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**Beside the Camp Fire**

NOTES ON SCOUTCRAFT

By Rev. GEORGE W. TEBBS, Burlington

AGAIN I am glad to have the privilege of sending a Christmas greeting and best wishes for 1921 to every Scout. During the past year I have been fortunate in having had many and varied opportunities of noting the progress of the Movement throughout the Dominion and the more I see and hear the more convinced I am of its immense value to Canada and the Empire, as well as to all Scouts.

One of my most pleasing duties is to approve from time to time the recommendations of the Medal Board, and it is a very real satisfaction to myself as I know it is to my Colleagues on the General Council to find how many cases there are in which courage and promptitude, resourcefulness and devotion—in fact all that Scouting means and stands for—have been shown.

If we all steadily adhere to the true principles and ideals of scouting we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that we are contributing still further to the success and efficiency of a movement which is already firmly established in our national life.

DEVONSHIRE,  
Chief Scout.

**BOY SCOUT RULES HAVE BEEN CHANGED.**

Troop Committee to Become the Fundamental Factor.

By making the troop committee a fundamental factor in the Boy Scout programme, constituting the permanent connection between the troop and the religious, educational and social forces of the community, and at the same time guaranteeing to the community personal leadership and responsibility for the movement, the executive committee of the Provincial Council of the Boy Scouts' Association has made a very important change in its organization policy. The Scoutmaster is, and will remain, the key man of the troop, but it is the province of the troop committee to secure for this officer and his assistants the most favorable conditions for the troop operation in the best interests of the Scout Movement and the members of the troop.

The committee further decided that local associations for the conduct of Boy Scout work in small communities should no longer be formed except in cases where there are now or are likely to be two or more troops. This step was taken because the local association administering a single troop has proven to be impracticable, and hereafter the duties assigned to local associations will, in towns having but one troop, be performed by troop committees from three to five persons.

The finance committee through its chairman, Mr. J. W. Mitchell, recommended that a provincial wide campaign for funds be made on January 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1921.

**JUMPED INTO SEA TO SAVE A GIRL.**

English Scout Saved Child in Rough Sea in Mid-Ocean.

A special despatch to the "Star" from Quebec says: "When the liner 'Minnedosa' was in mid-Atlantic between Liverpool and Quebec, a nine-year-old girl, who, with other children, was climbing on the railings on the port side, fell overboard.

"A Scout, named Ronald Webb, formerly of Castleton Road, Walthamstow, Eng., immediately jumped, fully clothed, from the deck in the cold and rough water between forty and fifty feet below. He swam for the drowning child and held her up until, as they were almost sinking, they were rescued by one of the ship's boats.

"They were brought aboard terribly exhausted, but both recovered from the effects of the immersion, and the following day Webb was presented by the captain, on behalf of the passengers, with \$100.

"Webb was Patrol Leader of the 8th Walthamstow Scouts."

Scout officer (examining for Badges): "Supposing a bomb were to drop straight on a magazine you were guarding, what would be the first thing you would do?"

Scout Jones: "Go up with the report, sir."

**GREAT BIRD-DOG.**

"I had a bird-dog once," the old sportsman observed, "that was really noteworthy. He never failed on a point. One day I had him out for exercise in the park, when suddenly he pointed, rigid as a stone. I was puzzled. There was no possibility of game. The grass was close-clipped. The dog had his nose straight on a man seated on a bench. I thought the man might have a live bird in his pocket. But, no; the man was in his shirtsleeves. Then I had an idea. 'Pardon me, sir,' I said, 'but would you mind telling me your name?' 'No; I don't mind,' he replied. 'It's Partridge.'"—New York Evening Post.

**THE MAIN TROUBLE.**

Tramp—Yes, lady, my folks when they died left me a lot of money.  
Kind Old Lady—Well, if they did, why do you go around begging?  
Tramp—The trouble is, lady, they didn't tell me where they left it, and consequently I never found it.

**A DONKEY PROBLEM.**

"Here's a problem for you, William. A donkey was tied to a rope 16 feet long. Eighteen feet away there was a bundle of hay, and the donkey wanted to get to the hay. How did he manage it?"  
"Oh, I've heard that before! You want me to say I give up, and you'd say, 'So did the other donkey.'"  
"Not at all."  
"Then how did he do it?"  
"Just walked up to the hay and ate it."  
"But you said he was tied to a 16-foot rope."  
"So he was. But you see, the rope wasn't tied to anything."