What Shall We Do?

This season of the year is often one in which Lone Scouts ask themselves and each other "What shall we do?"

Often the weather outdoors is so inclement that it is no fun to go for a hike or to enjoy outdoor games, and we are at a "loose end" and do not know how to occupy our time.

But now is the time when a thoughtful Lone should be preparing for the springtime and summer, which after all are not very far off.

We know of one Lone Patrol that is already planning for summer outings and camps, and who are building a Trek Cart, on bicycle wheels, which they hope will ease their shoulders of many a heavy burden during the coming summer. Tents and camping kit repairs can be made if needed. Then can be hunted out and overhauled, and also, what about that smart camp "Gadget" that you saw another chap take to camp, and which you made up your mind to manufacture when you got home? Now is the time to do all these things. In other words, "Get Prepared!"

Then there are other things that you can do. Prepare for the things which commence so quickly in the Springtime, and which pass by in such haste. How many of you meant to work for the Bird Warden's Badge last year, for instance? You have to keep a record of the birds and nests in your district for over a year, but the season got too far advanced, and you hadn't a note book prepared, so you passed it up till next year. Maybe you meant to work for the Naturalist's Badge too, but slipped up on that one also. This year be ready for these things. Prepare your Record and Note Books NOW, so that when the first birds come along, and the first blossoms bloom, you will be all set to take note of the occasion.

Now, also, is the time to work for and earn such badges as Tailor, Starman, Signaller, Safety-Man, Reader, Radio Man, Public Health Man, Plumber, Photographer, Musician, Missioner, Metal Worker, Master at Arms, Healthy Man, Handy Man, Entertainer, Engineer, Electrician, Debater, Clerk, Citizen, Carpenter, Bookbinder, Artist, Ambulance Man, etc. You see, there is plenty of scope to keep you busy indoors at this time of the year, and your Scoutmaster will give you full particulars of the requirements of any of the above badges, if you do not know and will take the trouble to ask him.

Of course if the weather is such that you can get out of doors, there is lots of fun to be had on Winter Ski and Snowshoe hikes. Tracking games, and hunting for the tracks of wild animals, etc. And of course, it usually is not hard to find some sort of good turn to do in your neighbourhood.

Remember, whatever the circumstances, a Good Lone Scout does not waste time, but keeps himself busy, and thus improves his knowledge and his character.

That Scouting really is a worldwide brotherhood is evidenced continually in many ways, but this week it is interesting to note that our Brother Scouts in India are really putting into practice the 4th Scout Law, which tells us that "A Scout is a friend to all and a Brother to every other Scout." India, of all countries, with her rigid caste system, is the most difficult place for a native boy to put this law into practice, but President Shri Ram Bajpai, at a Hindu Scout Conference in the Punjab, declared that for them the chief application of this law was the uplifting of the Untouchables. For some years Hindu Scouts have been working and mixing with low caste boys, ignoring the previous strict rules which prevented them from doing this.

Interesting, too, is the report from Daru, Papua, in the Pacific Ocean, which informs us that another Troop, the second, has been formed in that district. The first Troop of these boys, whose fathers were headhunters, was started in 1928, and is now a complete group of Cubs, Scouts and Rovers.

Scouts and a Cholera Epidemic

According to a British missionary publication, Hindu and Christian Boy Scouts took charge of a panic-stricken village in Hyderabad during a cholera epidemic, and saved 102 out of 135 cholera cases. They disinfected houses, buried the dead, provided medicine and food and treated the wells. Previously the villagers had opposed the Scouts; now the troop has full support in maintaining sanitary conditions and in carrying out other progressive measures.

The Governor-General of Scouting

"There is no doubt that the Scout Movement is doing a work of national importance in the training of boys and young men for actively useful citizenship, and a work of international importance in the interest of world friendship and peace.'—His Excellency the Governor-General, at a recent Ottawa meeting of the Dominion Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts Association.

