It is surely not too early to begin to think about that popular season to which we all look forward—Christmas.

And to think about it from a correctly Scouting standpoint.

For the past two years, in fact ever since Lone Scouting has been an organized branch of the Association in this province, the Lonies have "Done Their Bit" towards lightening the task of Santa Claus as Christmas time.

It is not necessary to remind you that in this year of financial and business depression, of unemployment and hardship, there will be many to whom Christmas will bring only memories of better times, and the greatest opportunity yet offered for Scout Service will be brought within your reach.

Think of the many children whose lives can be made happy because Santa Claus, through his Lone Scout Assistant, did not forget them! There are over 300 Lonies in Ontario, and if each one will look after just one unfortunate kiddie, what a splendid record that will make!

Lone Patrols can organize "Scout Toy Shops," and even isolated Lonies can do their share. Now is the time to hunt up those broken and discarded toys, dolls, books, etc., and get busy cleaning and repairing them. Remember two broken dolls often make one good one! How happy will be the little boy who can pull that old broken clockwork engine around on a string, after you have taken out the works, repaired the wheels and given it a coat of paint!

Make up your mind, RIGHT NOW, that YOU are going to do your Christmas Good Turn this year, and then get busy! Do little odd jobs to earn the money necessary to pay the postage on your Good Turn Parcel—Lone Scout Headquarters will send you the names, addresses and ages of children who will not have any good cheer this year if Lone Scout Santa Claus does not take care of them!

If you go about it in the right way, you will find people only too pleased to donate to you odd pieces of lumber and cans of paint to repair the toys with.

The Lone Scout Department is most anxious that this year all records are beaten in this great Christmas Good Turn scheme, and what better way can you have of living up to your third Scout Law, which says: "A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others."

Write to your Scoutmaster immediately, and tell him that you wish to help. Have your name enrolled, and say how many children you are prepared to take care of. Then get busy and make up attractive parcels. Headquarters will send you the names and addresses of boys and girls to whom they can be sent.

Thus your Xmas will be happy, because you have brought joy to someone less fortunate than yourself.

Lone Scout Question Box

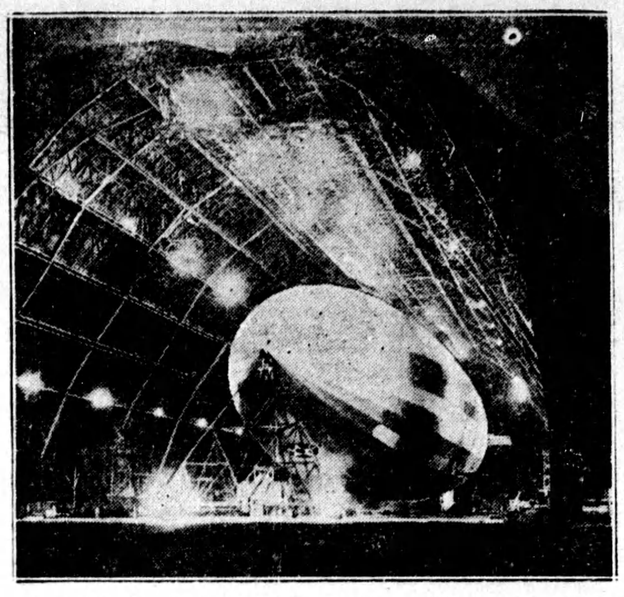
Are there Lone Scouts in any other provinces? (L. G., Linden). Yes, Manitoba has a Lone Scout Troop about 200 strong, and there is also a Troop in Prince Edward Island. The other provinces have Lone Scouts, but they are not organized into Troops, working individually under the respective Provincial Headquarters offices.

What is the "Silver Wolf?" (Lonie, Simcoe). This is the highest award in Scouting. It is the Chief Scout's personal recognition of exceptional services, and the number awarded is very small indeed. It is a Silver Wolf, suspended around the neck by a green and yellow ribbon.

Lone Scouts are invited to send questions to "Lone E," c/o Lone Scout Department, 330 Bay Street, Toronto 2, who will endeavour to answer them through these columns.

If you are interested in the Boy Scouts, and unable to join a regular troop, write to the Lone Scout Department for particulars of how you may become a Lone Scout. Boys between the ages of 12 and 18 are eligible.—"Lone E."

