Our American Friends.

The Scouts of the United States have just celebrated their twenty-second birthday, and we join with other members of the World Wide Brotherhood in congratulating them on the splendid work which they have accomplished during that time.

The Boy Scouts of America were organized in 1910 by the late William D. Boyce and the story is told that he was in London, England, one foggy winter day and managed to get lost in the thick fog for which London is so famed.

He met a boy and asked to be directed to his hotel, but the boy volunteered to take him there, having been brought up in the metropolis and knowing every landmark and street.

On arrival at the hotel Mr. Boyce proceeded to hand a "tip" to his guide, who refused it stating that he was a Scout and could not accept rewards for his Good Turn. Mr. Boyce was so surprised to find a boy who would not accept a tip that he started to enquire who these BOY SCOUTS could be . When he learned all about our movement, he was so impressed that he brought the idea back to the United States and organized the Boy Scouts of America in that country.

A few years later the same gentleman was responsible for the organization of the Lone Scouts of America, whose activities are similar to those of the Lone Scouts of Canada.

Lone Scouts of Saskatchewan

We are very glad indeed to notice that arrangements have been made for a Lone Scout Column to appear in the "Saskatoon Star-Phoenix" in a similar way that this column is published week by week, to stimulate the interest of the Lone Scouts who live in the country districts of Saskatchewan and who are even more scattered than the Ontario Lonies.

Greetings to the Lonies

"Lone E" recently was invited to attend the Parents Night of the 99th Toronto Troop. One of the items on the programme was an imitation "Camp Fire Scene". The Scoutmaster asked "Lone E" to say a few words, and he told the boys and their parents all about the Lonies and their activities and the splendid work that they are doing. The 99th Troop were very interested and asked "Lone E" to give their very best wishes and Scouty regards to all the Lone Scouts of Ontario. So here they are, Lonies!

Birthday Greetings

The Lone Scouts of Ontario join with all Scouts the World over in wishing "Many Happy Returns" to our Chief Scout, Lord Baden Powell, who celebrates his 75th birthday on the 22nd February.

How Scouting Helps "Goodwill to All Men"

Most of you know the difficulty which is now being experienced in India, and you have also no doubt read of the difficult caste system which forbids a member of one Hindu Caste to be in any way intimate with one of another caste. You may also have heard that there is no love lost between the Hindus and the Mohammedans in that country.

Therefore the news that Boy Scouts from the Government High School at Kahror-Pacca, Punjab, India went to the assistance of a colony of "outcasts" whose huts caught fire is of great interest. Although they had to carry water from a well some distance away they soon got the fire under control, and a small girl was daringly rescued from one of the flaming huts. The Scouts included Hindus of all castes, Mahommedans and Sikhs, and the most remarkable thing of all is that the "outcasts" in India are the lowest possible class in the social scale, who perform the most degrading menial tasks and who are looked down upon by all other Indians. But although others might have left them to cope with their own troubles, the Boy Scouts forgot all about creeds and castes and went to their assistance in a manner of which we are proud.

Are You a Scout?

If you live in a small town where there is no Scout Troop, or on a Rural Route too far away from the nearest Troop, perhaps you would still like to be a Scout? Why not be a Lone Scout? If you are between the ages of 12 and 18 inclusive, and would like further particulars write to the Lone Scout Department, Boy Scouts Association, 330 Bay Street, Toronto 2.

We shall be glad to hear from you.

"LONE E"

Canadian Team in the Thick of the Fight

This end of the rink was the liveliest, when Canada conquered the German puck-chasers 4 to 1. The German lads were clever with their sticks, but the Canucks proved too much for them.

Reminiscences

Some years ago Arnold Bennett and his wife—a charming Frenchwoman—had their portraits painted separately, by a "modern painter." The day came when the pictures were on view in their London house. The event was celebrated by Bennett coming home for tea—tea for two. Quite an event, for he rarely had lunch or tea at home at the time.

"I remember having a good tea for him," recalls Mrs. Bennett (in her intimate book "My Arnold Bennett"), "and I was looking forward to the joy of pouring out tea for him.

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"He came and sat in a seat facing the mantelpiece. His portrait was hanging on the wall by his right side, and mine was placed on the floor against the wall on his left side. While having tea Arnold was very silent and his eyes were looking alternately at the two portraits. He remained looking in silence while drinking his tea. At the end of the half-hour he had for his tea, he looked once more at both portraits; then, fixing his eyes on his, he said, 'I don't care what they say, I am a nice man!'

