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Beside the Camp Fire
Notes on Scoutcraft
Commissioner Rev. Geo. W. Tebbs

International Jamboree.

THE following communication has been received from D. Francis Morgan, Commissioner for Overseas Dominions and Colonies, Imperial Headquarters, London, England, relative to the forthcoming "International Jamboree," to be held at the Olympia, London, England:—

"Dear Commissioner,—The Chief Scout, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, desires me to inform you that the 'International Jamboree' will be held at Olympia, London, from 30th July to 7th August, inclusive, 1920. Rehearsals will start at Olympia on 26th of July, and he invites Scout Officers and Scouts from the Overseas Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates to take part in the competitions and displays, particulars of which will be sent by Major A. G. Wade at Headquarters, London, who has charge of the arrangements, as soon as the programme is settled. As regards expense, the Chief presumes that the Dominion or Colony sending Scouts to it will be able to raise their own funds, but it is hoped we can house and feed at Olympia all competing Scouts.

"May I take this opportunity of sending you and all your officers and Scouts my cordial good wishes for the best of all Scouting years in 1920."

The programme of the "International Jamboree" is given on page 8 of the January number of the "Canadian Boy."

Clubroom Hints.

Make your clubroom look as "scouty" as possible. It is not hard to make your own furniture if you choose to do so. Get away from the usual chairs and tables idea and make some of your own designing. They should be as plain as possible. For instance, the chair for the Chief or S.M. can be easily cut out of a plank. The legs are just square chunks of rough lumber, and if you are artistically inclined, make them of round branches with the bark left on. If made of plain lumber, stain the furniture green all over. A log of wood with the bark on and slightly hollowed out would make a wall seat. Get used to sitting low. You have to do it in camp, anyway. A troop of Scouts ought to make their own outfit as far as possible—the more they make, the better Scouts they will become. Skill to do comes by doing, so get hold of some lumber and start at once on your own clubroom furniture.

Pioneering Tips.

No Scout can call himself a pioneer who cannot tie knots thoroughly, either by day or night. When tying knots, always remember that a life may depend on your thoroughness. Thin willow or hazel sticks make a substitute for rope if the latter is not available. Know your exact personal measurements; you will then be able to calculate without a rule. Measure the length of your stride. Every pioneer must be a good judge of distance. When cutting down a tree always provide plenty of room to swing the axe. When carrying an axe, place the blade on your shoulder with the sharp edge away from you. Learn to read and draw maps. Make maps of your own district for your own use, putting them together in series as in an atlas. Always be on the lookout for landmarks, and make a note of them at once. Never leave your axe lying on the damp ground without a covering on the blade. Get lots of experience in cooking simple meals, for pioneering means being

away from home sometimes for days at a time. Dry toast, cut in the shape of biscuits, makes a good staple food for a pioneering trip.

When Crossing a Stream.

A good Scout never crosses a stream barefooted. He takes off his shoes and stockings and then puts his boots on again and wades. He then takes off his boots and whirls them in the air to get rid of the water in them. The boots are none the worse for the wetting and it avoids cut feet.

A Handy Berry Pail.

When the writer was holidaying in the wilds of the Parry Sound District last summer he came across a splendid blueberry patch on an island. The bushes were growing amongst birch bark trees, and so, cutting strips of bark and shaping them in the form of a Victoria Cross, he made baskets which held all the berries he needed, and, putting them in cold storage at the hotel upon his return to Headquarters, kept them in good shape untouched until his return home. The corners of the baskets he laced with the fine twigs of the birch bark.

Scouts! begin recruiting now for the summer. Make a Forward Movement Drive for membership.

* * *

TACT.

Little Lydia had been given a ring as a Christmas present, but, much to her disappointment, no one of the guests at the Christmas dinner had noticed it. Finally, unable to withstand their obtuseness or indifference, she exclaimed: "Oh, dear; I'm so warm in my new ring!"

* * *

WHO'S IN THERE?

An English captain who had heard that United States troops were in France, but as yet had seen none in his sector, passed one night in an abandoned dug-out. Hearing movements within it, he at once thought of German spies, drew his pistol and levelled it at the entrance. "Who's in there?" he called. A flash of white teeth showed in the darkness and a soft voice answered, "Dis am de American army, suh."

* * *

THE AUTOGRAPH FIEND.

General Smuts tells this story against himself:—

"I was once at a social gathering with my distinguished friend and colleague, General Botha," he says, "when two pretty flappers of sixteen or so came up and asked me for my autograph.

"I haven't got a fountain pen," I said, much flattered. "Will pencil do?"

"Yes," said the other flapper, and so I took out my pencil and signed my name in the daintily bound little book that she had given me.

"The flapper studied the signature with a frown. Then she looked up and said:—

"Aren't you General Botha?"

"No, I said. I'm General Smuts."

"The flapper turned to her friend with a shrug of disgust.

"Lend me your India-rubber, May," she said."

* * *

"Patrick, you were on a bad spree yesterday," said a friend, reproachfully.

"Yis, sor, I was that," replied Patrick. "Bless me, if I wasn't laying in the gutter wid a pig. Father Dunn come along an' looked at me, an' he says, says he:—

"One is known by the company he kapes."

"And did you get up, Patrick?"

"Oi did not, but the pig did."

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