

BOY SCOUTS AND WAR WORK

recently said of them: "It is perhaps only since the beginning of the war, during these three years of constant drain upon the manhood of our nation, that we have come to realize the great value of the movement inaugurated six years before. We all know now the meaning of the motto represented by the initials B. P., and which has been lived up to with such sincerity and success. I do not think I am exaggerating when I say that the young boyhood of our country, represented by the Boy Scouts Association, shares the laurels for having been prepared with the old and trusted British Navy and Army * * * It is no small matter to be proud of that the Scouts were able within a month of the outbreak of the war to give the most intelligent and energetic help in all kinds of service. When the boyhood of a nation can give such practical proof * * * there is not much danger of that nation going under foot * * I can only say to all sections—go forward; stick to it to the end." This in itself is sufficient vindication of the position that the movement has acquired in the eyes of the public. It is difficult without being verbose to enumerate the multifarious duties undertaken by them, and a remark which I overheard, made to a much harassed Government official by a friend of his, will give point to this. He was trying to find somebody to do something and exclaimed, "Who on earth can I get for this job?" "Oh, don't worry," replied his friend, "Call in the Boy Scouts—they'll do it!"

At the beginning of the war the Scouts turned out, without waiting for a call, to guard the railways, telegraph and telephone wires, bridges, and to do watching on the coast. It will be remembered what a scare there was about this time of poisoning the water by German spies—so the Boy Scouts came and camped by the sides of all reservoirs in and about London. And a weird sight they presented at night on the banks with their tents and fires. Also the movement supplied almost all the buglers and signallers to Kitchener's New Army, of which there was a great shortage; and more recently the movement was asked to supply signallers for Salonica for use between the shore and the ships that had been torpedoed. They were also employed as guides and messengers at all the great railway termini