

Lieutenant General Baden-Powell's Own Story of the Boy Scout Organization

Leader of the Movement Throughout the World and Chief Scout for Great Britain Tells Why and How He Is Trying to Make Boys Manly Men.

By Lieutenant General Sir Robert S. S. Baden-Powell, K. C. B., K. C. V. O.

THE general idea of the Boy Scouts movement and training was not one, as seems to be inferred, that came as a sudden inspiration; it was merely a mixture of experiences gradually gathered in training recruits in the army. In the army our education has during the last few years gone through various transitions. The method of Frederick the Great, of having a drilled machine, worked very well in his day, and he won great battles, but it would not be successful in the present day, when we want men rather than machines to do our fighting.

"If you want a man to be a soldier, he must be a man, and not a sheep," is a text the truth of which, I think, none of us can nowadays deny.

When I began my service we were in the transition stage, when we were still being drilled, and when we were not allowed to develop in peace time what are termed the "three C's" of the soldier, viz., Courage, Common Sense and Cunning.

I think I have suffered as much as most people in being hauled over the coals for "playing the fool instead of carrying out the manoeuvres."

I remember especially one occasion in Ireland, many years ago, when I happened to be a very young captain in charge of a squadron, that I saw an enemy's battery in action. We crept along by a hollow road till we got right in front of it, under a crest of the hill, unseen by either the battery or its escort—which was doing its proper duty as was laid down in those times, i. e., looking to its "front." We came up to the battery at about ten yards' distance, and

made! Although never drilled, they had the spirit, the common sense and the cunning of the campaigner—all those points which go to make a soldier; it merely wanted the extra luxury of a drill to make such a man into the finished article. It is the human, manly side which needs development. No one realizes this better than the Emperor of Germany.

As a basis for training your soldier you must have in your pupil the attribute of character. Officers getting their recruits from among the men—or, rather, the overgrown boyhood—of the nation, want men with character, but they do not get such, because our education does not go in for character training. It teaches the "three R's" and our lads, perhaps, are gaining more book intelligence, but they are getting less and less of character into them because of overcivilization, and the book education of our British schools does nothing to counteract this.

Of course, education has improved enormously, but to a very large extent it has been directed by the educators themselves.

With all due deference, they are not always the best judges of what kind of education is required for the different lines of life. We see a parallel in the dress of the women to-day. They want a dress which looks graceful and artistic, which is easy and comfortable for walking in, and which does not expose too much of the form below and so on. They wear a hobble skirt, it is made for them by the dressmaker, who says it is the right thing, "that it is easy and graceful, and if you do not like it or think other forms of dress are more useful or becoming—well, you can go some-

Character is the great essential to success, whether in the nation or the individual. Yet character training is the one thing which is omitted in our education. It is true that boys in our great public schools pick up a certain amount of character, but that is just fortuitous; it is not directed. They have a certain sense of "good form" and act up to it. But there is nothing of that kind among the poor class of boy in the elementary schools. There is nothing inside or outside the school which trains them in character. That is where the Boys' Brigade and the Church Lads' Brigade and the Young Men's Christian Association are doing good work; they are trying to inculcate in the lower order of boys some sort of character by the institution of organized games and discipline.

The Boy Scouts is the newest addition to this group. But, of course, it is uphill work, done by individuals, and the different organizations work in different ways—although we all endeavor to pull together. I am glad to find that you have already won for yourselves the same reputation that your brother scouts in other parts have got, and that is that a scout can be counted on at any time to lend a valuable helping hand to other people. I saw some of the Boy Scouts of America in the Panama Zone last week, and they asked me to convey to their brother scouts in the States their hearty greeting. I have much pleasure in doing so, and would like sincerely to add my own.

Arthur E. Stilwell is an American of the



A TYPICAL BOY SCOUT OF GREAT BRITAIN.



LIEUT-GENERAL BADEN-POWELL.



GEN. BADEN-POWELL WITH KING GEORGE V REVIEWING THE BOY SCOUTS OF GREAT BRITAIN ON JULY 4, 1911.



