

WITH THE BOYS IN CAMP.

HOW THEY AMUSE THEMSELVES WHEN UNDER CANVAS.

They are all said with the Y. M. C. A. Leaders who look well after their charges—how they spend the time—Some Portraits.

"The Maritime Boys Camp is now so well known that its history may well be given here for the benefit of those who are interested in boys and who are not, for while we are sometimes annoyed at their tricks, or amused at their pranks, in our hearts we love them and delight to see them enjoy themselves.

In 1898 Mr. E. M. Robinson of Saint Stephen having had large experience in camp life realizing the benefit of such outings resolved to give the boys of the Y. M. C. A. there a chance to participate in the pleasures of camp, and arranged for a fortnight's outing at Mill Cove, Campobello. About thirty boys took advantage of the opportunity offered, and a jolly time they had, swimming, boating and playing all kinds of games. The two weeks passed only too quickly and all who attended were



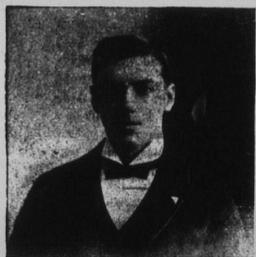
J. A. IRVINE, Halifax, N. S. Leader Sec. 1, M. B. C., 1897.

of praise and thanksgiving to Him who had guarded them through another day.

Breaking up day came at last which proved to be the breaking down for some of the more tender hearted who were loath to break the ties which bound them to their newly made friends. How close a friendship can be formed in two weeks is known by those who have been in camp for that length of time.

The boys returned to their homes much better in every way for the outing spent and with nothing but praise for the management which made it possible for them to have such a good time.

The first night proved to be a very novel and interesting one for those on board. No berths had been prepared which made it necessary for each boy to stow himself away in a place as comfortable as possible.



ANDREW W. ROBB, St. John, N. B. Leader Sec. 1, M. B. C., 1897.

The novelty of the experience and the new surroundings made sleep almost impossible. Bright and early all gathered on deck intent on seeing all that was interesting on the historic St. Croix. Doche (or St. Croix) Island was passed and the sad experience of its early settlers commented upon; busy Eastport also called forth the interest of the boys.

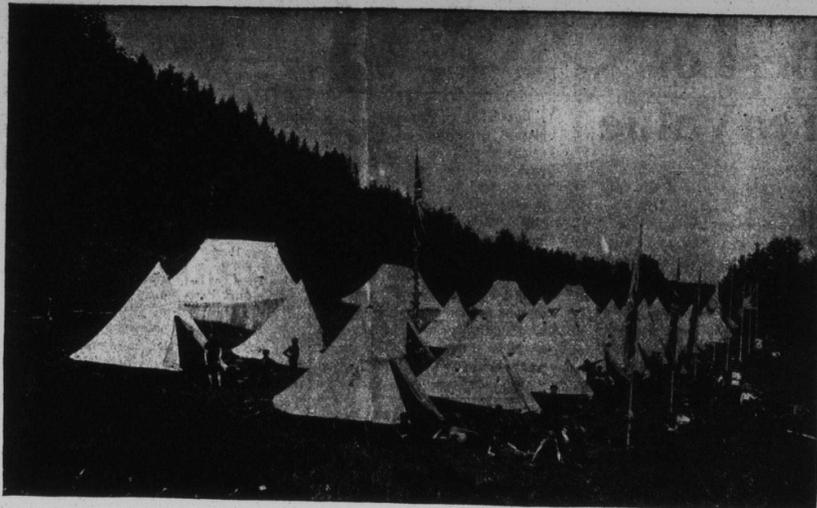
By noon the camping ground was reached. The spot chosen was near the shore of Head Harbour Island, Campobello. The tents were soon erected and the large tent 60x100 feet which did duty as dining hall and also for recreation on wet days was soon pitched.

It did not take long to settle down to solid enjoyment of the time to be spent at this beautiful spot.

The days seemed all too short for the pleasures and enjoyments which surrounded the campers.

Several fishing trips helped to make the time pass pleasantly. All sorts of games were freely indulged in giving the boys hearty appetites and sound refreshing sleep.

In the evenings, darkness came on and the boys gathered in the dining hall around a blazing fire.



CAMPING GROUNDS, SECTION 1, M. B. C., 1897.

tic splendor presents itself to the beholder. At the foot guarded from the sea by a long island is to be seen the glass like surface of the harbor. Ten miles away to the left lie the Wolves with their wonderful pebble beaches while twenty miles distant in the opposite direction the outline of Grand Manan is visible. Still farther to the right the island of Campobello is plainly seen.

Califf's Island which contains nearly a thousand acres and inhabited only by the owner and his family, gave abundance of room for all kinds of sports and games that boys love.

In 1897 so great was the demand for a general Supervisor, while the leaders of the different sections are the same as in 1897.

Section number two began camp last Tuesday at a beautiful spot at River John Pictou Co. N. S. About 80 are in attendance representing Halifax, Truro, Pictou, Amherst, Moncton and other places.

Section one will open on the 20th inst. at Goat Island about seven miles below the historic town of Annapolis N. S. This Island with its fine beaches will be an ideal place to spend a fortnight.

Side trips to Annapolis, Bear River, Digby, etc., are being arranged for and an

in any possible way, and to join heartily in all the exercises of camp.

