Our Christmas Good Turn

This Christmas we wish to stress to every Lone Scout in the Province of Ontario our earnest hope that they will individually realize that we consider it to be a part of their duty to undertake some voluntary work in connection with the Scout Xmas Toy Shop scheme.

Of course we realize that Lonies cannot work at the large Toy Shop centres in operation in the large cities and towns, but each individual Lonie or Lone Patrol can organize and operate his own Toy Shop right at home or at Lone Patrol Headquarters.

Our Xmas "Happifying"

No one possessing Scout vision will require any convincing of the need this Christmas for the application in all possible ways of the third Scout Law,—described by B.-P. as "the Scout job of happifying,"—including our big annual national effort of making possible a visit by Santa Claus to many thousands of needy children locally and on the farms.

The Chief Scout has shown especial interest in our remembrance of settlers' children. This year the appeal is again stressed, and in addition an appeal for families of a new classification,—Canadian born town and city families placed on farms during the year in an effort to solve their unemployment problem. Few of these have any resources of their own, and for most the first Christmas away from town neighbours will be a lonesome experience, especially for the children, and a Santa Claus parcel would mean a very great deal.

From this new source, and others, the names of over three thousand children on eastern and prairie farms already have been received, and by literally every delivery leters are coming from mothers of families remembered last year, and who still are unable to provide anything for their kiddies at Christmas

What Your Gifts Mean

A sample letter from an Ontario mother reads in part:

The children would welcome whatever you could send them. There are no Santas here we are only a small scattered village and I really beleve it gets poorer every year. But we hope as things get better there may be more work. We are ten in family, and can hardly pay for our food, let alone anything out of the ordinary, but still we have to keep going. The winter eats up everything it seems. We have been out here six years and had a tolerable start as prices were good, but there is hardly any work and almost none in winter. If you know of anyone with some cast off clothing they could honestly spare we would be glad of it. This is not to trouble anyone, but anything warm if old and holey, I can mend to help with. Everyone is poor this year.

Fourteen, twelve and nine are the three youngest ages. Any old Boys' Own Papers or books would do. They all like books, and thank you for your kind thoughts.

Your truly,
Mrs. B. H. and children.

This letter received in March last from a Saskatchewan mother reminds of the possible very important value of our Santa Claus gifts:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of the package of Christmas toys which arrived safely, and I hope you will pardon the delay in writing, but we have been in quarantine all winter for scarlet fever. The children took it one at a time, and as soon as we were let out the stork made a visit to us, bringing a big baby boy, and at the present time I am just able to tell you what a blessing that parcel has been to a family of sick children all winter. It was just all they had for Christmas.

Happiness For An Entire District

The Secretary of a "Homemaker's Club" in east Saskatchewan writes:

Dear Organization:

It was an oversight not discovered until our annual meeting that we had not written a note of appreciation and thanks to your organization for the joy and happiness which you scattered in the homes of this district in sending them the parcels of toys which I understand all reached their destination Christmas eve.

Another Community Effort

In the middle of December an emergency call came from an isolated unemployed community in Northern Ontario where an effort was being made to hold a Christmas party at the district school. The teacher was giving each of her twelve pupils a gift, but for the remaining 46 children of the district there was nothing. The emergency problem was passed on to the Toy Shop at Fort William. A large carton of gifts was promptly sent, and arrived on the day of the concert, with the resultant surprise and delight that can be imagined. A most appreciative letter told of the "pleasure to see the children receive their gifts from Santa, as they were told before they came that Santa would not have anything for them that night, as he was just visiting the school children."

A Good Start

The early enterprise of a number of troops and districts give promise that the 1932 Christmas spirit of Scouts and Scouters will well measure up to that of previous years.

The honour of the first Toy Shop announcement and call for discarded toys apparently goes to the 1st Coldwater Troop, Ont., through the columns of the Orillia News-Letter of Sept. 21st, followed Oct. 6th by the 1st Vulcan Troop, Alta., in the Vulcan Advocate, and the 1st Noranda, Que., in the Northern News.

Of the larger centres London, Ont., held a Toy Shop meeting on Oct. 1st, and appointed its Toy Shop Committee; and Hamilton, one of last years outstanding shops, announced Toy Shop plans in the local dailies of Oct. 8th, and began operations on Oct. 31st, again in the commodious quarters provided at the manufacturing plant of Burrows, Stewart & Milne. The first shop in actual operation apparently was that at Elbow, Sask., in late September, as a Toy Shop repair demonstration for the benefit of a large number of school teachers attending a district convention.

