

BOY SCOUTS

(Conducted by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.)

SCOUTS DISPATCH BEARERS

George Creel, chairman of the committee on public information, has addressed the following letter to the Boy Scouts of America in appreciation of their services as dispatch bearers for the government:

"Dear Mr. West—I wish to take this opportunity to express to you my appreciation for the assistance the Boy Scouts of America have been to the committee in its work.

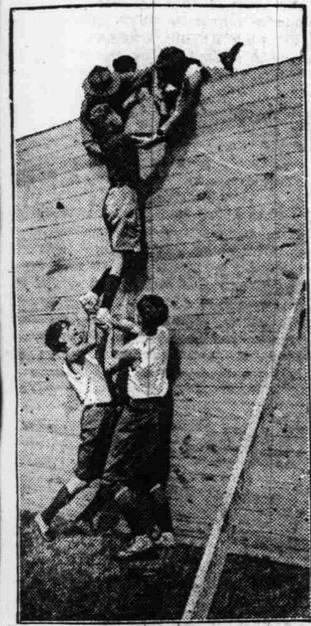
"Public opinion stands recognized as a vital part of national defense, a mighty force in national attack. The strength of our firing line is not in trench barricade alone, but has its source in the morale of the civilian population from which the fighting force is drawn.

"As dispatch bearers the boy scouts have carried the message of our president to more than five million homes, and as a result of the postcards enclosed, the committee has filled nearly two million requests for pamphlets on the vital questions of the war.

"The battle for public opinion has been won. There is no organized disloyalty. Individual disloyalty has been isolated and marked down. We have unity in the land today unexampled in the history of this or any other nation.

"The boy scouts have had their part in winning this battle and they can do much to help maintain the unity so essential to victory."

SCOUT WALL-SCALING CONTEST.



One of the Many Athletic Pastimes the Youngsters Enjoy.

SCOUTS IN TRANSPORT WORK.

That scouts can be relied upon for any patriotic duty is shown by this letter from the general superintendent of the United States army transport service. If there is any place where the order to "allow only Americans on guard tonight" should be repeated, it is on the docks from which our boys board the ships for France. Here is the letter to national headquarters from Lieut. Col. F. P. Jackson:

"In reference to telephone conversation regarding boy scouts, I have two employed in the supplies division, army transport service, as messengers. Their duties as messengers require them very often to carry official documents of a confidential nature from the various government offices, piers, etc. I believe boy scouts give more satisfactory services, due to their training, and can be relied upon to carry out strictly any instructions given them."

MADE A TOWNFUL OF SCOUTS.

The far-reaching effect of a commonplace act of kindness has often astonished a scout, who as a matter of course does a good turn whenever he finds an opportunity.

The scout executive of Scranton, Pa., became interested in a boy in a neighboring town who was at a hospital for a serious bone operation.

He spent much time with the boy, and when he passed his twelfth birthday in the hospital, the scout executive gave him the tenderfoot test.

Returning to his home town, a scout, this boy organized a troop and now has the whole town enthusiastic about scouting. "So shines a good deed in a naughty world."

DOINGS OF THE SCOUTS.

The boy scouts of Butte, Mont., distributed literature throughout the city instructing the people about the work of the Y. M. C. A. and asking their aid.

In Waterbury, Conn., the Rotary club furnished 60 auto trucks, and 240 boy scouts collected piles of books set out for the army camps.

McKeesport, Pa., scouts bought a second hand six cylinder auto for the purpose of teaching the boys something about auto repair.

DADDY'S EVENING FAIRY TALE

BY MARY GRAHAM BONNER

THE CANOE BIRCH.

"A canoe was being put away for the season," said Daddy, "and after the canoe was hanging upside down in a nice old cellar which was not too near a furnace, and yet not too damp, some little brownies jumped upon it. It was covered over with rugs and was well cared for. It would not need any attention throughout the winter.

"We would like to have a talk with you," said Billie Brownie.

"I'd like to have a talk with you, too," said the canoe.

"We can understand you, for we're brownies," said Billie.

"Yes, we're very much like fairies," said Bennie Brownie, "except that fairies are beautiful and we are funny and round and fat."

"That makes no difference," said the canoe.

"Thank you," said Billie Brownie.

"Thank you," said Bennie Brownie.

