

STORY OF BOY SCOUTS

Frederick J. Harkin, Famous Newspaper Correspondent, Tell of Inception of the Order—Its Remarkable Popularity and Growth.

The National Council of Boy Scouts of America is in session in Washington. The Boy Scouts of America and the Boy Scouts of England constitute one of the most interesting social uplift movements on record, and are mighty factors in the development of boy life and character. The two organizations are practically identical in object and methods, closely affiliated through the mutual friendship of their founder, Sir Robert S. S. Baden-Powell in England and Ernest Thompson Seton in America.

To the latter and to this country belongs the honor of basic idea and earlier organization. About the year 1900 Ernest Thompson Seton conceived the notion that the "gang spirit" so marked among boys between the ages of twelve and twenty-one, and which so often leads to fighting and predatory habits, could be utilized for mutual service and uplift. So he proceeded to organize "tribes" of Seton or Woodcraft Indians, with signs, passwords and a code of conduct and morals. The object he had in view was to seize the boy's character in its red-hot stage of enthusiasm for physical activity, and to weld it into the right shape and encourage and develop its individuality so that the boy would become a good man and a valuable citizen. The Seton Indians increased lustily in numbers until there were upward of a hundred thousand boys and youths enrolled.

In 1907 a gallant English soldier and general, the justly popular Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who had become endeared to the hearts of his countrymen by his heroic defense of Ladysmith during the Boer war founded the Boy Scouts in England based upon and co-operating with Mr. Seton's idea. Henceforth the two men worked in unison on either side of the Atlantic. But the younger movement outstripped its American cousin in growth and popularity. At this writing there are half a million English boys enrolled, and another large contingent in Canada, where the idea was seized on with equal avidity.

The scheme of the Boy Scouts lays special emphasis on outdoor recreation and on self training. Scouts must be between the ages of twelve and eighteen. Upon enlisting they are classed in three ratings, tenderfoot or probationary, second class, first class, for each of which certain definite practical tests have to be passed to gain the rank and its insignia. Each group of six or eight scouts forms a patrol, with leader and corporal. Three or more patrols form a troop which is headed by a "scoutmaster," usually a young man older than the lads in the troop. There are also local committees of scout-masters and others interested in the work among boys, city and state councils, and the national president, the chief scout.

As nearly as possible the boys wear a comfortable, free and easy uniform of flannel shirt, short khaki trousers with stockings turned down at the knee, a handkerchief of the patrol colors, a khaki haversack, all topped off with a flat-brimmed felt hat. The only weapon carried is a light staff—no guns or pistols—and only a pocket-knife. As a matter of fact the "uniform" is so slight as to present no bar to enlistment in the Boy Scouts, and especial stress is laid upon the freedom conferred by this free-and-easy dress. The fundamental principals to which the Boy Scouts adhere are included in their pledge and their law. The candidate gives his word of honor to do his duty to God and country, to help others at all times, to obey the scout laws, and to live up to its maxims.

There is in some quarters here and in England a mistaken impression that the Boy Scouts are a purely military organization, and that the real purpose behind the movement

is to feed a standing army. Nothing could be further from the truth. Before a scout may wear a first class badge he must satisfy examiners in ten matters: First, he must be able to swim fifty yards. He must have a shilling in the savings bank. He must be able to send and receive a message, either in semaphore or Morse, sixteen letters per minute. As a test in self-reliance he is sent off on a two days journey by himself, or with only one other scout. On returning he must write an intelligible report of things seen. Then he must know how to deal with various accidents—ice-breaking, electric shock, drowning runaway horse or carriage, and so on. He must prove that he can make a damper, cook a hunter's stew, skin and cook a rabbit, or pluck and cook a bird. He must read a map and draw sketch-maps; use an axe for felling timber; and judge distance, area, size, numbers, height and weight within twenty-five per cent error. Finally he must bring in a tenderfoot, trained by himself in points required for a tenderfoot badge.

From a first-class he may rise higher and higher by way of badges of merit. The king's scouts win badges showing that they passed tests in such branches of scoutcraft as seamanship, marksmanship, ambulance work, signalling, and the craft of the guide. Other badges of merit are given for proficiency in different kinds of work. The idea here is to encourage boys to do their work well. The boy with engineering instincts builds an aeroplane that will glide or fly, and so wins an aviator's badge. The explorer finds out every lane, bypath, and shortcut for at least two miles in every direction around his local headquarters in the country, knows the general direction of neighboring towns for twenty-five miles, and can tell a stranger offhand the history of any old castles, churches or mansions. He wins the pathfinder's badge. Others win badges because they are clever gardeners, cooks, surveyors, printers, plumbers or pipers. Employers of labor recognize these badges. Seeking trustworthy boy service, they are beginning now to look first among the scouts.

The highest of the honors are medals and badges for meritorious deeds—a bronze cross for saving life at great risk, a medal of merit for the scout who does his duty exceptionally well. Other fitting honors inspire and reward gallantry.

On many occasions when active and trained assistance has been needed the Boy Scouts have not been found wanting in aid or initiative. For example there was recently a bad wreck on the London and Brighton railway. The local scouts when they heard of the accident, rushed to the scene with their ambulance stretcher, and for many hours calmly and promptly performed noble duties of rescue among the killed and wounded, giving the most valuable help to doctors, police and railway servants. On another occasion, that of King Edwards funeral procession thru London, a crowd of more than a quarter of a million people gathered in Hyde Park. Thousands upon thousands of people stood for seven or eight hours, hemmed in and crushed on all sides enduring the pitiless sun, to see the cortege pass by. At every ambulance center Boy Scouts were in attendance, to aid in the work of revival, carry patients, bring water and keep back the crowd. And when all was over and the crowd dispersed, the Boy Scouts tidied the park of rubbish and scattered papers.

