

OUR YOUNG FOLK

CONDUCTED BY Cousin Doris.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE BOY SCOUTS

By UNCLE JACK

THE BOY SCOUTS

Dear Cousin Doris: Instead of giving you a letter from the trenches this month, I want to say something to your campers about the "Boy Scout" movement to which I am persuaded a great many of your boys already belong. I



Lieut.-Col. C. W. ROWLEY, Provincial Commissioner

have never been actually identified with the Boy Scouts but that is simply because I have had to attend to so many other interests in my time. One distinguishing feature of a true blue boy scout is that he will not undertake any responsibility unless he is determined to "make good" in it; unless he knows he can do justice to it. The boy who does things by fits and starts and as the mood seizes him is hardly a fit candidate for a scoutmaster if he is acceptable as a "tenderfoot." Perhaps it might be argued that he is just the fellow whom the discipline and training of the scout idea will most of all benefit. Well, that may be, but anyhow, if I have never been in the ranks, I have never known a boy's movement that has fascinated me more or one which so completely commands my esteem and admiration.

When the thing "broke out," I looked upon it as I daresay many people look upon it to-day—with a feeling of indifference or amusement, or when forced to express an opinion it was that it was largely a sort of kindergarten for militarism, in some senses to be commended, in other respects to be condemned.

The scout principles were good, but in the background there was always the idea that war and fighting are inevitable and often praiseworthy.

But one morning there came out in the London papers an account of a thirteen-year-old boy who had gone into a burning house and carried out a baby. The little chap took a risk before which men of mighty physique and reputed courage quailed and retreated. It was one of the bravest things in boy life I ever read, worthy of the highest praise if it had been done by a seasoned veteran. A lump rose in my throat as I read on to where the father of the child sought to reward the boy, who modestly declined any recognition of the kind. "No," said the little hero, "it is my job. I am a Boy Scout."

That settled me, and I have used my eyes since they were then first opened to a real knowledge of this essentially British institution for the training of its manhood. I have witnessed scores of instances, any one of which satisfied me that there was a deep seated reality and seriousness behind the merely picturesque or spectacular features of the movement, the purpose of which was character building—to make the boy into a man; that is, "a being who makes his flesh obey his spirit and his spirit obey God."

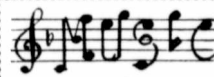


9th Winnipeg Troop Boy Scouts, Winners of Merrett Cup 1912-13-14-15, Butt Cup 1914-15 and Kilgour Cup 1915
Note the Badges individual boys have won

Now, I must not encroach too far on your space this month, although I feel quite sure you will agree with me that there is nothing I could write about that would be of greater interest and profit to your big family of boys. This is merely a "preliminary center," so to speak and if you will permit me I will keep you posted from month to month as to the wonderful progress and the splendid records which our boy scouts are making.

I am sending you a few pictures which will give you a sample of the Manitoba boys and their chiefs.

His Honor Sir Douglas Cameron, Lieutenant-Governor, is Patron and Chief Scout of the Province; A. M. Nanton is President; Sir Daniel MacMillan, vice-president; F. L. Patton (manager of Dominion Bank), treasurer.



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The offices are in the Industrial Bureau where Mr. MacIntosh may be found almost at any time and will be glad to respond to any requests for information. These gentlemen are all heart and soul

and mould the mind must be based on principles morally sound and educationally effective.

"It seeks by methods that appeal strongly to the boy mind and temperament, and secures his enthusiastic co-operation to run on lines directed to this end.

"The first principle inculcated is the moral obligation of duty—(a) To God, as the Supreme Authority, in conscience and in life; (b) To the King, as the representative of national law and order. The next is the obligation of neighborliness (or brotherliness) regardless of caste, color or creed.

"Then of obedience, at all costs, to constituted authority, whether of the home, country or employment.

"The educational value of the movement is seen in the wide field of subjects in which practical instruction, presented in most attractive attire is afforded, e.g., self-discipline, health, hygiene, nature

pledged to the interests of the boys and it will interest and gratify the older folks to know that Mr. MacIntosh gave up his congregation (of the Presbyterian Church) to devote himself entirely to this great work with its far wider field of influence. I envy him his job.

I will conclude for the present by enclosing you a statement made by the Honorary Secretary setting forth the Aims of the Boy Scout Movement:

"If you are going to do anything permanent for the average man you have got to begin before he is a man. The chance of success lies with working with the boy, and not with the man.

"The boy scout scheme realizes this truth, and further recognises that, to be really successful, any movement that would permanently influence the character



Alex. T. MacINTOSH, Provincial Secretary