"And the little brownies who had come along too said in their most polite tones, 'We also thank you.'

"Then I'm being well thanked," said the canoe, "and that is nice—for I like to be thanked when I have said something polite. It's a bit hard for



"I Have a Very Pleasant Life."

a canoe to be polite, you know. A canoe can go through the water so easily when people paddle it, and a canoe is very useful and lots of fun if it is properly understood, but it isn't the habit of a canoe to make polite speeches.

"It was most good of you to make the effort," said Billie Brownie, bowing very low.

"It was extremely kind of you," said Bennie Brownie.

"We think you are a kind and polite canoe," said the other little brownies.

"Well," said Billie Brownie, after a pause, and after they had all chosen places about the canoe so they could hear its story, "won't you tell us all about yourself. We have heard that you came from a tree."

"I did," said the canoe. "I came from the Canoe Birch tree. There are many kinds of birch trees, but my family belonged to the Canoe Birch tree family. I'm so glad I belonged to that family, for we are so useful.

"Now I have had a useful and very pleasant life as a canoe. The people who own me are so fond of me. They won't let holes get into my sides by running me up on rocky shores. They are careful of me. They like me and they want to keep me a long, long time.

"You see," the canoe continued, "the Canoe Birch tree family can do many things. People can get delicious sirup from our sap. They can make wooden shacks out of us, too—and of course, as you know, they can get canoes from us.

"The partridges enjoy our buds, but most of all are we useful to men, for we can be made into so many things. But best of all, the very best of all, to my canoe mind, is that we can be made into wonderful bark canoes."

"That's fine," said Billie Brownie. "I had no idea your family could do so many things and that so much could be made out of you and your relatives."

"I beg your pardon," said the canoe, "but my relatives are different. They are the other birch trees, and some of my relatives can't do much of anything, such as the White Birch family, for example.

"They don't live long, they must have swampy ground, and they aren't at all useful. Although," the canoe added, "I must say one thing. The White Birch family will grow in ugly places where there have been fires and where the land looks shabby."

"But I am glad that I belong to the Birch family, or that I did belong to it—for we are considered the finest members of the whole Birch Tree family."

"Often some branches of my family are thrown into a merry bonfire, and how gayly they crackle and burn, and how they do add to an autumn bonfire party."

"Well, we're delighted to have heard about you," said Billie Brownie.

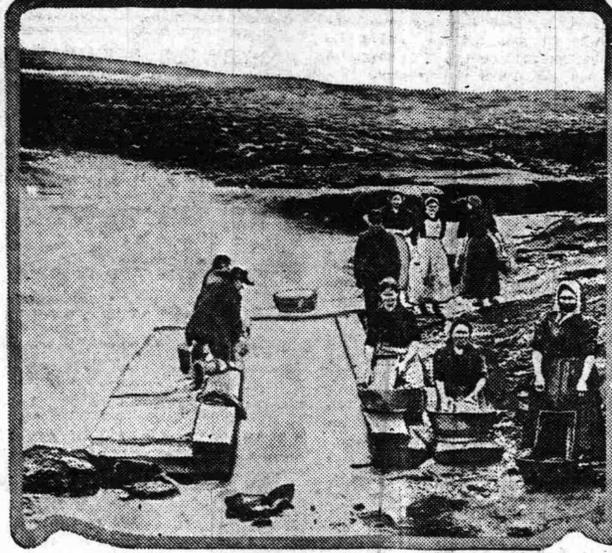
"And we thank you most extremely for telling us your history," added Bennie Brownie, as they all said good-by and left the canoe for its winter's rest."

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Dense.

A man likes to concentrate his mind, but he tries to be very careful not to con-dense it.

ICELAND



Hot Springs Near Reykjavik.

THE autonomy that has come as a gift of the war to Iceland merely follows upon a former home rule granted by Denmark to the island folk in 1874. Bordering as the island does upon the arctic circle, it would seem anomalous indeed that the former home of the free-necked, all-conquering Vikings should be associated with aught but human liberty, or that the restraints and oppressions of autocratic governments should be familiar things in this little detached world. But Iceland has had its political struggles nevertheless, and from the very beginning of its history it became the refuge and sanctuary of a people seeking safety and refuge from the intolerable tyranny of a Norseman's rule.