"I am sure that he did not like his portrait," adds Mrs. Bennett, naively.

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Arnold Bennett—like Kipling—had a passion for punctuality. A year before he met his wife—Marie Marguerite Hebrard, a Parisienne—he surprised his friends by telling them that he was engaged to an American girl. He did not marry her.

"She was never on time. I could not stick it," he later explained to Mrs. Bennett.

"He emphasized to me that it was a good thing for her he had given her up," says Mrs. Bennett, "for she married another man far better suited to her than he himself was."

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Like the wife of Joseph Conrad who rescued many of her husband's original manuscripts from the waste basket where he had thrown them as valueless—they were afterwards sold for a goodly sum—Mrs. Arnold Bennett retrieved from a similar receptacle "the manuscripts of articles, even of a book just published," written by her husband. She admired his handwriting and was interested in his hobby of classic caligraphy. Discovering this, Bennett arranegd a surprise for her.

Just before he began his best known story, "The Old Wives' Tale," he told her he had decided to write it in printed characters, so that she might have it.

"I could scarcely believe it possible," Mrs. Bennett says. "But what he said he would do he did. He had the tremendous patience, energy and capacity to carry it through the whole book, which is very long, nearly seven hundred pages.

"He would say, at times, 'I wish to the deuce I had never started doing it that way. It has to be done, hard as it is!' He stuck to it."

The book took him exactly eight months to write.

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Not long after he was married, in Paris, Arnold Bennett took his French bride over to England to visit his relatives in the Five Towns. There they were much entertained. At one big dinner party at Stoke-on-Trent Town Hall, Bennett was called on for a speech. The more he declined, the more insistent became the demand. Mrs. Bennett was on pins and needles, for she knew that under stress of emotion her husband stammered. However, up he got and, taking a fountain pen out of his pocket, and showing it to the company, he said, "Ladies and Gentleman, I don't speak, I write," and sat down.

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Speaking of stammering recalls a story told by Ford Madox Ford (in his reminiscences "Return to Yesterday"). During the World War, Ford, returning home from the front on leave, got into a railway carriage in which a South African soldier and a civilian were seated. Suddenly the South African turned on the civilian and exclaimed:

"You ought to join up too: a lusty young man like you. Why aren't you in khaki?"

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The young man rolled agonized dark eyes and exclaimed:

"I'm a P-P-P-P," grasping at his throat in the struggle of a hopeless stutterer.

"I don't care what you are," the South African shouted. "You may be a Pacifist, or a Papa, or a Potato-grower, but your king and country need you."

The civilian repeated:

"I'm a P-P-P-P."

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They continued like that until a stop at which the South African got out.

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"The other turned to me," chuckles Ford, "and, with all the signs of agony and an explosion of P's like the unsilenced exhaust of a motor bicycle, at last brought out:

"'I'm a Peruvian!'

"It appeared that, being a neutral, he had come to England to take a course in modern English Literature at London University.

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Most of us have opened a letter that did not belong to us and have suffered more or less embarrassment as a consequence, but hark to this confession by Ford Madox Ford:

"I was going through my morning letters half asleep in bed," he says "when I became aware that I was reading something of singular delicacy and was—when I came to look at the envelope—addressed by a lady I knew well to a man who had just been stopping with me.

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"I don't know what I ought to have done but know what I did. I went half an hour later by train up to London"—Ford was living at Winchelsea, some sixty miles from London. "I got some envelopes to match the one I had opened. Then, at one of my clubs I imitated the address of that letter on those envelopes. I managed at last a fair likeness. Then I posted the letter to my own house in that envelope. I had thus the London postmark. Then I returned to Winchelsea, and, as soon as the letter arrived, I forwarded it to the addressee."

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Frank Harris gives an amusing account of Bernard Shaw's wedding to Miss Charlotte Payne Townsend—in his biography of G. B. S.—which he says was given to him by Shaw himself. The marriage took place at the West Strand (London) Registrar's office on June 1, 1898. Shaw was on crutches—recovering from an accident—and "wearing a jacket which he swears his crutches had worn to rags in the armpits. Graham Wallas and Henry Salt acted as witnesses."

