

How Woodcraft Is Taught to Boy Scouts

By C. W. Thompson, Scoutmaster, 4th Quebec Troop.

THE QUEBEC BOY SCOUTS Annual Camp was held in a new location this year. A permanent camp has been erected within the reserves of the Kennedy Lumber Company, at the extreme northern end of Lake St. Joseph.

boys the correct method of handling a canoe in all weathers.

At Home in the Woods

Prizes were awarded to the best campers among the Scouts, and special prize was given for a "Treasure Hunt" which means that the successful competitor must read certain signs and follow direction signs until they lead him to the concealed treasure or prize.

The camp itself was run on almost military lines with a daily inspection when the kits were laid out in the usual army manner; while the usual bugle calls, camp routine, and regulations were followed strictly.

Probably the most important feature of all was the fire drill and training. Special buckets were kept filled some with water, others with sand; axes and shovels were marked and placed in readiness in case of fire. A special fire party was "told-off" to handle these and every Scout had his proper station in case of alarm. Fire practices were held at uncertain times, and tests made of the time taken to assemble showed that from one to two minutes sufficed to have all available on parade.

The general training comprised ambulance instruction and courses for carpenters, cooks, firemen, foresters, handymen, laundrymen, naturalists, pioneers, campers, signallers, swimmers, and rescuers. Special qua-



Morning Inspection in the Boy Scout Lines. The Whole of this Ground was Cleared from the Bush and Levelled by the Quebec Scouts.

The camp, similar in some respects to other Scout camps, has special features of its own. Those who attended the Camp this year had an opportunity of learning how to break into the bush, clear thickly wooded ground, and pitch a camp. Subsequently a large hut was erected comprising dining hall to accommodate one hundred (100) persons; quartermaster's stores, kitchen, and officers' quarters.

Instruction was given in using the natural resources of the country, selecting boughs for bedding, suitable wood for cooking, and the construction of fences, steps, and shelters, using only materials at hand, without nails or cords, or any tools save a hand axe and saw. More elaborate work was undertaken at a later stage, and tables, forms, beds, notice boards, and even a log wharf and pontoon bridge were made successfully by the Scouts under the eyes of their instructors. The various kinds of trees were pointed out to the Scouts, and their uses explained. Those who had cameras were able to secure some valuable photographs of animals, birds, and snakes in their natural element, a collection of fifteen such photographs entitling the Scout

to wear the Stalker's badge, probably the hardest Scout Badge of all to obtain.

Special attention was paid to swimming and life-saving and to teach the



Quebec Boy Scouts bringing up the Water Supply. This Path was cut through the Bush, Rustic Steps Made, and the Water Drawn from an Ice-cold Mountain Stream