Iceland's story is really the story of the Viking, says Christian Science Monitor. In a minor degree it is associated with the mission of the Celt and Anglo-Saxon in the early diffusion of Christianity. In 1890 the Icelanders actually celebrated the thousandth anniversary of the landing of the first Christians.

One is apt to picture the Viking as a sea-rover making his warship fast to that of his enemy while the shouts of the victor rise high above the clash and clang of spear and battle-axe upon shield and helmet. But war was not really his occupation nor was the sea his home. He only turned to the sea for plunder and recreation when he wearied of the pastoral life. If he was a man of wealth and influence, in the old Norse country, he was certain to possess many thralls or retainers, to own a great hall and possibly a temple. In the center of the hall would be a row of fires, and against the wall the high seat or place of honor, its great pillars carved and crowned with images of Thor, Odin and Friga. The Viking himself would be magnificently attired, his garments bound with plates of gold, and his sword, "Fire-of-the-Sea-King," in a jeweled scabbard by his side. On his neck would doubtless be a collar of engraved gold, while his flowing cloak would be edged with gold.

Such, also, was the early Iclander in the early stages of his migration from the old Norse home.

How Iceland Was Settled.

The Vikings peopled the remote island deliberately, as a land where freedom awaited them. Unlike other lands it had no prehistoric history. Fire-born, it had known not even the prehistoric savage. Man's coming began, it may be said, with a woman's whim, and a Viking's vow. Is it not all told in "The Story of Harald Half-fair," and by Snorri in "Heimskringla?" How Harald sent his messengers to Gyda, daughter of Eric, King of Hordaland, with the request that she become his wife. How to them she replied that she would not, for the taking to husband of a king who had no more realm to rule over than a few folk, did not appeal to the proud princess. How Harald swore that he would not cut his hair nor comb it until he had gotten to himself all Norway, "with the scat thereof and the dues."

How after years of strenuous effort and warfare he brought all Norway under a sway that was to be feared wherever the Norse tongue was spoken. How he solemnly bathed and cut his hair, held a feast, and wedded the exacting but now triumphant Gyda, queen of the world within her ken.

That was ten centuries ago, when Harald introduced to Norway that centralization and consolidation of power which was to make of him a tyrant and a blight upon the ambitions of the nobles who felt the weight of his sway. The freemen resisted as long as they could. Beaten again and again in fight, many of them withdrew from the land of their birth, preferring exile with their accustomed liberties to a vassalage which was an outrage to the free-born.

Discovered by Naddodd.

Thus began the incursions and excursions of the Vikings. The fair-armed warriors of the North spread themselves over many lands, even in ar-of Byzantium. For centuries the east and river hamlets of England,

Scotland and Ireland were constantly on the alert in case of depredations and sudden descents. The distant lava peaks of Faroe ultimately became the homes of those who dared not return to Norway, until at last one of their number, the Viking Naddodd, left the isles and was driven by contrary winds in sight of the snow-capped peaks of Iceland. A landing was effected, but Naddodd found no trace of human beings. Christening the newly discovered country Snaeland, he immediately took his departure. Four years later, in 864, came Gardar, a Swedish Viking, who was the first to circumnavigate the island. He re-christened the land Gardar's Holm. Then came Floki, who found his way to the island by the aid of ravens, and who gave to the then inhospitable land the present chilly name of Iceland.

Reykjavik, the "smoking Creek," now the principal town, was recognized from the earliest times as an unfortunate location for a settlement and a capital. The original colony was settled here by Ingolfr Arnarson, a high-born Jarl of Norway, who left his native land in the company of his foster-brother, Hjorleifr, ten years after the descent of Floki upon its shores.

Kindly and Hospitable.

Within 60 years from the coming of Ingolfr, the population of the island is said to have numbered over 60,000. So much land, however, had been taken by the first comers that an agreement was made by which all late comers could take only as much land as they could compass by fire in a day. This was done by building a huge fire in the center of the lot, whence the claimant traveled in a circle as far away from the fire as he could see the smoke.