Latest Notes of Science

New Supply Sources — How Infinitesimal is Measured

The tremor that shook Santiago de Cuba recently draws attention to a region of the earth nearly as unstable as Japan. A seismological world survey has shown that quakes are associated with the deeper parts of the oceans or with land regions that were once the bottoms of deep seas. What is known as the West Indian Deep has been an especially prolific producer of earthquike and volcanic disturbances. For this reason the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey maintains a seismological station at San Juan, Porto Rico, one of a string of stations extending most of the way from Maine southward.

Earthquakes are evidence that mountains are still being formed. Just what the rocess is, science is still unable to explain with certainty. It was formerly supposed that as the earth cooled and shrank eons ago it puckered and produced such ranges as the Andes, Rockies and Himalayas. That theory is now regarded as inadequate. The earth is cool, but mountain building goes on.

The Santiago quake comes at a time when an international scientific expedition finds itself in the West Indies for the express purpose of studying the creation of mountains and hence of earthquakes. At the head of the expedition is Professor Richard H. Field of Princeton. Associated with him are distinguished physicists and geologists from the universities of Glasgow and Cambridge, scientists from the governmental staffs of the United States and Canada, and Dr. F. A. Vening Meinesz of Holland, an expert on the measurement of gravity.

The Santiago disturbance seems to have been arranged almost to suit the convenience of these specialists. When they return they will probably give us one of the most valuable critical studies of what happens when the earth shrugs her shoulders, as it were, and assumes a slightly different posture.

THE GROUNDHOG AND HIS SHADOW

When Feb. 2 came the old groundhog superstition received its annual meed of attention. That the creature, otherwise known as the wood chuck, should look for its shadow on Candlemas (Feb. 2) and, if it sees it, return to its hole, convinced that there will be six more weeks of Winter, is a belief hoary with age.

Students of folklore trace the groundhog proverb back to Germany, where any hibernating animal, preferably the badger or the bear looks for his shadow on Candlemas. Since Candlemas was feast day with the Romans long before the Christian era, we see how hard it is to uproot old beliefs.

Some two years ago J. O. Frank of the Wisconsin State Teachers' College made a study of weather superstitions among school children in the Fox River Valley, Wis. Although this is the twentieth century and there is an active Weather Bureau, Mr. Frank found that country people still believe not only in the groundhog's powers of forecasting, but also that rain is sure to follow if a dog or a cat eats grass, if a snake dies on its back, or if a toad or a spider is killed. Heavy fur on animals, thick husks on corn, exceptionally heavy walls on muskrat houses—these, too, are supposed to indicate a hard winter. Dr. C. C. Abbott of the Smithsonian Institution tested the muskrat-house theory over a series of winters and found it sadly wanting.

CORTEZ EXTRACT FOR FATIGUE.

Ever since codfish swam in the sea mothers have been feeding their babies with codliver oil. Why? Modern science answers in terms of rickets and vitamin D. Rickets is warded off by the vitamin. And the codliver oil contains the vitamin. How did the mothers know it?

There has been a similar superstition about the flesh cut from various parts of an animal. Ancient warriors were convinced that they maintained and increased their fighting powers by eating kidneys and the meat that lies near them. Why? They knew nothing about hormones. Yet their belief is now justified in the light of recent studies which have been made of the adrenal glands. We still speak of a man of "kidney"—and with reason.

The adrenals are about as big as a fifth finger each and lie near the kidneys of all higher animals. From the outer skin or cortex hormones are extracted called corticin. These have properties little short of miraculous. What these properties are has been disclosed by Drs. Hartmann, Swingle and others in curing Addison's disease, usually regarded as fatal.

New light is thrown on this cortex extract by Drs. S. W. Briton and E. L. Corey of the University of Virginia's Medical School. They have shown that corticin makes more chemical fuel available through the blood stream.

Cortex extracts speed up the bodily functions. After having received small doses young rats become mature in one-third the usual time. If the results obtained apply to human beings, children of 5 would be able to become fathers and mothers.

Cortex extract is a restorative. Drs. Britton and Corey found that dogs that tire after an hour's exercise on a treadmill will run two and three times as long after a dose of the extract.

There is every reason to believe that the extract will ultimately be prescribed by physicians in cases of excessive muscular fatigue, depression and possibly overwork.

Before man can be thus converted into a superman the organic chemist must devise a cheap, effective way of extracting hormones from the adrenal cortex or of producing them synthetically. At present it takes a fortnight and the adrenals of about 300 cows to make a teaspoonful of extract. A dose is therefore worth some thousands of dollars.—Waldemar Kaempffert in N.Y. Times.

