you laughing at?"

"I heard a funny story today."

"How did it go?"

"I don't just remember, but it was terribly funny."

A Vow.

Whether the years prove fat or lean,
This vow I here rehearse:
I take you, dearest Margarine,
For butter or for worse.

When a Man Bluffs.

"Bliggins complains he is constantly being misunderstood."

"He isn't. He tries to assume fine qualities that he doesn't possess. His troubles arise from the fact that he is too easily understood."

The Way of It.

"I was held up by a woman once."

"Did she hold you up as a victim of robbery?"

"No; she held me up as an example."

Defended.

"Mr. Smith has a great deal of acerbity in his conversation."

"Indeed, sir, I never heard him say anything but what was perfectly proper."

The Nasal Clue.

"I see where a whole case of whisky has disappeared, the authorities were very anxious to trace."

"I should think the detectives could easily smell out a case like that."

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