



General Baden-Powell's Boy Scouts

Over 11,000 Boys Have Joined in England

Great interest is now being taken in the formation of troops of boy scouts. There is no need to write at length on the history of this wonderful organization. Suffice it to say that today 11,000 boy scouts in the United Kingdom possess a knowledge of practical field work which far exceeds that possessed by many soldiers of mature years. His Majesty has shown publicly his appreciation of the work by his congratulatory message, and the conferring of knighthood upon the chief scout. When Lieut.-General Baden-Powell first commenced his work, he builded better than he knew, keen diviner of events though he be. For he has succeeded in capturing not only the enthusiasm of young England in a movement of empire defence, but beyond all that he has enlisted for the service of humanity the very pick of the youths of Britain. A celebrated divine once said, "Give me the boys till twelve. You may have them afterwards." And it is this keynote which Baden-Powell has struck. To each troop a chaplain is attached, irrespective of denomination, to aid and help the boys.

Introduction to Canada

The introduction into Canada of these scouts will have possibly a greater effect on the upgrowing generation than can be estimated. For it will inculcate into young Canadians the very ideas in which we must admit, they are somewhat deficient for the very reason that their teachers are themselves in turn deficient.

But Baden-Powell himself a teacher of the most wonderful ability has prepared a text book, so charmingly written that the attention of boy or adult is rivetted from the commencement. In this book he inculcates the principles we have above indicated, and by song, story and exercise shows how they are to be taught. With such a book the teacher becomes a pupil again, finally to revert to his own role equipped with a veritable armament of the world's best thought.

Education, "unless of the best, is useless. "And, faith, the old man's right" remarked the worthy father with his knowledge of human nature. Baden-Powell has seen fit to make his scouts boy knights, imbued with that spirit which made the Knights of the Round Table so famous and therein has lain largely the secret of his success.

And behind it all lies the fundamental idea of religion—Duty to God, to the King to the helpless and needy.

Do a Good Deed

When a scout knots his tie the action reminds him of the obligation to do a good deed that day should the opportunity come in his way. It may be only the removal of a piece of banana skin from the pavement lest the aged slip on it, or it may be the attempt to stop a runaway at the risk of the scout's limb or life, but the obligation is the same.

And even the morning's calisthenic exercises have for him a deeper meaning for as he takes a deep breath he thanks God for the pure fresh air of another day.

The casual observer may at first see but little difference between cadet corps already in existence and the newer organization and not discerning the very crux of the matter may wonder why the boys of the Empire are not already being moulded in the proper way. He will argue that discipline, obedience, quickness of bodily action are already taught in school, rifle clubs, cadet corps, etc. But as the "Montreal Star," in a recent editorial has pointed out, these virtues alone will never achieve the desired results. Excellent they are and absolutely essential, but unless individual honor and moral responsibility are taught, the best results are lacking. Too often the boy leaving school has looked upon his cadet corps drill as upon his fire escape drill, a necessary concomitant of school life, to be forgotten in the ceaseless rush of business. It is freely admitted now that education, whether mental or physical, without a firm understratum of moral

and religious training, falls short of the very best.

Such teaching is much needed in Canada where, for obvious reasons, teachers and instructors dwell only upon one aspect of the subject. Comments upon the rudeness and incivility of young Canada have been many and because in the main quite true have often been bitterly resented. However the masses of Canadian children will be the subject of favorable comment from visitors.

Reverence to Union Jack

It is needless to say that the man who kept the Union Jack flying over Mafeking has spared no pains to teach his scouts the proper meaning of the flag, and reverence due it. Concisely he explains its origin, shows its significance and outlines the constitution of which it is the outward and visible sign.

The social and political aspects of this book are of the greater importance and cannot fail to leave their mark upon the boys of Canada. Baden-Powell teaches in no uncertain language the duties of citizenship, the obligations of society and the responsibilities which the old Norman phrase, "Noblesse oblige," so well express. And it is refreshing to find that he addresses those who, needing it most, are so often for obvious reasons, left out.

He points out, for example, what is so often stated, that snobishness is shown by the rich boys looking down on their poorer comrades, but he also most clearly shows that the poor boy, who affects to cover up his envy by

perpetrated on horses through checking. All over Canada humane societies are in existence and it is well-known that the members, though able to do much to relieve grosser forms of torture, have been handicapped in their efforts to abolish this particular form. Ignorance, not wilful cruelty is the reason of the bearing rein or side check, and its more evil companion the overhead check. How often one may see men, women or young girls who in their own homes are kind, gentle and humane, sitting with perfect contentment behind a horse whose drawn back head, and strained appealing eye denote the torture it is suffering. Yet these same people would at once report the case of a horse with a galled shoulder. Taxed with this they will at once indignantly deny cruelty intentional or otherwise, claiming that "the horse needs checking to prevent stumbling." "Without a check it would bolt." "A horse doesn't carry its head properly without checking," etc.