The Legislature In Brief

With the usual pomp and ceremony the Ontario Legislature got under way last week, and the main item of business was the speech from the Throne which was delivered by Sir William Mulock, Chief Justice of Ontario.

A modified moratorium on mortgages was one of the main items brought out in the speech, under which all proposed foreclosures will be heard before a County Judge who will have all power to decide whether additional time is to be allowed on either principal or interest payments.

Legislation will also be introduced for the amending of the Old Age Pension Act under which the Federal Government has to pay seventy per cent. of the total, which it is claimed will mean an annual saving of one million four hundred thousand dollars to the province and nine hundred thousand dollars to the municipalities.

Another measure to be introduced is the proposed amalgamation of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board with the Bureau of Municipal Research, under which powers will be granted the Board to govern finances of those municipalities which are insolvent or in a precarious financial condition.

It was also pointed out in the speech from the Throne that while agricultural production was maintained at a high level the financial return was much below normal. The new Ontario Marketing Board has organized the Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Markets Board and is giving special attention to grading and marketing several important farm products.

With regard to Hydro, it was pointed out that in the rural parts of the province the demand for power called for the construction of over twelve hundred miles of new transmission lines to supply nearly nine thousand additional consumers, and that by utilizing the flow of the Ottawa River at Chats Falls an important addition, second only in extent to the great Niagara development, has been made in generating facilities.

Two hundred miles have been added to the Ontario Highway system, while payments have been made by the Province to the Municipalities for road purposes of nearly seven million dollars.

The only charm some men possess is attached to their watch chain.

"Howdy, old man! Have you recovered from your accident?"

"No, not fully."

"Why, you look as well as ever."

"Yes, but I owe the doctor fifteen dollars yet."

Barn owls, long-eared owls, red-shouldered owls, hawks, red-headed hawks, sparrow hawks and screech owls destroy rats and mice and should be encouraged and protected.

Mary Pickford announces her intention to have as leading man in her next picture some young actor who is experienced but unknown. It is her hope that the one selected can go on, by virtue of this opportunity, to stardom. There's no doubt that her own star will twinkle a little brighter for this happy and generous thought.—The Christian Science Monitor.

Indian Troops Join "Scrap" in China

Among those present at the Shanghai scrap are picturesque members of Sikh native forces from British India. A detachment was hurried from Hong Kong when things got hot in China and here they are, adding to the internationalism of the international settlement.

Jerusalem Census Segregates Different Race of Population

Jerusalem.—The provisional list of totals of the urban population of Palestine, published by the Superintendent of Census, shows the Jews to be in the majority in Jerusalem, where they number 51,416 out of a total of 90,407. The Christians have yielded second place, which they held in the 1922 census, to the Moslems of Jerusalem, who now number 19,735 as compared with 19,180 Christians. Six towns—Nazareth, Bethlehem, Shafa Amr, Beit, Jala, Tel Aviv and Ramallah—have more Christians than Moslems. With these exceptions, all towns in the country show a clear Moslem majority, in most cases more than the combined numbers of the two other faiths.

God sleeps in the stone, dreams in the animal, and wakes in the man.—A German Thinker.

Britain To Buy Canadian Timber

London.—According to The Shipping World, a situation has developed favoring a profitable deal with Canada whereby Great Britain would exchange British coal for Canadian wood.

The trade publication says: "A timber merchants' group in London which has been buying soft wood from Russia has decided in the interests of Imperial preference to abandon this year's contract for 450,000 standards.

"It is therefore necessary to negotiate the purchase of this large quantity of timber from some other source. It is understood it is intended to place the order in Canada.

"It is hoped an agreement may be made to the advantage of the British coal industry as well as of the shipowners. Large expansion of British coal exports to Canada is possible and as British coal-owners, assisted by depreciation of the pound sterling, can now successfully compete with United States in price, there is no reason why this exchange of commodities should not be effected to the advantage of both countries.

"As far as this year's trade is concerned," says the publication, "contracts cannot wait for the Imperial Conference to be held at Ottawa in July. Prompt action is necessary."

Rattlesnakes Strike Their Full Length?

Numerous tests indicate that no snake ever strikes a greater distance than about three-fourths of its length. No snake can leap completely off the ground from its coil position.

Kerry cattle have existed in Ireland from remote times. The Kerries are a distinct breed, all that are left of the early native cattle. The others have been eradicated by imported cattle.