Huge Airship Rests in Hangar



A spectacular view of U.S.S. Akron, world's largest airship in hangar at Akron, Ohio, all lit up.

Strange Types Of Lightning

Chilean Weather Service Director Describes Weird Phenomena

Not all kinds of lightning are in the text-books, remarks Charles Fitzhugh Talman in the New York Times.

Some of the oldest have not yet even been explained, and some, perhaps, should not be called lightning at all, though they are doubtless electrical.

Mr. Talman begins with an account of an exceptionally weird electrical display reported by Dr. Walter Knoche, for many years director of the weather service of Chile. We read:

"He was traveling by steamboat down the Rio Paraguay in South America, on October 3, 192. A severe drought had prevailed in the surrounding country for months. At 7 o'clock in the evening—though no rain fell—a tremendous electrical storm began.

" 'It did not approach,' writes Dr. Knoche in the Meteorologische Zeitschrift, 'but was instantly there—and it was there as far as the eye could reach, to north, south, west, and east, and overhead. It would have been impossible to count even approximately the number of the lightning flashes.' Many of these were in the form of streak lightning, but were reddish or yellowish. Almost equally numerous were the flashes of dazzling white 'beaded' lightning—a phenomenon resembling a string of glowing pearls in the sky. Such lightning is, so far as anybody knows, extremely rare, and the occurrence of more than one or two examples of it in a single storm is almost unheard of.

"Dr. Knoche tells also of gorgeous glows of sheet lightning along the borders of the clouds and of various phenomena that can not readily be classified, including curious, rapidly moving, orange-colored discharges, which he says resembled cylindrical masses of glowing gas; flashes that revolved like pinwheels! and, at one period of the storm, hundreds of luminous arcs crowded together near the zenith, so dazzling that he had to close his eyes.

"Perhaps the strangest feature of this exhibition was that it went on for hours without thunder. Thunder began abruptly in the early morning, and then became a continuous roll. The storm ended, or the steamer passed out of it—about 8 o'clock, having lasted thirteen hours.

"The same meteorologist has published accounts of equally marvelous electrical exhibitions in another part of South America—the spectacular glows and beams seen on summer evenings along the crest of the Andes as viewed from Santiago and places along the west coast, as well as from vessels on the Pacific.

"The mountains seem to act as gigantic lightning-rods, giving rise to more or less continuous diffused discharges between themselves and the clouds, with intermittent outbursts simulating the beams of a great search-light.

"Displays of similar character have been reported from mountainous regions in other parts of the world, including the Alps. Science has, as yet, little to say about this phenomenon, which is still ignored in most books on meteorology."

Beaded lightning was first described by the French physicist, Gaston Plant, who observed it over Paris in 1876. Certain alleged photographs of such lightning, Mr. Talman tells us, have turned out to be pictures of alternating-current electric lamps photographed with a moving camera. There is no doubt, however, that the "beaded" variety actually occurs. He goes on:

"Lightning that shoots up from the horizon at the apparent speed of a skyrocket, or occasionally travels horizontally from the dge of a cloud at the same deliberate pace, has been reported several times during the last two centuries, but it remains one of the great rarities. A case was observed on August 18, 1927, from the British steamship Inkum, in the Bahamas. Similar lightning was seen near Calcutta one evening in July, 1903.

"Some of the most bizarre manifestations of lightning are those that flash in the column of smoke and vapor from the crater of an active volcano. The marvelous electrical displays that attended the eruption of Pelee, in 1902, are described in George Keenan's dramatic story of that outbreak. The streaks of lightning terminated in starlike outbursts, and each flash was accompanied by a booming detonation. Probably the true explanation is that the discharges passed through and volatilized flying chunks of rock in the midst of the smoke cloud.

"No phenomenon is more suggestive of fairy tales than the one that science has called 'ball lightning' for nearly a century. If the term 'lightning' can be stretched far enough to include this, it ought also to include St. Elmo's fire, to which ball lightning is perhaps closely related.

"The appearance of luminous balls traveling through the air or moving over the surface of terrestrial objects during thundery weather has been recorded for ages, and though this phenomenon is certainly not common, it can hardly be described as excessively rare.

"The mysterious balls vary considerably in size, color, rate of movement, and other characteristics. They occur indoors as well as in the open air; some leave no trace of their passage, while others are very destructive, some disappear silently, others with a deafening explosion."