The Lone Scout Branch of the Boy Scouts Assocation is open to boys between 12 and 18 years of age, inclusively, who are not able to join a Regular Troop of Scouts, but who are keen to take advantage of Boy Scout Training. Information concerning this branch will be gladly given to all interested who care to write to The Boy Scouts Association, Lone Scout Department, 330 Bay Street, Toronto 2.
—"Lone E."

Tom Brown Goes to Rugby

Tom had never been in London, and would have liked to have stopped at the Belle Savage, where they had been put down by the Star, just at dusk, that he maght have gone roving about those endless, mysterious, gas-lit streets, which, with their glare and hum and moving crowds, excited him so that he couldn't talk even. But as soon as he found that the Peacock arrangement would get him to Rugby by twelve o'clock in the day, whereas otherwise he wouldn't be there till the evening, all other plans melted away; his one absorbing aim being to become a public schoolboy as fast as possible, and six hours sooner or later seeming to him of the most alarming importance.

Tom and his father had alighted at the Peacock, at about seve.. in the evening, and having heard with unfeigned joy the paternal order at the bar of steaks and oyster-sauce for supper in half-an-hour, and seen his father seated cosily by the bright fire in the coffee-room with the paper in his hand, Tom had run out to see about him, had wondered at all the vehicles passing and repassing, and had fraternized with the boots and ostler, from whom he ascertained that the Tally-ho was a tip-top goer, ten miles an hour, including stoppages, and so punctual, that all the road set their clocks by her.

Then being summoned to supper, he had regaled himself in one of the bright little boxes of the Peacock coffee-room, on the beefsteak and unlimited oyster-sauce. . . . . Till the Squire, observing Tom's state, and remembering that it was nearly nine o'clock, and that the Tally-ho left at three sent the little fellow off to the chambermaid, with a shake of the hand (Tom having stipulated in the morning before starting, that kissing should now cease between them) and a few parting words. Tom was carried off by the chambermaid in a brown study, from which he was roused in a clean little attic, by that buxom person calling him a little darling, and kissing him as she left the room; which indignity he was too much surprised to resent.—Thomas Hughes, in "Tom Brown's School Days."

Soviet Opens Children's Opera

Leningrad.—An opera house for children has been opened here. Performances last from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The first production was Kimsky-Korsakov's "Chistmas Night."

Town Lightless For Economy

Mexico, Me. — Nineteen thirty-three will be a lightless year in this village. By foregoing street lamps Mexico will save $2,000 a year.

Sunday School Lesson

February 19. Lesson VIII — Jesus Teaching By Parables (The Growth of the Kingdom)—Mark 4: 21-34. Golden Text—The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.—Isaiah 11:9.

ANALYSIS.

I. GOD'S TORCH-BEARERS, Mark 4:21-25.
II. THE SURE REWARD, Mark 4:26-29.
III. GOD'S TINY SEEDS, Mark 4:30-32.

I. GOD'S TORCH-BEARERS, Mark 4:21-25.

The disciples may have been congratulating themselves that truths hidden from the multitude were being revealed to themselves. If so, the sayings of vs. 21-25 were calculated to correct that complacency. If they were highly privileged, they were thereby under a corresponding obligaton. Lamps are meant to give light. "To keep to yourselves the truth I have been giving you would be like lighting a lamp and putting it under the upturned 'bushel'"—the peck measure which was part of the furniture of even the humblest home, v. 21. Whatever gift it is that God bestows upon us, a gift of song, or speech, or skill, or capacity, or personality, or material possessions, it is given us not merely for our exclusive use, but for the good of others. We have light in order that others may see. Otherwise . . .

". . . if our virtues
Did not go forth from us, 'Twere all alike
As though we had then not."

"O Lord, I am not eloquent," objected Moses (Exod. 4: 10), trying to hide his light under the bushel of false modesty, or fear. The man who enjoys the blessings of Christianity and at the same time has no use for missions is as hard to understand as the fellow who lights his lamp and puts it under a bed.

In order to avoid the possibility of misunderstanding, the Master told them plainly that everything that was being explained to them now privately, was to be given out at the proper time, v. 22.