Fergus, Ont., announced its Toy Shop plans on Oct. 27th in this scouty style: "This year our funds are low, but the Scouts will do their best. It is hoped that the people in Fergus will help by giving the Scouts their old newspapers, magazines and rags on Oct. 29th."

Settlers' Parcels

The parcels should be kept small with a minimum of one light-weight gift per child and perhaps a book or game included. They should be well and attractively wraped and securely tied, and addressed to the mother of the family. Where the expense of mailing is a problem it is suggested that service clubs be invited to meet this cost. Another idea is the placing of addressed settlers' packages in the Toy Shop window, or some other shop window secured for the purpose, with a placard inviting passers-by to share in the Good Turn by stepping inside and paying the postage on a parcel.

Everyone Should Help

This will show how busy the Scouts are at this time of the year on this tremendously interesting and humane "Good Turn,' and it is our desire that all Lone Scouts should take an active part in this undertaking.

Start off by interesting your parents and your Counsellor and Friend in this project, and we hope that each Lone Scout will be responsible for at least one parcel. If possible this parcel should be given to a poor family right in your own neighborhood, but if this is not possible, Lone Scout Headquarters can give you full particulars of settlers' families in Northern Ontario or Western Canada, to whom your parcel may be sent.

Capt. John Furminger, the one Scout Commissioner, is most anxious that each Lone Scout will perform his Christmas Good Turn by working on this scheme, and he wants to hear from each Lone Scout and asks that you send him particulars of your activities and plans. Don't forget this.

So, Lonies, it is now "up to you," and remember that Lone Scout Santa Claus wants your help this years as never before. Can we rely on you? Of course we can!

Lone Scout Headquarters is located at 300 Bay Street, Toronto 2, and the staff will be glad to hear from any boys between 12 and 18 years, inclusive, who would like to become Lone Scouts.—"Lone E."

Sunday School Lesson

December 11. Lesson XI—The Christian's Use of Leisure—Nehemiah 8: 10-17; Mark 6: 30-32. Golden Text —Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.—1 Corinthians 10: 31.

ANALYSIS.

I. RECRLATION IN SOCIABILITY, Nehemiah 8: 10-17.

II. RECREATION IN SOLITUDE, Mark 6: 30-32.

INTRODUCTION—Life must have its breathing spaces. Otherwise the human machine will become run down. One's spare time will be either recreative or destructive, according to the way in which it is used.

I. RECREATION IN SOCIABILITY, Nehemiah 8: 10-17.

Nehemiah, a cup-bearer in the court of Artaxerxes, troubled about the sad plight of his brethren in Jerusalem (Neh., chapters 1, 2) had obtained permission to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the broken walls and restore the temple worship. Later, he evidently returned to his native land as governor. "Tirshatha" (v. 9) means governor. It was during this latter period that the events of Chapter 8 took place. Ezra had evidently impressed upon the people the necessity of studying the long-neglected Law once more. Under his guidance (vs. 1-8) it was placed before them in such a way as to convince them that it was the most important thing in the world that they should govern their lives by its requirements.

When they realized how far short that had fallen from its demands, they were humiliated and dismayed, v. 9. This reading of the Law took place at the time that corresponded to the old Feast of Ingathering—later called the Feast of Tabernacles, Exod. 23: 16; Deut. 16: 13-15. It was one of the three agricultural feasts. It had fallen into disuse since the time of Joshua. It was an occasion of great rejoicing. The leaders of the people therefore commanded the people to have a social gathering. "Drink the sweet" (v. 10) refers to the sweetened water, or the finely-flavored preserves, or the honey which the guest receives upon entering his chamber. It is a mark of welcome. Baskets were to be prepared and sent to those who could not be present, or who were not in a position to provide for themselves. Long-faced religion was considered irreverent. The socials and picnics of the modern church, looked down upon by the very dignified, seem to be a long established institution.

Nehemiah recognizes that wholesome pleasure is recreative. It recreates, builds up the tired system. The word "amusement" is said to have been originally applied to the halt which a dog makes in hunting, when he pauses to sniff the air in order to see which way the scent lies. Having done this, he starts off again with redoubled speed. "The joy of the Lord is your strength," v. 10.