BOY SCOUTS PRACTISING FIRST AID TO THE INJURED



ENGLISH BOY SCOUTS WHO HOLD THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY'S MEDAL FOR LIFE SAVING.

walked into it and captured it. Well, the officer in command of the escort said that, being a dry, hot day, he naturally expected we should kick up some dust, and merely sat there looking around for any dust in the distance. As we did not happen to make much dust, he had not noticed us.

Next day it happened, going across some hills, we found this same battery in action again, with the same escort looking out for dust. We thought it a pity not to oblige. A few soldiers, under an astute sergeant, armed with lassoes on their saddles, cut down a few branches of trees and rode along at a trot in a hollow road some little distance to the front of the escort. They towed these branches along behind them, thereby kicking up an enormous dust. Away went the cavalry after them, and we merely then walked into the battery again, this time from the rear. We were just congratulating ourselves on having done a clever thing—for us—when an aide-de-camp came galloping down and said that the commander in chief wanted the officer in charge of the squadron.

Well, the feeling came to me, as I suppose it has to many of you, as if somebody had poured a quantity of cold oil down inside you. I rode off with the galloper, thinking of what my next profession in life would be after I had left the army.

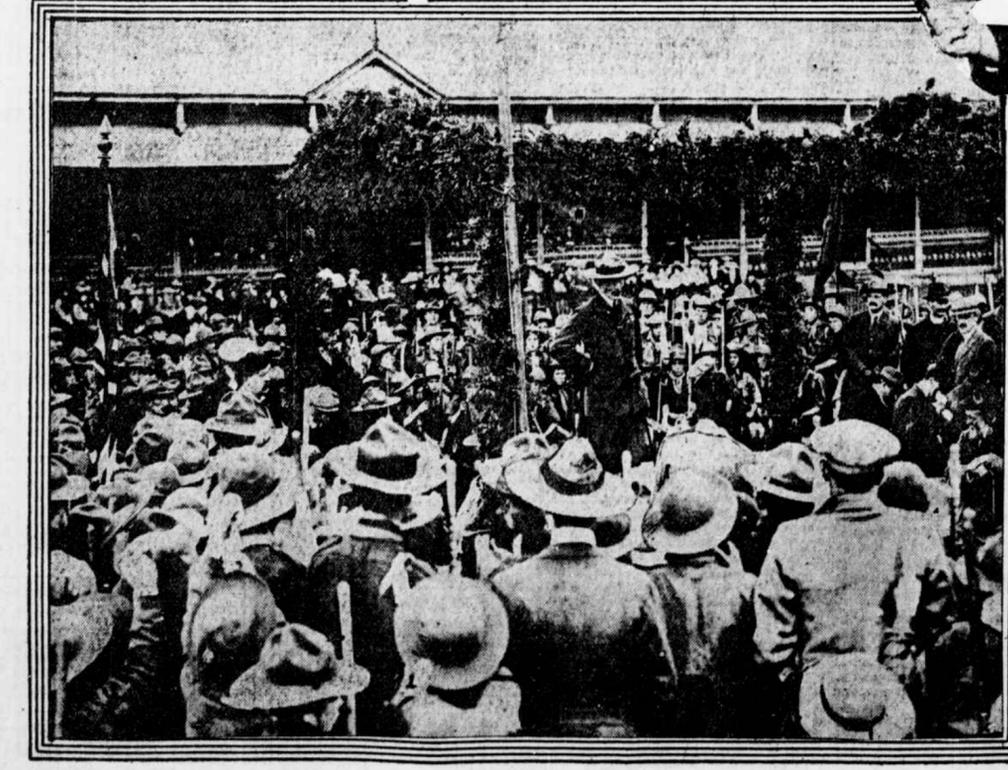
When I got to the commander in chief he said: "Did you do this thing?" I said: "Well, sir, my squadron did."

A GENERAL'S PRAISE.

I dared not look at him as I said that, but when I did look, I found he was laughing. He patted me on the back and said: "That is the sort of thing I want to see, use of your common sense."

I felt myself blushing down to my toes. That general was Lord Wolseley.