Since they were to be the heralds of his truth, they must attend seriously and carefully to his teaching, v. 23. Prepared hearers as well as prepared preachers are necessary for effective teaching and preaching. What we give our attention to, as well as the manner of our attending, determine our effectiveness as God's torch-bearers, v. 24. "She never listened to gossip," they said, when recently a notably spiritual and useful woman died. Her mind had never been poisoned with mental garbage. The measure of earnestness we give to hearing determines the measure of truth the Master can bestow upon us, v. 24. The more we have the more we can assimilate, v. 25. The heart closed to more truth eventually loses the truth it already has.

II. THE SURE REWARD, Mark 4:26-29.

How like his own work, thought Jesus, as he saw the lonely sower flinging out his seed in the hope that some of it at least would produce a harvest. How few they were who received his word in an honest and good heart. But Jesus, himself so perfectly the channel of the Father's will, knew that God is behind every earnest showing. His word will not return unto him void. This parable conveys that heartening truth to all of God's discouraged workers.

Once the farmer sows his seed, mysterious forces in the seed itself and in the soil begin to work together to produce a harvest, v. 27. Having done his part, he is to leave the rest with nature, that is, sleep and rise night and day." In the human heart there is a spark of the divine, a possible responsiveness, which constitutes the appropriate environment in which truth takes root. Said an old Christian gentleman to a young, discouraged teacher of a class of boys, "Your work will tell some day."

Every growing plant (v. 28) is a lesson in patience. Its perfection is that of gradual development, not of complete attainment. One does not expect the full corn at the green-blade stage, nor the wisdom and spiritual maturity of an old Christian in a young believer, an old head on young shoulders. Every growing plant is also a ground for courage. It is a silent witness to the presence in human life of spiritual processes, working slowly, silently, mysteriously, but surely. In God's good time some heart will sing the harvest song. The kingdom may be tarrying long, but every faithful sowing is bringing it nearer.

III. GOD'S TINY SEEDS, Mark 4:30-32.

The disciples, like most of us, were impressed with "bigness." They would be tempted always to judge the greatness of Jesus' "kingdom" by the meagre results of his work so far. This parable teaches that, in spiritual matters, material size, mere numbers, noisy advertising, are not the standards by which importance or success is measured. "Small as a grain of mustard seed" (v. 31) was a Jewish proverb. A tree was an Old Testament symbol for the growth and beauty of "the age of gold," Daniel 4: 10. Hence the minuteness of the "mustard seed," compared with its relatively tremendous growth, made it a vivid illustration of the expansion of the spiritual kingdom. God's tiny seeds—this man's utter consecration; a mother's prayer; a boy's imagination aglow with ideals; a teacher's devotion; are destined to become the "tree" of God's dominion in the world.

Then
Scorn not the slightest word or deed
Nor deem it void of power;
There's fruit in each wind-wafted seed,
That waits its natal hour.

No act falls fruitless; none can tell
How vast its power may be;
Nor what results infolded dwell
Within it silently

Dan Crawford said: "You may count the apples on the tree, but who can count the trees in the apples?" The gospel movement had a small beginning, but today it is a "great tree." "The kingdom which began with Jesus and his handful of Galilean disciples, is now the mightiest force in the world."

Novel Neck Line

By HELEN WILLIAMS.

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern

Here's a smart new youthful way Paris has found to widen the shoulder line. It is a narrow circular flounce placed to simulate a cape. You'll agree, it is a cunning idea. The leg-o'-mutton sleeves are interesting.

The smart mouse-gray shade in rabbit's hair woolen made the original model. Fuschia-red buttons and suede belt accented a color note.

It is very effective too with the deep shoulder yoke as in miniature view with the flounce omitted.

Style No. 3266 is designed for sizes 14, 16, 18, 20 years, 36 and 38 inches bust.

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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.

Bees Spread Plant Disease

Washington.—Bees, wandering from flower to flower, will transmit the bacteria that cause fire blight, a plant disease, says Drs. A. L. Pierstorff and Howard Lamb, of Ohio Agriculutral Experiment Station.