In a considerable number of reported cases of ball lightning, Mr. Talman thinks that the object described as a fiery ball was actually a brush discharge of electricity from some particle of matter falling or floating in the air or from the fixed surface on which the supposed ball was seen. He explains:

"The natural brush discharge is best known as a small tuft of light issuing from the tip of some elevated object, such as a ship's mast, a church spire, or a lightning-rod. In its simpler manifestations, the phenomen is usually called St. Elmo's fire, or corposants, and has been familiar to mankind from antiquity.

"During dust - storms and sandstorms in the western United States it is not uncommon for insulated metal objects to become so strongly charged with electricity that they give off brush discharges, which are visible at night. Observers report herds of cattle with 'balls of fire' on their horns, and the barbs of wire fences ablaze with electric discharges. During one of these storms, in western Kansas, sparks two or three inches long were drawn from a wire running to a windmill, and a prairie fire, it was thought, was started by sparks at the break of a fence wire."

Quality of Wheat Crop Officially Approved

Winnipeg, Man.—It is officially announced that the milling and baking quality of Canada's new wheat crop is high, and equal if not better than that of any year tested by the Dominion's Grain Research Laboratory. The weight per bushel of the samples received to date and examined under the direction of F. J. Birchard is about the same as last year with the yield of flour comparing favorably. The protein content is much higher while the gluten of all grades is exceptionally good.

Homes for Children

"Quite a number of people apply for children to board," J. J. Kelso announced recently, "but what we are seeking is permanent adoptive homes for the many fine boys and girls at present waiting in our Children's Shelters."

"If all who are interested in children," says Mr. Kelso, "would only enter more fully into loving relationship with children who are public charges new avenues of service might result. That so many attractive boys and girls are left unsought in our shelters is a reflection on our philanthrophy and christianity.

For Study of Plant Diseases

A controlled weather plant with four compartments which will be used for pathological studies of diseases of wheat, flax, potatoes, fruits and vegetables is being installed at the North Dakota Agricultural College. The temperatures in the compartments will range from zero Fahrenheit to 60 degrees.

Iceland to Keep Wings

Winter air service in Iceland will be inaugurated by the Icelandic Air Transport Company, which has purchased its third Junkers airplane. The company operates a mail and passenger service between Reykjavik and the Vestmanna Islands, Isafjord, Siglufjord and Akureyri and a flying ambulance service and uses planes to search for herring.

Edmonton, Alea.—It is reported that efforts of the Alberta Department of Agriculture to raise game birds for stocking the countryside are meeting with success on provincial farms. At Oliver 700 pheasants are thriving and it is proposed to increase the supply.

Strange Animal Puzzles Zoologists

A strange little creature, long known only from fossil remains, has now been reported to the American Society of Mammalogists by G. H. H. Tate, of the American Museum of Natural History.

The caenolestes, about the size of a small mouse, is now fairly abundant in the forests of Ecuador. It is one of the two animals outside of Australia that carry their undeveloped young in pouches on the outside of the body, the other being the opossum. But the caenolestes is much closer to the Australian marsupials than to its New World cousin. How it happened to develop in South America is one of the unsolved mysteries of zoology.

Found alive for the first time only a few years ago, it now can be caught in Ecuador as readily as any other fairly abundant animal, once a collector has become familiar with its habits, Tate reports. There are two species, one inhabiting mountain foothills and the other sub-tropical forest.

Frequently the runways, which they use in common with mice, are found to pass up and down the steepest parts of gullies. The animals live entirely on insects.

Astronomers Spy Comet Near Sun

Williams Bay, Wis.—Astronomers have caught Ryves' Comet within the range of the great telescope of Yerkes Observatory, getting a photograph of this elusive wanderer of the skies.

So closely does this comet follow the sun that the astronomers had to wait until just before dawn to take their picture. Intricate calculations, made after the photographic plates had been developed, showed that the comet was just where it was supposed to be.

The comet, named after its discoverer, Mr. P. M. Ryves, a British astronomer living in Spain, had been playing hide and seek in the rays of the sun for two months, and the Yerkes Astronomers were elated with their successful observation.

German Women's Health Due To Proper Dress, Doctor Says

Berlin.—An anaemic woman has become a rarity in Germany because, among other things, the German woman has taken to dressing sensibly, her clothing admitting both air and light, says Dr. Engelen.

