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BESIDE THE CAMP FIRE

Notes on Scoutcraft

by Commissioner Rev. Geo. W. Tebbs

Fish Bait.

THERE are many Scouts who spend their vacation with their parents in the wilds of the north country, or in the Muskoka Lakes and elsewhere, who are largely dependent upon the fish-worm bait they take with them or have regularly sent to them by their friends from home. It may, therefore, be acceptable if the writer, who is an angling enthusiast, and who spends his vacation in the Parry Sound district, where fish worms are not procurable for many miles, how he secures, packs and preserves his bait during the hot months of July and August. The best worms for bait are the dew, or night worms, which appear on the lawn after dark. To secure a bountiful supply it is necessary to give the lawn a real soaking for two or three days before the hunt begins. Last year a terrific downpour of rain most providentially came the night before our hunt began, and we had, in consequence, a most abundant supply of bait. Of course a lantern is necessary, and caution must be observed in approaching the worms which withdraw into the ground with lightning rapidity upon the least alarm. A quart berry box is a handy receptacle to place them in temporarily, but of course it must be lined with paper to prevent them escaping. Carefully abstain from putting them into tins or the worms will soon die. My carrying box is a dovetailed ammunition box, about 16 by 12 by 12 inches. It is painted within and without; the lid has hinges, and has a clasp for locking. Air holes are made in the top and sides and covered with screen door wire. The box is filled with deep moss gathered from the swamps or bush. Failing that, it may be obtained from the florists, and should be kept moist for a few nights before using. After the hunt the worms are dumped on the top of the moss in the carrying box, and very soon they make their way down into it. Care must be taken not to injure the worms or to put broken ones into the box, as dead worms are most fatal to the living ones. I put the box in the coolest part of the cellar near the ice until the moment of leaving home. Just before starting for the north, the last thing I do is to get a watertight tobacco tin holding about half a pound, and fill it with crushed ice, which I put into the centre of the moss, and during the long journey, if at all possible, I empty the water out of the tin and fill up again with fresh ice. Upon arrival at camp, one of the first things to be done is to get a supply of fresh moss, and sort over the worms, removing the dead ones. Any of them that are not lively will remain on the top of the new moss, and may be removed a little later. This operation is repeated twice a week, the box being placed in a cool spot near camp. Care must be taken that they are protected with wire, or chipmunks and squirrels will have a dainty repast at your expense, and you will be minus of bait. In this way I am able to keep my bait fresh and good for a month without needing a further renewal.

New Provincial Council for Ontario.

At a meeting held at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on Friday, July 9th, at 2.15 p.m., a new Provincial Council for Ontario was elected. Chief Commissioner Dr. J. W. Rob-

ertson, C.M.G., presided, and the following chief officers were elected: Patron, Hon. L. Clarke, Lieut.-Gov. for Ontario; president, G. E. Fencier, Esq., Ottawa; provincial commissioner, W. K. George, Esq.; vice-president, G. W. Mitchell, Esq.; treasurer, G. H. Ross, Esq.; hon. secretary, H. N. Lawrence, Esq. There was also a Provincial Executive and a Provincial Council appointed. It is with great regret that we notice the absence of the names of Colonel Gooderham, Noel Marshall, Esq., and Mr. H. G. Hammond, Provincial Secretary from the list of officers. These gentlemen have been associated with the movement since its inception in Canada, and have carried on splendidly throughout the most trying period of the war. However, we suppose they have some good reason for withdrawing, and we wish the new Council every success in taking up the mantles which have fallen from the shoulders of these good Scouts.

Scouts of the Empire.

Sir George Le Hunte, G.C.M.G., of Imperial Headquarters Boy Scouts' Association writes that there are Scouts organized in Jerusalem, the Sudan, Mesopotamia, Gibraltar and Malta. The Calcutta Scouts did very good work at the time of the postal strike, and are undertaking a campaign against malaria. In Ceylon, scouting is part of the curriculum in Government schools. In the Straits Settlements and Malaya, the movement is making great progress. In West and East Africa, the Government is supporting the movement, and at Lagos the Government passed a law recognizing and protecting the Scout uniform. In China, in Shanghai and Tientsin, scouting is going ahead full steam. In Australia, New Zealand the Governments have legislated for the Scouts; and in the sunny Isles of the West Indies, Bermuda, Bahamas, Barbadoes, splendid reports come as to progress the Scout Movement is making there.

VERY CRUDE.

"Boy," said a spectator, looking out to sea, "what kind of a ship is that out there?"

"A cruiser," was the answer.

"And who are on board?"

"Her crew, sir."

"And by what means does she travel?" asked the interested man.

"Oh, its screw, sir!" came the smart reply.

"You are a very smart lad, and where do you come from?"

"Crewe, sir!"

And he asked no more questions.

A MAN OF IMPORTANCE.

The dear old soul was up in town for a visit from her tiny village tucked away in the heart of the country. She noticed the sign, "Garage" here, there, everywhere. Turning to her daughter, she remarked: "My dear, what a number of places this Mr. Garage has got. They're in nearly every street. He's a sort of Selfridge, I suppose."

UNCLE SAM—UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

The inspectors of Elbert Anderson's store on the Hudson were Ebenezer Wilson and his uncle, Samuel Wilson, the latter of whom superintended in person the workmen and went by the name of "Uncle Sam." The stores were marked E. A., U.S. (Elbert Anderson, United States), and one of the employees being asked the meaning, said U.S. stood for "Uncle Sam." The joke took, and in the War of Independence the men carried it with them and it became stereotyped.