The real object of the drama is the exhibition of the human character.—Macaulay.

Farm Queries

Henry G. Bell, B.S.A., Dept. of Chemistry, O.A.C.

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.

The Use of Fertilizers

(Part One of a Two-Part Article)

Questions

1. Can fertilizers injure the crop?
2. Is one analysis of fertilizer as good as another, or what is the best fertilizer for a farm?

The above are two very common questions that are submitted in one form or another in correspondence or public meetings. They are vital questions and questions to which Ontario farmers can well give thought at the present time. It is impossible to answer them in full, but it is our purpose to submit answers founded on well established facts.

1. Can fertilizers injure the crop?

It is possible for fertilizers to injure a crop. Fertilizers are carriers of concentrated soluble plant food (nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash). It is a law of physics that when a strong solution such as a strong mixture of salt and water is separated from a weak solution such as ordinary water by a membrance through which liquids can pass, that the tendency is for the weak solution to pass into the strong solution in an endeavor to weaken the strong solution to the same concentration as the weak solution. If the membrane is of such a character that some of the salts of the strong solution cannot pass through freely from the strong solution to the weak solution, this movement will take place. This is one of the great forces that causes the rise of moisture from roots to leaves in the growing crop. It is not the only force that causes this movement, but one of the important forces, and this is the way it functions. As the soil waters bearing salts pass into the root cells the plant takes up salts of various kinds. Water is going off from the leaves of the plant continuously, hence the salt solutions in the plant are continually becoming more concentrated, somewhat the same way as maple syrup becomes more concentrated as the moisture is driven off. This causes continual flow of moisture into the roots of the plant and up through the plant.

Look at the processes of the plant in another way. Suppose you put a quantity of concentrated fertilizer in close touch with the root of the plant. The salt solution in the concentrated fertilizer is so strong that the movement is immediately the other way, or moisture is drawn out of the root to dilute the concentrated salt solution of the fertilizer. In this case the crop wilts and sometimes dies. In other words, the fertilizers have injured the growing crop. Of course, the whole fault is in the placing of the fertilizers. If they had been mixed with the soil before the plant was set or the seed was dropped, the soil waters would have diluted the solution so that it would have been weaker than the solution inside the plant roots, in which case the plant would take up the fertilizers and benefit materially by them. The point is that fertilizers help the crop if they are properly applied. Do not place the fertilizer immediately around the seed or the seed immediately on top of the fertilizer.

Another way in which fertilizers can injure the crop is by applying the wrong type of plant food in an effort to help the crop. We know of an instance where an oat field on a heavy clay soil was largely spoiled by the addition of 5-8-7 fertilizer. This fertilizer is suited to a rapidly growing root crop such as potatoes or sugar beets. The nitrogen applied in a medium application of 5-8-7 fertilizer is altogether too much for an oat crop on a clay loam soil. In practice, it produces far too much straw. The oat crop needs the emphasis to be laid on phosphoric acid. 0-12-10 or 2-12-6 superphosphate would have been infinitely better to apply to oats than 5-8-7. These are practical points that the farmer should know in purchasing fertilizers. These are practical points that the manufacturer should know in selling fertilizers to farmers.

2. Is one analysis of fertilizer as good as another, or what is the best fertilizer for a farm?

Certainly, one analysis of fertilizer is not universally good for all crops. Hay or fodder crops require an emphasis on nitrogen while grain crops require little nitrogen but considerable phosphoric acid, and root crops require a fair amount of nitrogen with high potash, with the exception of turnips, which require high phosphate and medium to low nitrogen and potash.

Then, there is the differences in soil. Sandy soils require a different fertilizer to clay soils that tend to be exceedingly rich in organic matter, such as muck soils. The fertilizer analysis should be suited both to the special needs of the crop and to supplementing the soils where their characteristic weaknesses show up.

Next week the following questions are answered: 1. Can fertilizers injure the soil? 2. Can I lose or gain money by using fertilizers under present conditions?