On the second day (v. 13) the reading of the Law revealed that Moses had commanded the children of Israel to dwell in tents during the Feast of Tabernacles, v. 14. This would remind succeeding generations of the sojourn in the wilderness and Jehovah's deliverance, Lev. 23: 42. "Let us re-establish the old custom," they said, and suited the action to the word, vs. 15, 16. On the flat roofs of their houses, in the public squares, in any available space they erected their booths. They observed their religious rites, they brought vividly to mind all that Jehovah had done for them in an atmosphere of joyous, healthful, wholesome sociability. Modern "Camp Meetings," "Leaders' Camps," are old-established institutions.

II. RECREATION IN SOLITUDE, Mark 6: 30-32.

The Twelve are here called apostles, or missionaries, because for the first time the have been acting as the messengers of the new faith. Both they and their Master were always surrounded by human need. Is one justified in taking a holiday when around him are people requiring help? Should we spend money on vacations while others lack necessities? Should we take rests when our surroundings call loudly for action? The answer will depend upon the use we are making of our lives. Jesus was devoting his life to the service of others in such a holehearted way that his energies were being continually sapped. He found the breathing spaces essential to his greatest effectiveness. His disciples needed rest. Body, mind, spirit need relaxation. There is a tradition of John the apostle that while amusing himself with a tame partridge he was asked by a huntsman how he could spend his time in so unprofitable a manner. John replied, "Why dost thou not carry thy bow always bent?" "Because," said the huntsman, "if it were always bent I fear it would lose its spring and become useless." "Be not surprised then," replied John, "that I should remit a little of my close attention of spirit to enjoy a little recreation, that I may afterward employ myself more fervently."

The disciples needed also companionship with Jesus himself. He was their inspiration and strength. Their "retreat" was necessary to prevent their own lives from becoming shallow.

A Rough-Crepe Model

By HELEN WILLIAMS.

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern.

Isn't this a fresh and attractive new type for the smart school and college miss? It is also suitable for youthful women types.

It displays clever manipulation of fabric.

The new wrapped bodice cut is snappy and slimming, too. The skirt with front and back panels, that by the way, cut in one with the hip section, give youthful height to the figure.

Hyacinth-blue novelty silk and wool crepe made the original. The rever collar and cuffs were of plain blue wool crepe.

It's charming too fashioned of rough or flat crepe silk in tobacco-brown.

Style No. 2671 is designed for sizes 14, 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust. Size 16 requires 3¾ yards of 39-inch material with ½ yard of 35-inch contrasting.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 15c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

The Manchurian Issue

By LORD LYTTON

The Manchurian situation is not hopeless. The greatest hope at this moment of preserving the peace of the world is for the United States and the rest of the world to stand shoulder to shoulder. The issue at stake is a much larger one than whether China or Japan shall control the future destinies of Manchuria; it is whether the principles of collective responsibility and the maintenance of peace and justice between nations shall be preserved or sacrified. The choice lies between the continued organization of peace by co-operation or a return to the anarchy of competitive force.

The problem is obviously difficult; it is not impossible, if firmness on the essential issues is combined with patience, tact and sympathy in adjusting the details. The success of the negotiations is profoundly important for the peoples of the world in general and for the peple of the United States in particular.

Farm Queries

Address All Letters to Farm Editor, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto. All Answers Will Appear in this Column. If Personal Reply is Desired, Enclose Stamped and Addressed Envelope.

R. H.—What is the best fertilizer for orchards?

Answer.—This is a very wide question which is impossible to answer for all soil conditions for all orchards. On a sandy loam soil where 3-10-5 was applied at the rate of 10 lbs. per tree in 1930 and an addition of 5 lbs. per tree of nitrate of soda was made and where the same treatment was repeated in 1931, but nothing since, there is a difference of 9 bbls. for the 8 trees fertilized as compared with the 8 trees receiving no fertilizer throughout. Certainly, nitrogen pays, and on gravelly loam and sandy loam soils, figures which we are receiving from year to year indicate that phosphate and potash used in moderate amounts have a beneficial effect on the yield of orchards. This fertilizer should be applied early in spring, spread out at least as far as the branches reach, and it preferably should be worked into the soil.

Subscriber.—Rhubarb here has been planted several years and seems to be thriving well but appears tough and lasts for a very short season. It has to be pulled for cooking. Can you state a cause and advise a means of making it satisfactory for this season? When should I re-set?

Answer.—The Department of Horticulture, O.A.C., advises that commercial rhubarb should not be allowed to stand more than five years without re-setting. The stems become small and too numerous, also tough, as you suggest. You might re-set your rhubarb patch, give it a good dressing of manure, and probably supplement with four bags per acre of a fertilizer of the 4-8-10 type. Work this into the soil thoroughly at the time of re-setting. This should give you good results.