The only real hard work that the boys indulge in at camp is the work of running after or away from some kind of a ball. It may be a base ball, foot ball, basketball, cricket or tennis or something else; but it makes little difference to the boys, as long as they have some agreeable way of working off their surplus energy. Games and sports of every kind are indulged in; for there is always crowd enough to play any game that was ever invented, and yet never so much of a crowd but that the smallest boy has his equal share in with the rest, in any fun that is going. Among our leaders and assistants are some fine athletes, who always appear to be suffering for some kind of sports. It is also expected to have in each section, a competent Physical Director to see that nothing is overdone, and an experienced physician to relieve the cares of the leaders.

When the evening hour has come, and every boy wants to sit down where he may be and rest, they gather on the hillside or

SOME OF THE LEADERS.



REG. WALKER, Dartmouth, N. S.

W. M. DAKIN, Truro, N. S.

G. E. WILLIAMS, St. John, N. B.

DR. BARBOUR, Fredericton, N. B.

WILL PATTERSON, St. John, N. B.

G. H. WOODMAN, Manchester, N. B.

KEN. HALEY, St. John, N. B.

JAMES MALCOLM, St. John, N. B.

W. M. STEELE, Amherst, N. S.

H. M. FORBES, Halifax, N. S.

And still the circle widened. During the years 1895 1896, 1897, the camp was located at Califf's Island about 50 miles down the coast from St. John and opposite L'Etang (7 miles from St. George). The situation was all that could be desired.

It was a pretty sight to see the tents as they nestled at the foot of a mountain whose precipitous wooded slope rose high above.

Below almost at the doors of the tents stretched one of the finest bathing beaches to be found in the province, giving a splendid opportunity to those who so desired to refresh themselves in the clear and bracing water, or enjoy a row in one of the numerous boats controlled by the camp.

From the mountain top a scene of majestic

the distant parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia that it was decided to hold the camp in two sections. With Mr. Robinson as general supervisor section 1 situated as described above at Califf's Island was under the control and leadership of Andrew W. Robb of this city. J. Howard Crocker General Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at Amherst now Physical Director of the Halifax Association acted as leader of the second which was pleasantly situated near Pugwash N. S. and was largely attended and much enjoyed by those who were present. A picture of this party as well as one of the tents at section one are given herewith.

The camp this year is again held in two sections. J. A. Irvine of Halifax is Gen-

enjoyable time is sure to be spent by those who attend. Applications will be received until Tuesday July 19. Full information may be had at the Y. M. C. A.

It has always been a source of wonderment to the leaders that so many parents have entrusted their boys to their care but never yet has there been cause for regret on the part of the parents.

The weight of the responsibility is no light burden to bear but the leaders undertake it gladly that the boys may lead higher and better lives.

The Maritime Camp has had reason to rejoice in the young men who so nobly assisted in the capacity of assistant leaders. This is a position where no amount of ability can take the place of a love for the

boys, without which any man is utterly unfit for the service. It is planned to have at least one trustworthy man for every five or six boys, a man whose heart and brain are ever busy figuring out some scheme to help the boys have a better time than they ever had before. Strong in the belief that a boy will not betray the trust placed in him the boys are trusted and they trust the leaders; and past experience has convinced them that with this happy understanding and mutual confidence, rules are quite useless where there are no unruly ones to rule. To relieve the anxiety of over-anxious parents, however, it is insisted that nobody shall enter the water for bathing or swimming except in the presence and with the consent of one of the assistant leaders. It is but fair to the boys to state that even this slight restriction is quite unnecessary as far as their disposition in the matter is concerned, but for the reassurance of their parents it seems wise to insist upon it. To each assistant is given a rank, and the highest ranking leader present, anywhere, at any time, is responsible for the party. Under this system the boys enjoy perfect liberty and yet are under perfect control. The system works well, and everybody is glad to help everybody else

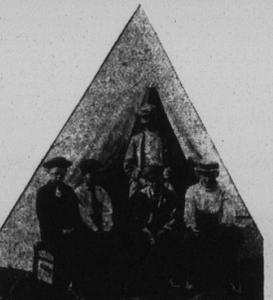


J. HOWARD CROCKER, Halifax, N. S. Leader Sec. 2, M. B. C., 1897.

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ONE OF THE TENTS, Section 2, M. B. C., 1897.

around the Camp fire on the beach, with their backs to some friendly log and their feet to the cheery blaze, and talk together about the future plans, and crack jokes and sing songs. Then the sweetest hour of all the day drifts naturally to nobler things, and they lift their hearts in gratitude to Him whose watchful care has kept them from all harm, and with simplest words speak of all his goodness, while in swelling songs of praise, is heard a ring that music alone can never give. The boys almost unanimously declare the evening hour to be the best feature of the camp, and the boys usually know what they are talking about.

The culinary department is in the hands of experienced cooks who see that good substantial food, and lots of it, is ready at the appointed hours for meals.

The camp is intended to be strictly a Boys' Camp. It is not intended for young men nor for children, but boys between the ages of twelve and sixteen are especially desirable, but either older or younger fellows may be admitted, at the discretion of the camp leader. All the young men of the camp are under the supervision of the (Committee of Parents' Party).



GROUP, SECTION 2, M. B. C., 1897.