Full advantage is taken of the average red-blooded boy's delight in things outdoors—making camp fires cooking, camping out, hunting, fishing, trapping, "playing Indian" and the like. These perfectly pro-

clivities are seized and harnessed for the boy's own good, while he receives practical training along that teach self reliance, self control, truthfulness, courtesy, cleanliness, mutual assistance, and the duty of extending unselfish help to others—for no scout may accept pecuniary reward. In fact, the Boy Scout movement everywhere inculcates the old Latin motto: "A sound mind in a sound body."

There is little danger of militarism in the movement, here or abroad. Some scouts, naturally, gravitate toward the army or navy, but the same dangers which peace advocates profess to see in the Boy Scouts apply with even stronger force to the boys' brigades, which are far more closely connected with our churches, and where a showy uniform, real rifles, the manual of arms, military drill and competitive marksmanship for prizes are integral parts of the instruction, which is also largely indoors. On the other hand, the Boy Scouts spend much of their time in the open places, among fields, trees and streams, learning some of nature's secrets, gathering health and strength, imbibing lessons in courage, self reliance and good comradeship, all of which make ultimately for patriotic and valuable citizenship.

FROM THE BOOK OF BILDAD

The humor of a woman lies not so much in the tales she tells, my lad, as in the way in which she tells them unto thee.

Love laughs at locksmiths, oh, my son, because, being blind, he has no use for keyholes.

When thou at last hast won the Only One, my boy, heed not the cynic's jeers, for two hearts that beat as one beat all.

In building character avoid veneer and let thy mortar be well mixed of equal parts of high resolve and virtue.

A poet hath said that a drop of ink may make a million think, but more often doth it prove the incapacity for thought of him who uses it.

Restitution does not always cure a wrong. Eve brought the world about our ears when she gave the apple unto Adam, and in another age, when Paris gave it back to Venus, war broke out again.

It is probably true, as the sage hath said, that "Love will find a weigh." The scale is oftentimes found upon some lover's knee while he is making experiments to ascertain if he can support the lady of his choice.—Judge.

POST PHILOSOPHY

Most popular tunes die whistling.

A sharp turn is very helpful in backing out gracefully.

Good old people die young by living to second childhood.

The best way to get a run for your money is to run along with it.

Generally at night the louder the noise the more reassuring it is.

There is many a but between getting and not getting a man's goat.

One indigestible family can make a whole neighborhood sick and tired.

DECISION REVERSED

Supt. Dralle Exonerated of Charges Preferred by Local School Board.

Miss O'Hara, county superintendent of Fergus county, last Saturday reversed the decision of the school board of district No. 55 in dismissing Supt. Dralle. The county superintendent's decision says in part: "I find that the action taken by the board in dismissing Prof. Dralle, as principal, is not sustained by the evidence. It is quite clear that the work of the school suffered because of lack of quarters and facilities, and it is equally clear that it suffered further thru a lack of co-operation among the teachers, some of whom admit their hostility toward the principal. To just what extent this affected injuriously the school work, and just where the responsibility for the feeling that exis-

ted should be placed, cannot be determined from the transcript furnished me, but as to the specific charges and the ruling thereon by your board, I have no hesitation in disapproving. I have only the testimony to guide me, and applying that to the charges, the dismissal of the principal does not appear to be justified."

An appeal was taken by the board to the state superintendent of instruction, but there seems to be no doubt in the minds of school men in this section that Miss O'Hara's decision will be sustained. Mr. Dralle handed in his resignation to the board Tuesday, taking the office of clerk and recorder on March 1st, but the board refused to accept it. Many are now of the opinion that, having hired a new superintendent Prof. Baird, the board may be compelled to pay two salaries for the rest of the present term.

ASBRIDGE EX-PLAINS VOTE

(Continued from page 1.)

Conference Committee to prepare a direct Primary Bill that would be acceptable to both parties in both Houses, and the Committee was appointed.

We awaited the report of that Committee, Mr. Speaker, with anxiety, and three days ago the member from Missoula, Mr. Woody, introduced a Motion to have the Committee on Privileges and Elections introduce a Direct Primary Bill within 24 hours. Mr. Speaker I opposed that Motion believing it would embarrass the Conference Committee whose report had not yet been delivered to this body, and hoping they would report a satisfactory Measure. I desire here to apologize to this House and to Mr. Woody for my vote on that Motion. Mr. Speaker, in considering the Measure before us, I am reminded of a fable. We are told

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that once upon a time a mountain was in labor and the people were gathered together to see what it would produce, and it brought forth a mouse. Gentlemen, this is indeed a mouse of a Primary Bill that has been brought forth by this mountain of a committee. I saw in yesterday's paper that the Governor of Iowa had vetoed the Primary Bill passed by the Iowa legislature because it attempted indirectly to obtain what the Constitution directly provides. Gentlemen, this measure could not be vetoed on those grounds. There is no indirectness about it. It is indeed brutally direct in perpetrating that system of Convention Nominations that have been so damnably prostituted in this state. Gentlemen, I am opposed to this measure, but I am going to vote for it. I am opposed to it because it is in no sense a Direct Primary Law, but because I believe it to be all we can get I am going to vote for it knowing

that when I go back to my constituents they will have the right to say "We asked for bread and you gave us a stone." I vote Aye.

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