Masquerade

Who will join the masquerade
And dance the dull night gaily through?
Your dreams are made as good as new
Before the night's last spangles fade,
And you shall lose your heart once more
Ere the grey dawn has closed the door.

Gipsies, clowns and columbines,
Shepherdess and cavalier—
Carnival makes merry here,
Lanterns glow in colored lines.
Who's your partner? Can you guess?
All in masks and fancy dress!

Music haunts the frosty air.
Here is la[illegible]
Here are [illegible]
Here you [illegible]
Here, thoug[illegible]
You may f[illegible]

But Fortur[illegible]
And you [illegible]
Familiar, mocking, loving eyes
Sparkling through the masquerade,
And though you fall in love once more,
She may be one you loved before.
—I.S. in London Answers.

Some Butterflies Hibernate After Reaching Full Growth

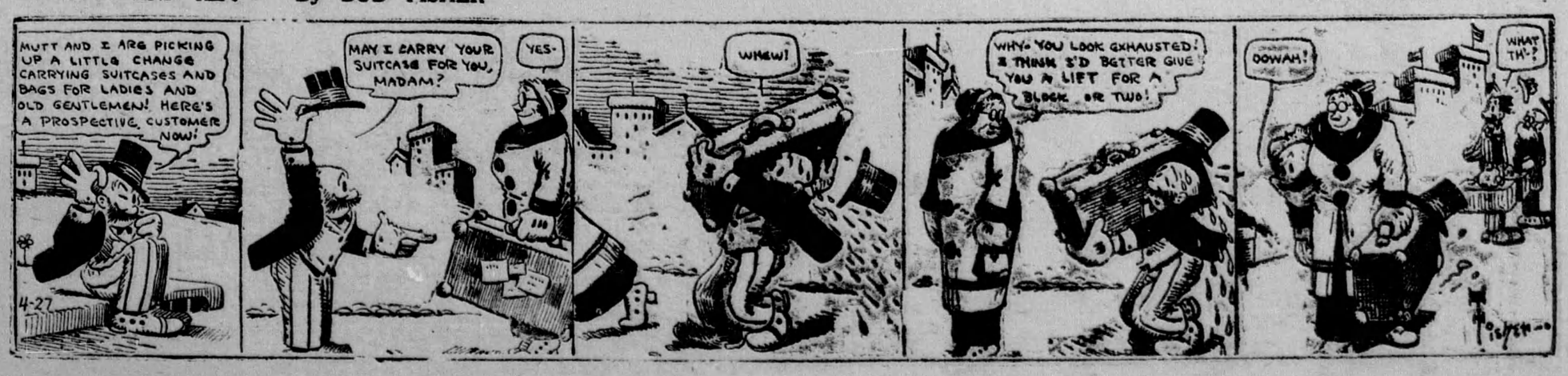
Although a large percentage of moths and butterflies winter as chrysalids, and most of the rest of them as caterpillars or in the egg stage, there are a few exceptions that hibernate as full grown adults. The mourning cloak butterfly is a notable example of this.

Large Scale Ontario Maps For Sports and Campers

The new Orillia map sheet issued by the Topographical Survey, Ottawa, shows on a large scale the district of Ontario from the northern part of Lake Simcoe, past Lake Couchiching and Sparrow Lake to the southern part of Muskoka, and from the Trent Canal on the southeast to the Georgian Bay on the north-west. It adjoins the Muskoka sheet, which lies immediately north of it. These two maps, together with the Parry Sound and Byng Inlet sheets already published, and the Sundridge sheet, which is expected at an early date, include a part of Ontario famed far and wide for the facilities which it offers for sport and recreation.

The southern part of the area [illegible] agricultural [illegible] elevation of [illegible] Huron of 581 feet. Fish and game are plentiful, particularly in the northern part of the area. The Township of Longford, partly shown on the map, is owned by a group who are making of it a more or less private game preserve known as the Longford Reserve.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Jean. "What sort of a chap is Fred?" Jill: "Well, when we were together last night the lights went out, and he spent the rest of the evening repairing the switch."

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

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