Lone Scouts will be glad to hear that a new book has been published by the Dominion Headquarters of the Boy Scouts Association with the title of "Proficiency Badge Reference Book."

It is a handy little volume of 40 pages, bound in a stout green cover, and contains the picture and requirements of each badge. The book is made to carry in your pocket, so that it may be studied during your leisure moments.

The price is 10c, and copies may be obtained from Lone Scout Headquarters.

Bird Houses

Last week we suggested that the Lonies of this Province should get busy during the winter months and make homes for their feathered friends, and we are therefore publishing the following very useful hints on this subject, which have been written by Mr. F. C. Irwin, M.A., the Assistant Provincial Commissioner for Ontario.

"Building houses for the birds is great sport, according to two Saskatchewan boys who built six nesting boxes recently. They found that their camping site was strangely deserted by the birds which formerly made the days merry with their song and chatter so they decided that something had to be done to attract them back. They found their inspiration on page 269 of the Boy Scout "Handbook for Canada." Perhaps you too would find inspiration there if you looked it up and would set to work to build homes for our feathered friends during these long winter months.

In building bird houses, however, the following general principles should be kept in mind if the houses are to meet the needs of the tenants for whom they are being constructed.

First, the house must have a roof which will shed rain because birds don't like leaky ceilings in their homes any more than you do.

Second, the floor of the house should have some small holes bored in it to drain the nest in case rain should be driven in at the entrance.

Third, in order to give sufficient depth to the nest and to prevent the little birds, after they are hatched, from falling out, the hole should be well above the floor of the box.

Fourth, some kind of perch or verandah should be provided at the door as an alighting place for the birds when flying to the nest.

Fifth, the house must be placed so that the cats cannot reach it and also far enough away from houses so that the birds will not be afraid to use it for nesting purposes.

Feeding the Birds

In addition to bird houses food tables and drinking dishes can be provided, but like the houses they should be out of reach of cats and in places where the birds will not be afraid to go. If the drinking dishes are kept full of water and the food tables are well supplied with wheat, screenings, bread crumbs, suet, cracked corn and an occasional feed of fresh cherries or raspberries the birds will come often and under circumstances which will give you splendid opportunities to better your acquaintance with them.

A Scout is a friend to animals. Why not be one by starting to be a friend to birds?

Look up the requirements of the "Bird Warden's Badge." Then start in at once to qualify for it. You will find it to be a very interesting hobby.

For information about the Lone Scouts and particulars of how to join them, write to the Lone Scout Department, The Boy Scouts Association, 330 Bay Street, Toronto 2. Full particulars will be gladly sent to you.—"LONE E."

Ontario Marsh Lands Reclaimed

7,500 Acres Converted into Workable Soil For Market Gardening

Toronto.—A wilderness of marsh may be turned into a veritable garden as a result of a project for reclamation on land recently completed in Ontario. Converting 7,500 acres of marshy ground into workable soil, the scheme already gives promise of yielding bountiful harvests.

The reclaimed area, situated in the townships of Gwillinbury and and King about 30 miles north of Toronto, is known as the Holland marsh. It drains into the south end of Lake Simcoe. A river valley for a distance of five miles and varying in width from two to three miles, comprises the drained land.

Commenced in 1915 by the municipality of Gwillimbury West on petition of land owners in the district, the project was only completed in 1930. Some 200 acres has already been developed, however. The land has been devoted to market gardening. W. H. Day, former professor at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, who owns 37 acres, reports he secured a yield of approximately $700 an acre in the first year of cultivation. Lettuce and celery proved especially profitable. Part of the developed area is being worked by a group of Dutch farmers and residents of the nearby village of Bradford own small plots.

Drainage methods employed stamp the scheme as unique in Ontario. A canal, varying in width from 40 to 70 feet, was dredged out around the edge of the valley, the excavated earth forming a dyke to prevent the water from seeping into the area enclosed by the canal. The river and smaller streams flowing into the marsh were diverted into the canal To prevent Lake Simcoe from backing up and flooding the reclaimed area at high water, a dam was built where the canals met a few miles above the lake. To complete drainage two pumps, each with a capacity of 20,000 gallons a minute, were installed at the dam, taking care of precipitation in the reclaimed section.