From this virile race, which scorned to bend the knee to Harald, the modern Icelanders are descended. They are kindly and hospitable to the stranger within their borders, while their homes are simple and quaint. Some are old dwelling places of turf and stone with an inclosed mowing patch, the sheep folds, the byre and a small garden for vegetables. The spoken tongue of Iceland is no longer heard in the Norse valleys, but in the arctic isolation of their island home the Icelanders have retained it in its ancient purity; and sagas and traditions of the remote past are as familiar as household words to the inhabitants.

The government, down to the granting of autonomy, had at its head a minister, appointed by the king of Denmark, resident at Reykjavik, and responsible to the althing, or the parliament of the colony, for all acts concerning Iceland. The althing consisted of 36 members, of whom 30 were elected by the people and six by the crown. It was elected every two years, and was divided into two chambers, of which the upper was composed of six elected and six appointed members, while the lower consisted of 24 elected members. The king of Denmark had the nominal right of veto.

In 1911 suffrage was extended to women and servants, and the right is now possessed by all competent adults. The revenue of the country is derived almost entirely from customs. Elementary education is well provided for, and the number of illiterates is remarkably small.

Siam's Boat Life.

The boat life of Siam is extremely interesting. Business and pleasure, health and happiness, all center in the river or its branches. A boat and a paddle are almost as natural and indispensable possessions to a Siamese as his arms or legs. He has no notion of traveling any distance except by boat, and the idea of living in a place inaccessible by water generally strikes him as absurd. Three weeks to come down stream with a full cargo, a week to dispose of it and indulge in the gayeties of the capital, four or five months to get back with the emptied boat, and the rest of the year for farm work at home—such is the program of many a Siamese family.

THE KITCHEN CABINET

Life means to each one of us just what each of us makes it mean. It is a blank check into which we ourselves must write the value.

SEASONABLE GOOD THINGS.

One of the most popular pies at this season of the year is mince. Each housekeeper has some favorite recipe which is cherished in her family; here is

Mrs. Taft's Mince-meat.—Take three pounds of lean beef, one pound of suet, two pounds each of seeded raisins, citron and currants, two teaspoonfuls of cinnamon, two quarts of cider, one pound of brown sugar, and one tablespoonful of salt. Cook beef until tender and when cold chop very fine. Chop the suet and remove all of the stringy portion. Put all together with the fruit chopped into a jar, boil the cider with sugar until reduced to one quart; when cool add to the other ingredients. When ready to be used add two chopped apples to the mince-meat for one pie.

Prince of Wales Cake.—Dark part—cream one-half cupful of butter, add one cupful of molasses, one-half-cupful of strong coffee; sift one teaspoonful each of soda, nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves with two cupfuls of flour. Add three well-beaten yolks of eggs and one cupful of raisins. Light part—cream one-half cupful of butter, add one cupful of sugar gradually. Mix and sift together one cupful of flour with one-half cupful of cornstarch, and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder; add the dry ingredients alternately with half a cupful of milk. Cut and fold in the whites of the eggs. Bake in layers.

Golden Orange Cake.—Take one cupful of New Orleans molasses, half a cupful of shortening, one egg, the juice and rind of one orange, half a teaspoonful of soda dissolved in half a cupful of cold water, two cupfuls of flour with a little salt. Bake in a shallow pan. When hot rub with butter and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Rice and Almond Cream.—Blanch one-half cupful of almonds, cut in thin shreds, put into a double boiler with three cupfuls of milk, one-fourth cupful of sugar and one-half teaspoonful of salt; when hot add one cupful of well-washed rice. Cook until the rice is tender. When ready to serve fill sherbet cups half full; add a teaspoonful of apple jelly, then sweetened whipped cream and another spoonful of jelly on top.

Girls—Knowledge is now no more a fountain sealed; Drink deep, until the habits of the slave, The sins of emptiness, gossip and spite And slander, die. Better not be at all Than not be noble. —Tennyson.

GENERALITIES.

In using bread crumbs for escaloped dishes, season well with salt and pepper, and add a small quantity of melted butter; stir until well mixed. Clean currants by rubbing and rolling in a small amount of flour; wash them, dry, and they are ready for use.

Cut the long and rough pieces from sirloin steak; use them in soup or put them through a meat grinder; season well with onion juice, a pinch of ground cloves and pepper and salt; add a portion of cooked oatmeal, breakfast cereal or bread crumbs; make into flat cakes and cook until brown on both sides.

