

Something About the Boy Scouts

A YEAR or more ago our readers saw a splendid group photograph which was reproduced in this paper of a minister and a goodly number of his boys. That picture was taken in North Sydney, N.S., and showed Rev. Dr. T. A. Wilson among the lads of his congregation. The same man is now away out in Alberta, but the removal from "down east" to "far west" has only deepened his love for the boys and intensified his interest in them. During my visit to Alberta Conference I met Dr. Wilson again and found him quite ready to talk about his work. Quietly, yet with earnestness, he is training a number of growing lads to be good men and to fit themselves for the work of life. In the accompanying picture, which explains itself, Dr. Wilson is shown with his scouts in actual practice on the field. The following paragraphs contain some of the remarks and suggestions made by Bro. Wilson, and we commend them to the careful consideration of all, especially our ministers, who really believe in boys and want to practically help them grow into men of worth and usefulness.—Editor.

Dr. Wilson said:—

"I like the Boy Scout organization because it aims to give boys a hobby, and it does this at an important period in their lives. Let a boy get the hobby microbe and it will keep him out of a lot of mischief.

But as in many another good thing he must put something into this if he would get anything worth while out of it. He cannot have something for nothing here any more than older boys can out of the Epworth League.

The scout movement doesn't help every boy who joins, because not every boy will let it. Some join, and after they have learned to tie a few knots, do a little in 'First Aid,' and practice a few scouting games, they quit or if they don't quit they won't work. The novelty has worn off and they become 'monkey scouts,' that is scouts who want to play all the time instead of mixing work with play. But it is just at the point where some quit that the movement is capable of beginning to do most for them.

We have any number of 'tests,' and every test represents the learning of something useful. We try to get the boys ambitious to earn badges, and there is a badge for every test passed successfully.

I have thought for a long time that the Boy Scouts movement might be used with advantage in connection with Junior Epworth League Societies. This would apply, of course, especially to boys, but parts of the work could be taken up by girls too. Most Junior League leaders find it difficult to keep the interest of the boys. The Boy Scout plans would permit of the members learning and doing, and boys like to do things.

Quite recently the newspapers have contained accounts of many drowning accidents of children and of some failures to resuscitate those rescued from the water. I cannot help thinking that if there had been one or two well-trained scouts around at the time, some of these lives would have been saved. For we teach a boy how to swim, how to throw a life line, how to resuscitate a drowning person, how to get the victim out of the water and the air into him after he has been brought to shore.

Not long ago a man was sitting in an automobile when the wind-brake was broken. A piece of glass, entering his leg, severed an artery from which he bled to death. A trained scout would have stopped the bleeding in a few minutes.

The scout is taught to look after himself. He were caught on a dark night in the

woods, he could make himself fairly comfortable till morning. There are but a few things he may learn, and withal he is under promise to do at least one good turn to somebody everyday.

I have said that the scout mixes work with play. Last winter our troop formed a hockey team, and we now have a football team. At the agricultural fair held here a year ago we put up a booth and sold lemonade, candy, and fruit. The boys built the booth and did most of the selling. We did so well for our scout funds that we are going to try it again in a couple of weeks time and after that we shall go out camping for about ten days. By that time school holidays will be nearly over.

I have mentioned these things just to give a few hints to those who are interested in work for boys. It would not be difficult to make an amaisment with scout work and the purely religious



REV. DR. WILSON AND HIS SCOUTS IN ACTION ON THE PRAIRIE.

work of the Junior League. In fact the two ought to blend finely."

The Article of Discipline (par. 331, xii.), dealing with the Scout Movement should be fully known by all our ministers and Church officials. It reads: *That Boy Scouts, Boys' Brigades, and similar organizations for the cultivation of true manliness in boys may be organized under the supervision of the Circuit Superintendent, and when approved by the Quarterly Official Board, shall be recognized as coming under the directions of our General Board.* The General Secretary would like to learn of the formation of scores of such societies this autumn. *Do something worth while with your boys.*

Who Was Complimented?

A young man contemplating matrimonial felicity took his fair intended to the home of his parents, that she might be introduced to the old folks. "This is my future wife," said the young man, proudly. Turning to paternalfamilias, who was a canny Scot: "Now, father, tell me candidly what you think of her." The old man eyed the blushing bride-elect critically for full two minutes, then answered with deliberation: "Well, John, I can only say you have shown much better taste than she has."—Selected.

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FRIEND.

Weekly Topic Calendar

SEPT. 15.—THE SOURCE OF WISDOM.

Job 28: 12-28.

On the next page (202) you will find Mr. Lennon's article on this wonderful chapter. In your League meeting you might well have some member simply tell what is the "Wisdom Literature" of the Bible, another set forth the purpose of the Book of Job, thus leading your members up to the study of the lesson set. The question raised in the passage is a very ancient one; the answer given is the only one that satisfies the mind and heart of man. Apply the last verse.

SEPT. 22.—SOCIAL LIFE IN CITY AND COUNTRY. Lev. 26: 14-38.

Chapter five of "My Neighbor" should be read first. Then give attention to Dr. McArthur's article on page 196 of this issue. A debate on the relative merits of the city and country as places of residence would be in order, and may be easily arranged. At this meeting the

Fourth Vice-President may well outline the work of the department for the coming fall and winter season. Set yourselves to something practical and for the benefit of your own community. SEPT. 29.—SPECIAL FALL RALLY.

On page 207 of this issue you will find suggestions for this important meeting. Make it the most attractive you have ever had, and follow it up with such consistent work that you will impress your League influence on all the young people around you.

OCT. 6.—THE RICH FOOL. Luke 12: 13-21.

On page 205 you will find an article headed "Life More Than Things," which deals explicitly with this important topic. The crucial question of life is here dealt with, and Mr. Armstrong has given you plenty of excellent material out of which to fashion a strong and appealing consecration meeting, calling to self-surrender and dedication to God's service. You should get several additional active members on your list this month.

OCT. 13.—HOME MISSIONS: A FACTOR IN NATION BUILDING. Matt. 13: 18-23; Luke 10: 1, 2, 16, 17.

Mrs. Stephenson's article on this topic, together with the suggestions she makes in the appended note, will help you prepare for a rousing missionary meeting. Start the fall with the definite purpose of raising more money, training more missionaries, and setting your League to more practical Christian work than ever.