Similar schemes in other parts of the province, according to Prof. Day, who has been interested in the scheme since its inception, have all been accomplished without building drainage canals. Incoming drainage is usually handled by pumps, he explained.

The marsh is historic ground. The river which flows through it was followed by Indians on their way to the long overland portage from Lake Simcoe to the trading post which is now Toronto two and three centuries ago.

Self-denial and self-control are the necessary postulates of all moral excellence. A man who will take the world easily will never take it grandly. To lie in the lap of luxury may be the highest enjoyment of which a feeble character is capable: but a strong man must have something difficult to do.—John Stuart Blaikie.

"Buy British" Plan Gains

The strongest propaganda effort ever devoted to a peacetime project is apparent in the "Buy British" campaign now sweeping England and her dominions, Roger Bracken, export manager for the Millers Falls Company and former president of the Export Managers' Club of New York, Inc., said here. Mr. Bracken has been absent on a business trip through England and the Continent during the last six months.

"The combination of depreciated exchange, high tariffs and intense propaganda against foreign goods makes the English market a major problem for American exporters," he said. "In some lines of merchandise, such as electrical tools and equipment, tariffs and exchange differences, combine to put a 100 per cent premium on Amercan products. When this handicap is coupled with the growing prejudice against foreign products, the difficulty of retaining a foothold in what was once a major market for our goods can be imagined."

Unseasonable Thaw Puts Moscow Back on Wheels

Moscow.—Droshky drivers, who have had their sleighs on the streets of Moscow since December 1, had to substitute wheels for runners because of an unseasonable warm spell.

With the mercury several degrees above freezing, the snow, which had covered the streets since mid-November, melted rapidly, making the going slushy for pedestrians, who found furs and other heavy clothing uncomfortable.

When the picturesque Izvostchik, or droshky cabbie, brings out his sled hitched to a horse, and puts away his wheeled conveyance, it is always a sign that the long Russian winter has come to stay and this is the first time in several years he has been fooled.

Radio Control in N.Z.

Auckland, N.Z.—The new plan for transferring control of the main broadcasting services in New Zealand from private hands to the State took final shape in the past session. The Government's Broadcasting Bill, as passed, provides that the system shall be managed by a board of three members, assisted by an advisory council of eight members, five from the North and three from the South Island, to be appointed by the Postmaser-General.

These eight members will be chosen from nominees of organizations representing listeners.

Silent "Talkies" Used to Help Deaf Learn to "Hear" With Eyes

Silent "talkies" are being made for the deaf and hard of hearing to teach them to "hear" with their eyes, says "Popular Mechanics Magazine." Lip motions and other facial movements, together with body gestures, are emphasized in the silent "talkies" in order that lip reading and interpretation of other motions may be easier.

Ohio State University is experimenting with this form of motion picture with a view to aiding deaf students in their college courses.

St. John of Jerusalem Order to Lady Bessborough

London—The London Gazette recently announced the appointment of the Countess of Bessgorough to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem as a Dame of Grace.

The Order of St. John of Jerusalem is conferred for services in the cause of humanity throughout the British Empire and it is open to both men and women.

There are five classes of the order; Bailiffs and Dames Grand Cross, Knights and Dames of Justice and of Grace, Commanders of both sexes, serving brothers and sisters.

The aims and objects of the order include the maintenance of the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem, and the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade in Great Britain and overseas, and the London Light and Electrical Clinic for the poor.

Flying Fur Trader Covers 2,000 Miles

Prince Albert, Sask.—That the aeroplane has definitely taken an important place in the fur trade of Northern Canada was shown when "Del" Simons, veteran fur-trader, took off in a plane with William Broatch at the controls on a 2,000-mile flight, in the course of which he collected furs at various parts of the Northland and transported them to Winnipeg.

Lac du Brochet and other points in the fur country were touched at in the trip which formerly required thirty-six days by antiquated methods of transportation. This year, Simons collected his furs, circled around by Churchill, took the cargo to Winnipeg, and arrived back home with his family in time for the New Year's dinner.