Men's clothing, he declares, is much too heavy and dense, restricting liberty of movement, impeding free breathing, keeping the body shut away from the air, and, even more important, from the beneficent light rays.

The salvation of his sex, Dr. Engelen says, lies in man's refusal to encase himself in tightly woven stuffs. His experiments with loosely woven woolens has given satisfactory results, even with the handicap of lining and shirts.

One-fifth of the total population of England and Wales lives in Greater London.

"If religion leaves out play, it leaves out one of the most important aspects of human life."—Harry Emerson Fosdick.

Cancer Study Continues

Scene in laboratory of Hannemann hospital, Philadelphia, where scientists are engaged in battle against cancer. These technicians in black robes and hoods are examining cancerous tissues.

1,000 Year Old Relics Clue to Eskimos' Origin

Washington.—An ancient piece of armor, worn by a northland warrior perhaps as much as a thousand years ago, is the latest clue to the mystery of the Eskimos' origin.

Discovery of a breastplate made of whalebone strong enough to ward off primitive arrows and spears has been reported by Moreau B. Chambers, representative of the Smithsonian Institution. He found the armor with many other relics of the long-vanished "golden-age" of Eskimo history, while excavating prehistoric village sites on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea this Summer.

Beautifully carved ornaments, weapons and tools, found on the older village sites, provide additional evidence that the Eskimos originated in Asia, says Henry B. Collins, Jr., Smithsonian archaeologist.

The Eskimos are known to have come to America long after the original ancestors of the Indians crossed from Asia, probably by way of Bering Strait, Collins explained. Where they originated, why they stayed in the inhospitable north, why the beautiful art of their prehistoric "golden age" degenerated much as did that of the ancient Greeks, are mysteries scientists are seeking to solve.

Five village sites on St. Lawrence Island, dating back to the oldest known Eskimo culture of from two to three thousand years ago, furnish a complete cross section of Eskimo history covering that period of time. They are considered as valuable to students of Eskimo history as Pompeii to students of ancient Rome. Eskimos lived there for centuries because walrus, seal and whale are plentiful.

Preserved in frozen soil for hundreds of years as though in cold storage, Chambers found tools made of flint lashed in the ends of split sticks, with the original lashings of flexible whalebone still in place. There were also ivory knife handles with slate blades, throwing sticks for hurling darts, wrist guards used when shooting bows and arrows, ivory-tipped harpoons and many ornaments.

Many French Women Win Legion of Honor

Paris.—French women have made little progress is obtaining the vote, but as indicated by the lists of the Legion of Honor, they are making rapid strides in the acquisition of civic honors.

Although only a thousand French women have received the decoration since the order was founded by Napoleon, 709 of them are living today. The Countess de Noailles, poetess, is the only woman to attain the grade of commander, but there are numerous officers now on the feminine roll of those decorated for exceptional services.

The achievement of women thus honored are not confined to pursuits that have been recognized as in the feminine province. The list contains the names of seventeen women farmers, two directors of business administrations, six owners of business houses, two aviatrixes, three explorers, one hotel proprietess and one motion picture producer.

The first woman to be decorated with the Legion of Honor was a soldier. She was Mme. Marie Schallinck, who served throughout Napoleon's campaigns, attained the rank of lieutenant, and was wounded at Austerlitz. She was decorated by the Emperor himself.

It is notable that the French Government has been more lavish in distributing high honors to foreign women than to women of its own nation. Among the foreign women members are five Queens who are wearers of the Grand Cross, an honor never accorded to a French woman. Ten foreign women hold the rank of officer.

Faster Trains Planned

London.—Plans for faster journeys in through cars from London to European centres will be discussed at the European time table and through carriage conference here. This conference is held annually in a different place and it has been twenty-four years since it met last in London.

More than 200 delegates, representing about thirty countries and 100 government departments, railway and shipping administrations, will meet at the Great Central Hotel near Marylebone station. It is hoped that speedier transcontinental transport will result from these discussions. It is now possible to get a through car from a Channel port to almost any city in Europe, except in Russia and Spain, the only two countries without standard gauge rails.

Poultry Shipment Increase To Japan

Vancouver, B.C.—Japanese poultrymen in Vancouver are shortly expected to double their usual orders for British Columbia hens and eggs. Under a 10-year plan laid down five years ago in Japan, a consistent effort is being put forth to improve Japanese poultry, and each year Japanese buyers take shipment of 300 egg hens or the progeny of 300 egg hens. They also buy hatching eggs from 300 egg hens. The last shipment of chicks from one of these British Columbia champion hens reached its destination in perfect condition.