A new era had dawned. There was no longer any regard paid to the red tape fetish; we realized that we were not to follow drill books slavishly, but that we had to use our common sense as occasion demanded. That system has continued to develop up to the present time; we train our soldiers, each as an individual, to use his common sense, and to be a man, instead of being merely a machine. Frederick the Great won battles by his drilled machine, but Bonaparte won his with hordes of conscripts merely by the moral of his magnetic leadership. In the same way you saw in later days, in the Russo-Japanese War, one side a drilled machine, and the other composed of individual men of spirit. You saw the Boers—what a formidable foe they



GENERAL BADEN-POWELL ADDRESSING A "SCOUTS RALLY" IN ENGLAND.

where else." That is what we have in regard to our education. The educators tell us: "You boys have to learn reading, writing and arithmetic, and that is all that is necessary. If you have absurd fads about training a man to make himself a success in life you can go somewhere else."

There are others, especially our self-made men, who say that reading, writing and arithmetic do not necessarily make a man's career a success; it is his character, or as much as possible. I only wish we could see some authority taking command of the whole lot of us and organizing us and bringing our efforts in a proper channel, so that there is no overlapping or leakage. If some such "combine" were carried out, we could, I believe, get hold of the mass of the boys and make them men of character, and thus change the whole outlook of the nation in the near future.

To the Boy Scouts of America I wish to say that I am glad to be among you in response to the very flattering invitation to me to visit America. Your chief scout tells me there are four hundred thousand scouts in this country. I only wish I could come and see all of you, and I mean to stay as long as I can while I am in America; but many as I can while I am in America; but I am not able to stay so long as I could wish, as I have to go on around the world, visiting other countries of our great brotherhood.

that looks with the same originality at even greater schemes—and one of these is the desirability and possibility of universal peace for the world.

In his book, called "Universal Peace, War Is Mesmerism," Mr. Stilwell suggests that the time has come for abolishing the brutal system of war. Most nations have now got their fixed boundaries and commercial standings; differences which arise in the future can be only on matters of



WILLIAM WALTER WALLER, AN AMERICAN BOY SCOUT WHO RECEIVED A HERO MEDAL FROM THE AMERICAN SCOUTS.

other hand, that each year one-tenth of their armed forces should be disbanded. In this way he considers that the world will gradually become imbued with the idea of peaceful arbitration, instead of maintaining the present apprehension of war.

With facilities to travel and communication peoples should get to know each other personally, and so breed a mutual friendship and sympathy which would go a very long way to preventing the war feeling from ever arising between them.

If there is anything in it, it is in the direction that the Boy Scout movement is already able to do something. I hope before long to see a tangible development in this direction. We have exceptional opportunity, owing to the fact that our scheme has been adopted in nearly every foreign country.

International peace can be built on one foundation, and that is an international desire for peace on the part of the people themselves in such strength as to guide their governments.

If the price of one Dreadnought were made available to us for developing this international friendliness and comradeship between the rising generations, I believe we in the scouts would do more toward preventing war than all the Dreadnoughts put together.

AN AMERICAN GOOD TURN.

Mr. Thompson Stow has told me that the American Boy Scouts are very keen on doing their good turn daily.

He asked one boy what good he had done that day, and the scout replied: "I saw a foreigner yesterday trying to get a ticket at the railway station (depot), he called it, but he only had a louis (20 francs) in French money."

"The ticket seller abused him, and said: 'Get out of this, and if you cannot bring American money and talk sense you cannot get a ticket.'"

"So I went to the stranger and offered him change for his louis in American money (I guessed that about \$5 would be right change), and I told him the right way to pronounce the name of the place he wanted to go to, and so he was able to go back to the ticket office and get his ticket."

"That was on Sunday. Next day I went to a money changer's to get my louis exchanged into dollars. The man told me that I had given 20 cents too much, as the rate of exchange was not so high as I thought it was. So I lost 20 cents (near a shilling) for doing my good turn, but I did not mind. I felt so pleased at having done the poor chap a good turn that I thought the pleasure was worth 20 cents."

That American boy was right. I think most scouts now see that doing a good turn to some one gives one as much pleasure as a good game of cricket or football.

Perhaps few of my readers will remember, as I do, that in the early stages of our existence there were kindly critics who prophesied that the test of this, our organization, would occur in our third or fourth year; if a mushroom growth, it would fizzle out within that period. If sound, we might go on to do a really big thing for the country. We have now passed that period; we have entered on the fifth year of our existence in greater strength than ever and with everything promising well for such development.

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