

*Private Bills*

I think that the boy scouts movement, without having any of the disagreeable or detrimental aspect of military training, does much to provide the necessary discipline at an early age which stands people in good stead later on in life.

One other observation I should like to make, Mr. Speaker, is that Canada is a particularly suitable country for the boy scouts movement to work in. When I say this, I have particular reference to the geography and the climate of Canada. We have a great country, full of lakes and rivers, a fine country for outdoor living. The training of young people in the boy scouts movement will be a great help to them in later years, not only from the disciplinarian point of view or from the character-building point of view but from the point of view of being able to enjoy the leisure time which is now becoming more and more available in our economic system. Because of the work of the trade unions and the general attitude of people throughout the country those who toil now have more leisure time and the big problem is to know and understand how to appreciate properly one's leisure time. Instead of sitting watching television programs people at an early age are learning to appreciate the out of doors with the accompanying pleasure, enjoyment, relaxation and piece of mind that come from appreciating the out of doors. This training is given well in the boy scouts movement.

It has always been a pleasure to me to see the recognition that the federal government has given to the boy scouts, chiefly because of its work in citizenship. In the estimates of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration each year a grant of \$15,000 is given to assist the movement. In 1955, when the world scout jamboree was held in Niagara Falls, the Postmaster General (Mr. Hamilton) recognized this by producing a commemorative stamp on that occasion.

I should like to say a word in regard to the girl guides association, which is the sister or counterpart movement of the boy scouts. It does the same kind of work and everything that has been said about the boy scouts also applies to the girl guides. The federal government gives the girl guides the same recognition by also providing a grant of \$15,000 a year. In 1960 the girl guides movement will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in Canada. I know this movement is anxious to have a commemorative stamp struck in honour of this occasion and I hope that at that time the Postmaster General will give the girl guides the same treatment as he gave the boy scouts.

**Mr. R. J. McCleave (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I intend to speak very briefly in this debate.

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

A matter of principle, of course, appears here and it has to do with the amount of property that can be owned by the Canadian boy scouts organization. This is not a new thing in this parliament. This is at least the second occasion this year on which a group or an association has had to come before us and ask that the amount of property they could hold be greatly increased. It does perhaps seem paradoxical that an organization whose motto is "Be Prepared", and which was founded almost 50 years ago when the nation was much smaller, and when \$50,000 did seem like a large sum to members of parliament, could not think of this. As a consequence, I would like to ask the sponsor of the bill one question. Exactly what amount of property does the organization have? Can he give us a breakdown at least of the major items held by the Boy Scouts Association?

**Mr. Aiken:** I am ready to answer the question if no one else wishes to speak.

**Mr. Speaker:** I must inform the house that if the hon. member speaks now he will close the debate.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson), who is detained elsewhere, would have been very happy to say a word of tribute to the boy scouts association. This particular bill affords the opportunity of saying that we recognize the great inspiration and training given not only to the boys of our country but the boys of the commonwealth and boys in so many countries of the world. The boy scouts association, since the days of its founder, Lord Baden-Powell, has made a contribution to the unification of the commonwealth in its respective countries in spirit as well, of course, as providing our sons with incentives and inspirations that mean so much to the healthy development of the boys of our country and the boys of the world.

When one thinks that Baden-Powell served in South Africa under that great public servant, Alfred Milner, one realizes the influence of Milner on the then Colonel Powell. One also thinks of the great influence of Baden-Powell himself on countless numbers of young men who have served their generations and their countries as a result of the initial experience gained by them as boy scouts. Like so many other members I join, in the absence of the Leader of the Opposition who is at another meeting, in praising the work of this organization and I take advantage of this particular measure to say these words of approval in the hope that in some small way they will reflect