To all these the writer of this article would present the two pictures in Baden Powell's book, "Torture" and "Comfort." No words can equal these pictures. Humane societies might well obtain permission to have them reproduced for distribution, and magistrates, undecided between the testimony of rival "vets," in cases of prosecution, might compare the horse in question with the book illustration, to decide under which class the case in question comes.

Better still, an enlarged picture might be shown on the wall of every school-house, so that every boy and girl in Canada might know what suffering they so often thoughtlessly inflict.

No scout can use a bearing rein or check on his horse. He promises on his honor not to do so.

In this way precept and practice go together. Here as elsewhere the wisdom of Baden Powell becomes so evident. He shows the boy the right thing, teaches him why it is right and then demands on his honor the performance of his duty. A scout who breaks his word must



Victoria Park, Souris, Man.

disparaging remarks about those in more affluent circumstances, is no less a snob and a cad.

And with unmistakable clearness he shows up the man or boy who refuses to return the salute of those in positions of trust or dignity: pointing out that the threadworn argument, "I am a freeman and as good as him," refutes itself, since the salute was originally the mark of equality and free citizenship—the slave or villain being forbidden it.

Avoiding any tendency to current political issues, Baden-Powell nevertheless impresses firmly upon his scouts the necessity of keeping inviolate the constitution—unwritten though it be—in which the three estates of the realm, king, lords and commons, are so perfectly blended by tradition and precedent. It is good that the boys of Canada should read this, far better than that they should be led to believe, through American press dispatches that the mother of parliaments is about to reverse her history to copy ephemeral parchment constitutions.

Cruelty to Animals

Possibly no chapter in this book will appeal more to Canadians than that dealing with the subtle form of cruelty

leave his troop and cannot enter another, and this means the loss of all that a boy scout holds dear.

When there are ten thousand boy (and girl) scouts in Canada, pledged to fear God, honor the king, uphold the constitution, observe the rules of chivalry and abstain from any cruelty, even to a fly, Canada will have taken her greatest forward step.

WESTERN WHEAT TRADE Railway Companies May Erect Elevators on Alberni Canal

It is reported from Victoria, B. C., that the Canadian Northern is negotiating with the C. P. R. to have joint terminals on Alberni canal on the west coast of Vancouver Island, where wheat elevators would be erected preparatory to a vast trade when the Panama canal opens. The wheat would be shipped there from the praries using a car ferry to Vancouver Island, and timber taken back in the same cars, thus establishing a remunerative trade.

"As things of life die without food and exercise, so a habit will perish if you cease to exercise it and to feed it with its proper thought."—Geo. D. Tripp.

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F. J. KNOTT 566 Main St. WINNIPEG

NEW TRAIN ON GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC

General Passenger Agent Hinton issued the statement today that commencing with the month of April the Grand Trunk Pacific would operate a train out of Winnipeg twice a month on Thursdays, during April and May, the dates being, Thursday April 7 and 21, and May 5 and 19. This new train will leave Winnipeg at 2.00 p.m. and will run through to Wainwright on the same schedule as the regular train now running out of Winnipeg on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at that hour. The train is put on chiefly to serve the large number of homeseekers who arrive in Winnipeg on Thursday mornings, due to reduced fares to points in Western Canada given on the first and third Tuesday of each month from many points in the United States. If the business between Wainwright and Edmonton will warrant, this train will be run through to Edmonton. It also is possible that the traffic will make it necessary to operate this train on June 9 and 23, but the general passenger office state that a definite announcement on this point will not be made until later.

While this train is being operated to give close train connections to homeseekers arriving from the United States and eastern Canada on Thursdays, it will doubtless also be appreciated by the travelling public of western Canada. In discussing the necessity for additional train service it was stated that a very heavy rush of land seekers was expected as the number of inquiries with respect to the rich new land opened up by the Grand Trunk Pacific had been very large during the winter. [ADVT]

A new mail order company is actively commencing business in Winnipeg this month under most favorable auspices, comprising a number of the city's leading retail merchants. The company is occupying premises on McDermott Ave., which will be used for offices and assembling and shipping depot. The permanent officers of the new organization are: T. J. Forte, of Forte & Markle, president; J. A. Banfield, of Banfield's, vice-president; Lisgar L. Lang, of Russell, Lang & Co., secretary and treasurer; J. C. Gordon, of Gordon, Mitchell Drug Co., director; F. E. Cryder, managing director. [ADVT]

His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster, head of the Roman Catholic church in Great Britain, and suite have signified their intention of attending the Eucharistic congress that will be held in Montreal next September. It is probable that His Grace will be accompanied by the Duke of Norfolk, the leading lay head of the Catholic church in England. While in Canada, this distinguished party will visit Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara Falls and other important places. His Grace has accepted the invitation extended by President Chas. M. Hays for himself and suite to be the guests of the Grand Trunk on their Canadian tour. [ADVT]