Nevada Experiencing Low Temperature Weather

Reno.—In contrast to the mild temperatures of the East, the entire State of Nevada has experienced some of the coldest weather in years lately. Reno has had temperatures just above the zero mark for the last few weeks, while other cities have reported record breaking cold. In one night the mercury plunged from zero to 18 degrees below, then to 23 degrees below the following day at Elko.

Ely has experienced temperatures of 8 to 10 degrees below zero, while Carson City, the state capital, saw the thermometer register 10 degrees below zero recently for the first time in five years.

White-Meat Chicks Raised By Non-Scratching Rule

Tonawanda, N.Y.—Something new in chicken-raising is to be found on the farm of W. M. Woodward, who raises broilers almost free from dark meat. A long shed houses between 3,000 and 4,000 chickens of varying ages. The pens are built one on top of another to the roof. Each pen has a false floor of chicken wire two inches above the actual floor. The chicken's feet never touch ground until it is at least three months old. The building is heated by stoves.

Because the chickens cannot scratch and buttermilk constitutes 20 per cent of their feed, there is almost no muscular development. The meat is almost entirely white and tender, even on the legs and joints.

A Happy Boy!

Junior Ryan all dressed up as an Aztec Indian as he led the band in the Philadelphia Mummers' New Year's parade.

Canadian Wheat for Britain

Sir Thomas Cuninghame in the National Review (London): Since we are the largest absorbers of imported wheat, it should be one of the first tasks of our new Government to carry through with Canada some plan of mutual exchange concerning the exchange of manufactured goods for wheat, preferably on a quota basis. There does not seem to be any valid reason why the example of Czechoslovakia should not be followed here, i.e., by prohibiting the import of other wheats until the home production and the Canadian import have been absorbed. The sooner some sort of plan of this kind is inaugurated the greater will its effect be upon the foreign policy of Russia.

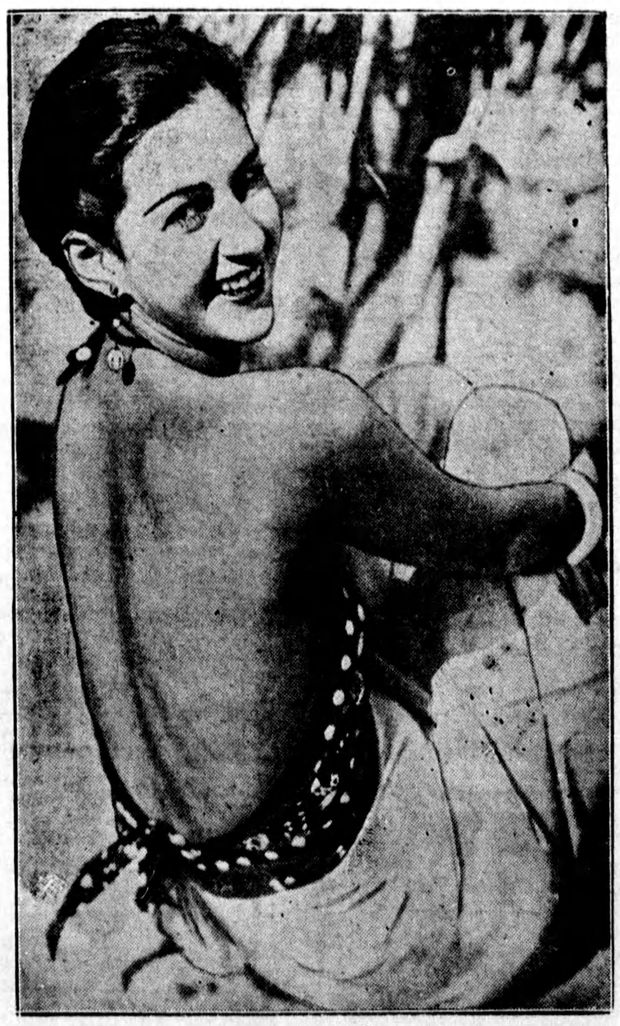
20,000-Year-old Relic Found in Gravel Pit

Minneapolis, Minn.—A gravel pit in southern Minnesota has given up a bleached skull of a giant musk ox, which lends support to the theory that the arctic tundra once lay over this region.

