



Preparing to satisfy ravenous appetites



Clothes and kit for "active" service

The Boy Scout Movement

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I BECAME enthusiastic over the Boy Scout movement simply because I believe that it contains greater possibilities of good to the boyhood of the nation than any other movement of modern times. My feeling was that anything that could do material good to boyhood was laying the surest and best foundation for a better citizenship.

The Boy Scout movement instils ideas of courtesy, decency and honour into the minds of boys just at the receptive age. It takes the boys off the street and therefore greatly lessens the danger of their forming bad habits. They imbibe good without knowing that they are doing so.

The chief advantage of the movement is that the whole character of the work appeals to the nature of the average boy. We all, as boys, liked to get out into the woods to play at capturing Indians; the Boy Scout movement furnishes an infinitely better vehicle for that instinct. Under proper guidance and an intelligent system of direction the boys acquire knowledge of great value. They learn the use of observing and thinking faculties that they never knew they had. They have a good time; but coincident with that they learn much that will be of



"Chips of the old block"

great use to them. To take the full course of the many badges is a liberal education; indeed there is almost a liberal education in any one of the courses. The boys learn many things such as first aid to the injured, home nursing, stationary engineering and the work of firemen. In the last-mentioned line of work they become expert at such things as handling hose and getting into a burning building to rescue people who have been overcome by smoke. Some of the boys make excellent volunteer firemen, and there are instances in which they have risked their lives to save others.

The charge is made that the Boy Scout movement tends towards militarism, but the truth is that the movement will probably be the greatest factor in obviating the danger of militarism. We have not reached the stage where our country can abandon military protection. Each country needs to be ready to meet danger, and so must have a large standing army or have men ready to call on. We don't advocate jingoism, but if, unfortunately, danger should arise, the country might be glad of the aid that the older boy scouts could give. With a few weeks training the boys would be available as defenders. The Boy Scout movement helps to furnish material readily available for our volunteer forces, and may thus also help to prevent the necessity of our maintaining a large, standing army.



Getting a line of training that Canada hopes they'll never need