

6. It would be easy to get free high schools for all children. A municipal school board could act for both elementary and high schools. If rural high schools are organized at present it will give rise to a very awkward antagonism in every municipality.

7. There would be greater economy in the purchasing of supplies and equipment of all kinds, and the schools would all be better stocked. The smaller schools would suffer no disadvantage.

8. There would be a better public spirit. All the people would feel they were a part of a larger system. Local interest would give way to municipal pride. Everything is in favor of increasing the social unity.

9. It would be possible to place teachers to better advantage. Some who fail in one school would serve admirably in another. One of the worst features of school work is the possibility of misfits. Under a municipal school board, a weak school could be helped out by a strong teacher. This is what is done in all cities and towns.

10. The tendency in education today is towards the municipal board. The success of the system has made it necessary for people to move forward. Why should we be last? Here is a recommendation from the National Educational Association:

"A county unit of organization, administration and finance: the election of a lay county board of education, analogous to a city board of education."

If the way to efficiency is the appointment of larger boards, why not adopt the principle?

### The Boy Scouts

The school is not the only agency that educates.

One of the greatest educative forces is companionship. "We send the boys to school and they educate each other." Exploring, collecting, camping out, living in the open air, doing things which call for the use of hands, heart and

head, acting in co-operation with others, are things that appeal to all normal boys. It is a recognition of these facts that led to the organization of the boy scouts.

When boys are left to themselves, without direction and supervision, the education may be harmful rather than helpful. This is especially true when they are living intensely, as in play or in outdoor activities. Therefore the very first essential in boy scout work is a good leader. As the leader so is the company or the brigade.

There is no reason why every male teacher should not be a scout-master. There is no reason why the activity of any teacher should be confined to the schoolroom. If he can do better work, give more efficient direction, get more willing activity of a helpful nature on Saturday morning than on week days, in the fields than in the classroom, there seems to be every reason why the period of greater opportunity should be seized. It is not a healthy sign that there is so little companionship between teachers and pupils out of school. The children need it, and the teacher needs it, for two reasons, both of which are apparent.

Where there is no male teacher, a young man in the district can always be found capable of directing the activities of growing boys. The boys of a village naturally fall into associative groups, and any wide-awake village will be as anxious to have every group under wise supervision, as to have its members in school. Every time boys get together they are being educated. All that the boy scout work hopes for is that during the period boys are following their natural activities in the open air they be carefully supervised, assisted and directed. This is but common sense. It is a poor community indeed which cannot provide enough leaders for all the groups of boys that present themselves. The best leadership in a village, however poor it is, is better than none, or better than the worst. Under ordinary conditions, the very worst element in the village, the