NOTES ON LIVESTOCK

To feed a thin animal all winter and then have it die in the spring is not profitable animal husbandry. Should there be any unthrifty animals in your herds or flocks, it would be good practice to dispose of them at once, by what means you can rather than carry them over winter. The winter period is unusually hard on animals, due to cold, lack of feed, lack of care, and shelter. Neglect on the part of owners to practice good animal husbandry is a big factor in animal losses. Weakling animals, old and worn out animals, and animals racked with disease, while they may look to be worth keeping, to those whose judgment is not the best, might better be killed and put away if feed and labor are to be saved. Every winter animals die, weaklings that should not be carried over, some of these are sent in for examination as to the cause of death. The post mortem frequently reveals symptoms of a long standing chronic condition, from which there could be no recovery. Stop loss by removing these animals from the herd that do not respond quickly to treatment, feed and care. Cull out the weaklings, don't waste feed and labor on them, as such will take the profits from those that survive.

Lice and Pediculosis

The various kinds of lice infecting farm animals cause much misery to them during the winter months, and if let to increase unduly will prevent many animals making any profit for their owners. The adult lice to-day are soon great-grand-parents. They increase by millions in a very short time and if the stockman does not watch closely, there may be more lice than hair found on his animals the next time a scratching animal pushes over a stable partition, and thereby brings the condition of infestation to his notice. The good stockman making use of the brush on his animals will suffer no loss from lice, as this pest cannot withstand good grooming of the host animal. Washes made from any of the stock dips, derived from a coal tar base, are very effective in killing lice, but must be applied frequently. Washes made from waste tobacco are also very effective. Powders such as sodium flouride, derris, pyrethrum and sabadilla, or their compounds are very effective as lice destroyers, easy and safe to apply. Oils may be used in a limited way on animals that are not exposed to the weather. Look your stock over closely to-day, and should you find only a few lice, dont give them a chance to become grand-parents. Wash or dust the animals at once to head off trouble, and save money.

Girl Guide News

Glad That I Live Am I

Glad that I live am I, that the skies are blue,
Glad for the country lanes and the fall of dew
After the sun the rain, after the rain the sun,
This is the way of life, till the work be done,
All that we need to do, be we low or high,
Is to see that we grow nearer the sky.

(These words will be sung as a song at the Ring of Service in London, England).

The Guide Law

1. A Guide's honour is to be trusted. 2. A Guide is loyal. 3. A Guides duty is to be useful and help others. 4. A Guide is friend to all. 5. A Guide is courteous. 6. A Guide is a friend to animals. 7. A Guide obeys orders. 8. A Guide smiles and sings under all difficulties. 9. A Guide is thrifty. 10. A Guide is pure in thought, word and deed.

Taps

"Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the sea, from the sky,
All is well safely rest,
God is nigh."

Courtesy

Let us think a little about what courtesy means. In some ways this is the most attractive of all our Guide Laws. We begin with Truth, Honour, and Loyalty for the foundation; then we have the most solid and beautiful part of the building—Usefulness, Helpfulness and Friendliness; and then we polish these until they shine with Courtesy.

Courtesy means a great deal. It means politeness and good manners, it means considerateness and thoughtfulness for others, and it means chivalry, deference and respect for others. If we are truly courteous, we shall show deference to all those who are older or wiser than ourselves, or who are above us in any way; and we shall also show respect to all who are weaker, smaller or more helpless than ourselves, even to the animals, remembering that the are God's creatures too.

Marial Honey contributed a little poem to one of our magazines, which I think might be repeated here:

Courtesy

Have we got time to be courteous?
I know it's an awful bore
To remember to wipe your feet on the mat
And not to slam the door.
But it is the little courtesies
In the rush of modern life
When our nerves are horribly on the jar,
That we do much to palliate strife.
And, I think, if we try to be courteous,
We shall find the old-time grace
Of manners is welcome in every age,
And will never seem out of place.

—Millicent M. Benson, Captain of Lone Guides.

ALL WRONG

A man who had done magnificent service to his locality by philanthropic and other acts was famed for his Malapropisms. At length his services were recognized and a complimentary dinner given in his honour.

When the usual eulogistic speeches had been made and the recipient rose to reply, the guests waited in a state of suppressed trepidation. True to form the local magnate rose and said:—

Ladies and gentlemen, this is easily the most obnoxious occasion in my life."

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

Jeff Thought it was a Success