

BOY SCOUTS AND WAR WORK

ing of the whole incident, said: "I expected to have to 'shepherd' them, but they did everything as if they were doing boat drill!"

At present they have broken out into a fresh place, and are being employed by the military authorities in cutting bracken for use as litter in place of straw, which has become both scarce and dear. Five camps have been formed. Tents and other camp impedimenta are supplied by the authorities, who have done all they can for the boys' comfort, but the catering is done by the Scoutmasters in charge, and the cooking by the Scouts themselves. The boys put in an eight-hour day, and work in three groups. The first cuts down the bracken, the second rakes it up, and the third loads the carts. I am informed through the report from the O.C. of the district that the work, discipline and catering was quite satisfactory. This is, I think, a very fair record for one organization, the youngest of all, and one that it may well be proud of.

But a cold recital of facts, however long and convincing, hardly brings out the extraordinary hold upon the imagination and affectionate regard of the public for the Scouts. It matters not to whom one speaks, nor yet where one sees the Scouts, familiar as they have become, we find the same pride of them, the same interest in their movements, the same good word for them. I was reading, the other day, a letter of thanks to a Troop of Scouts from the secretary of a society, in which he expressed his own and the members' thanks and appreciation of their useful and intelligent assistance to a First Aid Class, by some twenty of their number—for although they primarily had gone as "patients" for bandaging, in practice they had also been able to teach—and this as a "good turn," for a period of over three months. A Troop was seen by a lady coming into a village near which they were about to camp. She came up and asked the Scoutmaster if his boys wanted a place for swimming; on receiving an answer in the affirmative, the lady at once placed her lake, grounds, and garage at their disposal, saying that it was a pleasure to be able to do anything for the Scouts, as they did so much for other people. That same