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BESIDE THE CAMP FIRE
Notes on Scoutcraft
by Commissioner Rev. Geo. W. Tebbs

A BRIGHT BOY WANTED.

HE was a clever boy, who seeing the above sign in a window took the card in his hand when he went into the office to apply for the position, and on being asked what he meant by doing so, replied, "You want a boy, don't you? Well, I'm here." His manly confidence in himself inspired confidence in others and he secured the position. Never has there been a greater demand for boys than at the present time, and the insistence of the demand is thrusting large numbers of boys into positions of responsibility and of opportunity at an earlier time in life than is usual. The drain and diversion of the war has made large inroads upon the young manhood of the nation, and the depleted ranks must be filled by boys from the homes of the land.

The schools invite the enlistment of boys in the ranks of the student class there to be fitted by education for larger and better attainments and accomplishments; the farms and factories are looking to the boys to fill up the ranks of the producers of the world's necessary supplies; the Church calls to the boys to enrol in its ranks in preparation for service in the fields already white to the harvest; and, sad as it is true, the forces of evil must look to the boyhood of the nation to recruit the ranks of the degenerate, the vicious and the depraved.

The call is first to the fathers and mothers of the country to give up the choice treasures of their homes to supply the needed workers. Shall the boys be consecrated, trained and sent forth to engage in promoting the things that will tend to the world's highest good, or shall the forces of evil capture and control them?

The call is also to the youth of the land to face the great issues involved and to choose wisely and well as to their personal relationship toward them and as to how and where they will invest their lives for their own good and for the best interests of the community and state. Shall the call be carelessly considered, thoughtlessly ignored, or seriously heeded?

Scouting will help to mould the boy's character at its most susceptible time, and will encourage and develop his individuality. The Scout Movement is of real public benefit as an organized body which trains boys first, last and all the time for public service.

The boys of Bronte Village, Ont., asked the writer last week to organize them into a Troop of Scouts. A meeting was held in the Memorial Church at which nearly all the boys of the Lakeshore village were present. With the help of a set of lantern slides Scouting was explained to the lads, and a goodly number at once began their work as Tenderfoots. Every success to them!

The Hamilton Scouts were called out last week to aid in the search for a missing young lady, but so far without success.

Now is the time to enlist the services of doctors and others who will through a series of winter meetings prepare the boys for their badges.

44 Uses of the Scout Stave.

1. Bridge building.
2. Tent poles.
3. Stretcher.

4. Fishing pole.
5. Mast for small sail.
6. Self-defence (Master at arms) mad dog.
7. Vaulting ditches and streams.
8. Forming scrum to keep back a crowd.
9. Emergency brake for wagons.
10. Sit at ease.
11. Drill.
12. Flag pole.
13. Hill climbing.
14. Aid in skating.
15. Feeling way in dark.
16. Wall scaling.
17. Use in games.
18. First aid in ice accident.
19. Measuring distance, height, etc.
20. Punting; also as rudder.
21. Signalling.
22. Improvised splints.
23. Making bivouac or shelter.
24. Emergency tongue for trek cart or as shafts.
25. Emergency wireless poles.
26. Emergency raft.
27. Camouflage (hat on pole in enemy's sight).
28. Use as cache.
29. Make ladder with lashings.
30. Crutch.
31. Support for clothes line.
32. Pot carrier in camp.
33. Tripod over camp fire.
34. Beating carpets for mother.
35. Temporary table legs.
36. Yoke for carrying buckets of water.
37. Breaking windows in case of fire.
38. Sounding for depth of water.
39. As bar or support for door.
40. To tighten ropes.
41. Ice breaker.
42. Roller under trunk.
43. Holding up trap door.
44. Attacking and tripping up a thief, etc., etc., etc.

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Captain Joe Bernard and A. Anderson have arrived at Nome, Alaska, with their vessel, the *Teddy Bear*, after four years spent in the Arctic, during twenty-five months of which time they were icebound at Taylor Island in Victoria Strait, near King William Land. Captain Bernard brought with him a native of the land of Stefansson's famous blond Eskimos, but declared that after two years' search of that district he was unable to locate any of the blond natives. He found sod houses, evidently of great age, in East Coronation Gulf, he said, and brought back pieces of old ivory and other curios uncovered in the ruins.

WHICH EXPLAINED IT.

The Vicar was addressing the children at the village school.
"This morning, children, I propose to offer you an epitome of the life of St. Paul. Now, children, can anyone tell me what an epitome is?"
There was an awful silence. The word had paralyzed the youngsters, so the good man went on:
"Epitome, children, is, in its signification, synonymous with synopsis!"

WANTED THEM TO LAST.

An old couple had saved hard all their lives and with the money had bought a beautifully furnished house. One day the old woman missed her man and called out to him:
"Where are you, Thomas? Not on the couch, I hope!"
"No, on the floor."
"Not on that carpet!" came in tones of anguish.
"No; I've rolled it up!"—Western Veteran.