Mr. W. E. Neuman of Preston, Minn., discovered the skull, almost complete, in an outwash of an ancient glacier. He believed it to be a queer rock formation and forwarded it to the university, where it was identified. The skull was estimated to be 20,000 years old.

"Mechanical equipment should create opportunity for leisure not unemployment."—William Green.

A '32 Beach Note



Miss Stephanie Mellarme is shown here wearing one of the n[illegible] bandanna handkerchiefs so popular this year down where the p[illegible] trees grow.

Continents Float On Molten Rock, Scientist Latest Note

Greenland Moving Westward Six Feet a Year, According To Conclusions of Austrian Geologist Who Perished in Arctic—Canadian Savants Checking His Claims

Ottawa.—Stored away in vaults in Dominion observatories at Victoria and Ottawa are scientific records that may prove or disprove some day the truth of the theory that North America and the other continents are not fixed or stationary. Dr. Alfred Wegener, the Austrian geologist who lost his life in Arctic exploration, laid down the theory that continents float on a sea of molten rock like rafts on a quiet ocean. Canadian scientists hope to supply the facts and figures that will determine its accuracy.

Canada is vitally interested in settling the Wegener theory because Greenland is supposed to be the "speed king" among the continents, crawling westward at a rate estimated as high as six miles a year Meteorological conditions, especially along the Labrador coast, the Maritime Provinces and the New England states, would be affected by any appreciable narrow or lengthening of the distance between the two land masses.

Delicate scientific observations were made some years ago at the Dominion Government observatories at Vancouver and Ottawa. Longitudal measurements were extended around the world with the aid of beam wireless. The positions of North America, Greenland and other continents were plotted as minutely as possible. The observations will be repeated in 1933 and again in 1936, and any variation in the plotings will be noted. By this method it is hoped to establish the accuracy of Dr. Wegener's hypothesis.

The first evidence to substantiate the drifting theory was established in 1907 by J. B. Koch, German explorer. In 1823—84 years earlier—Sir Edward Sabine, British scientist, made longitudinal observations in Greenland, but when Koch took similar readiings at the same spot the figures did not correspond. The only explanation was that Greenland had drifted several miles toward North America in the intervening years.

The basis of the Wegener theory is that all continents formed a solid mass at one time. They drifted apart many millions of years ago, each adopting a nomadic life of its own.

The Sovereign Poet

He sits above the clang and dust of Time,
With the world's secret trembling on his lip.
He asks not converse nor companionship
In the cold starlight where thou canst not climb.

The undelivered tidings in his breast
Suffer him not to rest.
He sees afar the immemorable throng,
And binds the scattered ages with a song. . . .
—William Watson, in "Collected Poems."

Britain and the Dominions

Windsor Border Cities Star (Ind.): The great governing genius of Britain has had no finer, no more striking, demonstration than is to be found in the official attitude in London toward the political development of the Dominions. The British Commonwealth of Nations is held together not by force nor authority, but by ties of mutual understanding, mutual respect and admiration, mutual interest and, of course, the earlier factors of race and language.

Women of India

Calcutta.—The All-India Women's Conference on Educational and Social Questions opened at Madras on Dec. 28. Mrs. P. K. Ray of Calcutta, president of the organization, urged the remodeling of Indian homes in order to "produce a real type of womanhood that will be a glory to our country in the future." It was stated that he provincial legislatures opposed the reserving of special seats for women when the legislatures are remodeled.

Brazil's Area Calculated Anew

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.—The total area of Brazil is now calculated at 8,494,299 square kilometers. It is larger than the whole European continent, excluding a part of Russia, and it is the fifth country in the world as far as size is concerned. Brazil is 250,000 square miles larger than the United States, not including Alaska and other possessions.

Animal Facts

All spiders are short-sighted.

Owls have two pairs of eyelids.