Have small receptacles in which to save various kinds of fats; do not mix them, as they keep sweet better when unmixed.

Beef drippings mixed with lard may be used for deep frying or for shortening.

Coffee and tea stains may be removed from linen by rubbing on a little borax and soak half an hour in cold water; then hold over a deep dish and pour boiling water through the spot.

To deepen the color in any wash dress use a piece of crepe paper the color desired—a square foot soaked in cold water and used as bluing water. The result will be a delightful refreshing of the color.

Parsley may be kept fresh for two weeks or longer if dipped in water, then well shaken and put into a glass jar, sealing tightly. Keep in a cool place.

Drop the yolks of eggs into a bowl or cup, cover with cold water and they will keep several days.

Use a fiber vegetable brush to clean grates and scrub vegetables.

To get the flavor of orange for sauce or tea, or any kind of dessert, rub a few cubes of sugar over a well-washed orange, or grate off the rind and let it stand in a close jar with a handful of cubes of sugar or granulated sugar.

The water in which rice is cooked is too valuable to be thrown away; use it in tomato soup for the next day's luncheon.

The water in which peas, beans and cauliflower are cooked may be added to the water in which a leg of mutton or a piece of beef is boiled. This may be reserved for soups and sauces.

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POULTRY FACTS



ISOLATE ALL AILING FOWLS

Some Common Poultry Diseases and Treatment—Use Potassium Permanganate for Colds.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

All diseased birds should be isolated. Colds and Roup.—Disinfect the drinking water as follows: To each gallon of water add the quantity of potassium permanganate that will remain on the surface of a dime.

Canker—Sprinkle a little flowers of sulphur in the mouth and throat of the bird and put some chlorate of potash in the water. Also carefully remove the exudate with the aid of warm wa-



A Case of Scaly Legs.

ter and paint with iodine or apply a good disinfectant to the diseased tissue.

Chicken Pox.—Apply a touch of iodine to each sore and then cover with carbolated vaseline. If the diseased parts are kept well covered with the vaseline it will usually effect a cure.

Gapes.—New ground and vigorous cultivation will often remedy this trouble. A liberal sprinkling of lime around the coops and runs is quite often an effective remedy.

Scaly Legs.—Apply vaseline containing a disinfectant to the affected parts, and after 24 hours soak in warm soapy water. Repeat treatment until cured.

Diarrhea in Hens.—Low-grade wheat flour or middlings are good for this trouble. Also give each fowl a teaspoonful of castor oil containing five drops of oil of turpentine.

Bowel Trouble in Chicks.—Well-boiled rice mixed with a little charcoal will often check this complaint. Dissolve 15 grains of crude catechu in each gallon of drinking water.

MORE POULTRY IS REQUIRED

Standard-Bred Fowls Increase Production and Improve Quality—Hatch Chicks Early.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Keep better poultry: Standard-bred poultry increases production and improves the quality.

Select vigorous breeders: Healthy, vigorous breeders produce strong chicks.

Hatch the chicks early: Early hatched pullets produce fall and winter eggs.

Preserve eggs for home use: Preserve when cheap for use when high in price.

Produce infertile eggs: They keep better. Fertile eggs are necessary for hatching only.

Cull the flocks: Eliminate unprofitable producers and reduce the feed bill.

Keep a back-yard flock: A small flock in the back yard will supply the family table.

Grow your poultry feed: Home-grown feed insures an available and economical supply.

Eat more poultry and eggs: By eating poultry and eggs more freely you will conserve the meat supply.

WHEAT FOR EGG PRODUCTION

Better Food Than Corn in Ration for Laying Hens—Barley is Good Substitute.

Wheat is a better food for egg production than is corn. A grain ration of wheat, oats and corn is conducive to the manufacture of eggs. Barley may be profitably substituted for the wheat during these days of wheat conservation.

HOPPER IS BIG LABOR SAVER

Satisfactory Growth Secured by Giving Fowls Access to Balanced Ration of Grain.

A hopper capable of holding a large quantity of feed is a great labor-saver. By allowing the birds access to its contents a satisfactory growth is obtained, and an opportunity is given them to balance the grain ration fed. This hopper should be large enough to hold several bushels of feed, sufficient for one or two weeks.

Nellie Maxwell