Canada's Trade With Brazil

Future Offers Increased Trade Relations

There is prospect of further increased trade relations between Canada and Brazil. Under the existing arrangements trade between the two countries has increased in recent years, the rise of Canadian exports being larger than that of imports from Brazil.

Trade has been carried on intermittently between Canada and Brazil ever since Confederation. The earliest entry in Canadian trade returns shows exports of Canadian products to Brazil to the value of $42,141 in 1868. The next entry gives Canadian imports from Brazil of $8,504 in 1870. In the 80's trade was established on a regular basis, Canadian imports from Brazil being more than double Canadian exports to that country. In 1882 imports were valued at $1,328,316 and exports at $492,785.

At times during the next two decades, Canadian exports exceeded imports from Brazil, but at the time war broke out Canadian imports from Brazil were considerably greater than exports of Canadian products. After the war, however, the Canadian export trade increased rapidly, and since 1919 exports have consistently exceeded imports. In 1930, exports of Canadian products to Brazil were valued at $4,292,293, against imports of $1,687,707. In the fiscal year 1931, however, there was a sharp decline in exports to $2,799,567, while imports fell off slightly to $1,349,124.

Principal Imports

The chief items in Canadian imports from Brazil are coffee, cocoa, butter and nuts. In the fiscal year there was an increase in the imports of coffee compared with the previous year, and compared as well with the imports five years earlier, in 1926. Owing to a decline in the price of coffee, however, the value of these imports was less in 1931 than in either 1930 or 1926. The imports of coffee in 1926 were 8,103,749 pounds with a value of $1,846,027. In 1930 the quantity was 8,942,680 pounds and the value $1,639,277, while in 1931, 11,350,804 pounds were imported at a value of 51,224,588. Imports of cocoa butter in 1931 amounted to 225,265 pounds with a value of $44,931. There were no imports of this article in 1926, but there was an import of 71,047 pounds in 1930. Of nuts the imports in 1931 were valued at $41,897. This was a large increase over both the previous year and 1926. In 1931 these three articles accounted for 94 per cent. of Canada's imports from Brazil, while in 1926 they accounted for 99 per cent.

The chief exports from Canada to Brazil in the fiscal year 1931 were the total exports in that year. Exports rubber manufactures, sewing machines and fish. These three articles accounted for approximately 71 per cent. of of Canadian products to Brazil declined sharply in 1931, as already indicated. The chief causes of the decline were the falling-off in the exports of automobiles, aluminum and electric apparatus, while there was also a considerable reduction in the export of sewing machines. Between 1926 and 1931 there was a heavy decline in the shipments of wheat flour.

These exports in 1926 were 134,513 barrels, while in 1931 trade was limited to 39,248 barrels. The exports of sewing machines declined from $1,731,517 in 1930 to $746,356 in 1931. Exports of automobiles, aluminum and electric apparatus were small in 1931, but in 1930 amounted to $245,269 for automobiles, $247,958 for aluminum and $265,024 for electric apparatus. Exports of rubber manufactures in 1931 were valued at $1,128,961, of which the greater part consisted of rubber tires. Exports of fish in 1931 were valued at $184,863, but in the previous year totalled $492,644. Fish exports were composed almost entirely of the dried, salted, esmoked and pickled product, the largest contribution being made by dried cod-fish.

Discovery II Sails Into Northern Regions

London.—The research ship Discovery II has sailed on her second long voyage to the Antarctic to undertake investigations for the Falkland Islands Government of physical and biological conditions bearing on the whaling industry. The operations will cover the entire Antarctic circle, a voyage made on few previous occasions and never with a vessel so well equipped for biological and hydrological survey.

After widespread investigations in the region of the Falkland Islands the Discovery party will investigate the wide zone of waters bounded on the south by the polar ice. Later the vessel will join another research ship, the William Scoresby, now exploring the possibilities of a commercial fishery in the Antarctic, the two working together for a while. The scientific work will be done by four scientists under the direction of Dilwyn John.

Gypsies Must Register

Prague.—Gypsies in Czechoslovakia are now required to register in their home communities, and according to the latest statistics more than 26,300 have complied with the law. There are 50,000 gypsies in the country.