A blackbird bathes at least a dozen times a day.

The goldfish is merely a domesticated variety of the Chinese carp.

Geese are used as watchdogs around homes in the West Indies.

Rhinoceros herds use the same paths. If your camp is pitched on one you'll find out.

The male cardinal is the most affectionate of birds. Only death or captivity can separate it from its mate.

A gun fired close to the ear of a sloth will not cause the slightest tremor in that creature's body.—"Animal Life."

Pressing the Point

McTavish was very shy. When he went to his first dinner party he made frantic efforts to begin a conversation with the woman at his elbow, but it wasn't until a full ten minutes had passed that he managed to utter the opening words: "Does your brother like cheese?"

She turned with a smile and replied: "I haven't a brother."

Dead silence for another spell.

Then he said: "If you had a brother do you think he'd—he'd like cheese?"

Irak Postpones New Currency

Bagdad.—Irak has postponed introduction of its new currency, which was to have been issued January 1. The money will be based on the pound sterling, but not on gold.

A Famous Rendezvous

One of Berlin's historic waymarks has become a memory, according to a correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor. Cafe Bauer. the corner house of Unter den Linden and Friedrichstrasse, was for many years the place of meeting for distinguished Berliners and their friends, and no foreign visitor to the German capital would have omitted Cafe Bauer from his program of sight-seeing. It was built some sixty years ago by a Vienna cook, Bauer. He determined to introduce the "Vienna Cafe"—a type then little known—to Berlin, and he did so with unqualified success. He had the temerity to appeal to a famous painter, Anton von Werner, to decorate the walls with his brush and his request was compiled with. All the world flocked to Cafe Bauer to see the beautiful frescoes, to meet friends and enjoy the Vienna confectionery. One of the most regular visitors was Adolf von Menzel, popularly known as the Little Excellency; others were Adalbert Matkowsky, the former Kaiser's favorite actor, Paul Lindau, Hermann Sudermann, Ernst von Wildenbruch and other literary notabilities, as well as many leading diplomatists. After its more brilliant period, Cafe Bauer changed hands during the war, but managed to exist until recently. Anton von Werner's mural paintings have long been transferred to Hotel Bristol and have been excellently restored.

Pink Lemons Now Grown

New York.—Pink lemons have been found growing on a tree in California. However, the tree is a rare specimen and the United States Department of Agriculture warns that there is little chance of the pink lemonade industry switching to the new lemons for raw material.

Pink lemons were first exhibited at the National Orange Show this year. They came from a tree in Burbank, and so far as known the tree is a bud sport (or freak) of the variegated Eureka lemon, which was developed from a limb variation of the Eureka lemon, discovered in 1911. The variegated Eureka lemon trees are not as productive as the normal Eureka lemon trees and they are grown chiefly for ornamental purposes.

Defence Costs

Ottawa Journal (Cons.): In 1913 the United States had a fleet of 963,000 tons, Great Britain a fleet of 2,222,000 tons. To-day the United States has a fleet of 1,173,000 tons and spends $382,000,000 a year on it, whereas Great Britain has a fleet of 1,378,000 tons, costing $271,000,000 a year. In other words, the United States is spending 187 per cent. more yearly on naval cost, nearly three times as much as she did in 1913, whereas Britain is spending but 10 per cent. more. Combining army, navy and air defence cost, the United States last year spent $842,000,000; the British Empire but $560,000,000. "While other nations have felt that they were forced to prepare for war," declared President Coolidge in a Memorial Day address, 'we have always been preparing for peace."

Declares Engines Alone Prevent 1,000-Mi. Speed

London.—If man will but build an engine powerful enough there is nothing to keep him from flying at a speed of 1,000 miles an hour, believes squadron leader A. H. Orlebar, captain of the Schneider Cup team, members of which have already flown in excess of 400 miles an hour.

"Flying at high speeds is a perfectly wonderful sensation," he said. "But there is really no big thrill There is a much bigger thrill in tobogganning or skiing.

"If somebody will design the engines there is nothing in the human element to prevent airplanes reaching a speed of 1,000 miles an hour."