

THE
FIRST TEN YEARS

BY
SIR PERCY EVERETT
DEPUTY CHIEF SCOUT

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Editor's Note:

The reader is reminded that these texts have been written a long time ago. Consequently, they may use some terms or use expressions which were current at the time, regardless of what we may think of them at the beginning of the 21st century. For reasons of historical accuracy they have been preserved in their original form.

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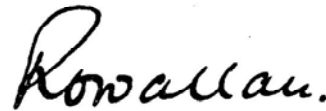
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FOREWORD.

It is always interesting to know how an idea was first born, and when that idea has spread throughout the world as has Scouting, its early days assume historic importance.

To millions of men Scouting has brought happiness and satisfaction in Service. To millions the memory of the Promise they made on Investiture has provided something stable, something which was a support in their hour of trial. From the very beginning, even before the Brownsea Island Camp, Sir Percy Everett was one of the closest associates of B.-P. Who, then, is better fitted to write the story of the first ten years?

This book will have its place in the literature of Scouting and will, I hope, help to keep alive the spirit of enterprise and adventure, the simplicity and inspiration which are sometimes lost when a Movement becomes a recognised part of national life.



*Chief Scout
of the British Commonwealth and Empire.*

INTRODUCTION.

This little book embodies some articles which I wrote for "The Rover World" in 1936. They are, I am afraid, a rather bare narrative of my personal memories of the very early days of Scouting and in no way clash with Mrs. Wade's valuable book "The Piper of Pax," or with the comprehensive history of the Movement which Josh Reynolds is now compiling.

I have unearthed these writings and have given them a more permanent form in response to many requests from those who have heard me talk at Scout gatherings on Early Days and from those who saw and listened in to my appearance in a Television programme.

It was a privilege and an inspiration to me to be associated with the old Chief from 1906 onwards.

To him I owe 40 years of supreme happiness.

PERCY EVERETT

17th February, 1948.

CHAPTER I.

FIRST MEETING WITH B.-P.

My first meeting with the Old Chief was in 1906, at a week-end party at the house of the late Sir Arthur Pearson, at Frensham Place, Surrey.

I was there partly as a friend of the family and partly because I had for many years been associated with the editorial side of Sir Arthur Pearson's publishing business.

The Chief was there because Pearson liked to invite to his week-end parties men of outstanding note in the life of the world. At that time Pearson occupied a very prominent position in the political arena. He was the trusted adviser of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, who just then was advocating with remarkable forcefulness the vital importance of Tariff Reform.

I am not going to discuss politics, and I am quite sure that Pearson had no political designs on the Chief, but both were glad to meet, for both were intensely interested in the study of their fellow men, especially young people, and both having made their mark in the world, were glad to have the opportunity of exchanging views.

For some years Pearson had been running a scheme for giving poor children from the big cities an opportunity of spending a holiday far from the crowded streets. It was called Pearson's Fresh Air Fund, and is still going strong. Already over 6,000,000 children have spent a happy day in the country and over 110,000 a healthy fortnight, through the generosity of its supporters.

The thoughts of the Chief, too, were centred on the young, for he was gradually moulding into shape that incredibly wonderful scheme which was to be given to the world as 'Scouting for Boys.' So the two had much in common.

The Chief was the life and soul of a very lively house-party, but the visit had also its epoch-making side, for an incident occurred then which had a great bearing on the future of the Scout Movement. It was on the Saturday afternoon.

The guests were amusing themselves but the host was preparing to slip away.

Baden-Powell strolled up beside the waiting motor car. "Where are you off to, Pearson?"

"I am just going over to see a cripple's home. I shan't be long."

The car slid off down the drive, and B.-P. was left thinking.

What he thought was: –

Here is the man I want to help me – a lover of children, a famous organiser; a great publicity man; he will know how best to start.

So after dinner that evening, the Chief told us about his own boyhood, his experiences with his patrol of brothers, about the splendid work carried out by the boys in Mafeking, about the success of his book, 'Aids to Scouting,' and he ended up by pointing out the need for some sort of attractive occupation for boys outside school hours. "There are," he said, "one and three-quarter million boys in the country at present, outside the range of good influences, mostly drifting towards hooliganism, for want of a helping hand."

He asked Pearson to help him. Pearson was very much impressed. So were we all. The rest of the week-end was mainly spent in trying to work out how best

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to launch the Chief's great scheme. Pearson was full of enthusiasm, a born organiser, and was all for starting straight away, But the Chief was more cautious and wanted to be quite sure of his ground. He suggested that he should lay his scheme before the leaders of other Boys' organisations and approach prominent members of the Church, State, Army and Navy to ascertain their views. Also, he was most anxious to test his theories in practice.

To carry out the Chief's first suggestion, a draft letter was prepared and sent by him to many well known people. It met with a most favourable reception.

(I quote here from two only of the many replies received from Lord Roberts and Lord Charles Beresford).

“ENGLEMERE, ASCOT, BERKS.

Dear Baden-Powell,

I write in reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, to say how glad I am that you are interesting yourself in teaching boys good citizenship and patriotism.

Let your Boy Scouts bear in mind the words of the preacher of old – “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.” The tendency of our fellow-countrymen to “look on” is, to my mind, one of the most disquieting symptoms of the age. I trust that your Boy Scouts will “play the game, and not look on.”

Believe me, Yours sincerely,
ROBERTS.”

“H.M.S. King Edward VII,
Channel Fleet.

My dear Baden-Powell,

Thank you for sending me your excellent proposals for the formation of Boy Scout Corps.

I think that your ideas are quite capital. The youth of today will be responsible for the maintenance of an Empire whose grandeur has never been equalled. Your proposed training and instruction for the Scouts embraces all that should make them good citizens.

It will impress upon them chivalrous, unselfish and honourable sentiments, encourage them to admire pluck, and those that have a strong sense of duty, good order and discipline, will help patriotism and further patriotic views, and good comradeship is essential for the success of those high motives you have laid down as the guiding spirit of the Scout Corps for Boys. Young minds are easily affected by sentiment, more particularly when that sentiment is high-minded.

May all good luck attend you. Your ideas merit enthusiastic support.

Yours very sincerely,
CHARLES BERESFORD,
Admiral.”

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He was, therefore, greatly encouraged to go on with his scheme and see how it actually worked when applied to the boys themselves. So plans were laid for the Brownsea Island Camp, of which more in the next chapter.

In the ensuing months there were many discussions about what to call the scheme, about the way to make it known. I well remember one talk between Pearson and the Chief.

Said Pearson: "We must have a good name; something that will attract the boy."

Said Baden-Powell: "Well, it's no good calling it the 'Society for the Propagation of Moral Attributes.'"

Said Pearson; "What was the name of that book you were telling us about, which you wrote for the Army?"

Said Baden-Powell: "Do you mean 'Aids to Scouting?'"

Said Pearson: "Yes. Why not bring in the word 'Scouting'? It has got romance and adventure in it."

Said Baden-Powell: "You're right. The name 'Boy Scout' will appeal, I am sure."

So the Movement became the 'Boy Scout' Movement, and the Chief's book, when it was written, 'Scouting for Boys'.

Plans were also discussed for launching the Movement, always provided that the Chief's experimental camp proved successful.

The following programme was arranged: –

(a) Visits by the Chief to the big centres of population during the winter months of 1907 and early 1908.

(b) The publication of 'Scouting for Boys' in fortnightly parts in the spring of 1908.

(c) The publication of 'The Scout' as a paper for boys – the first issue of which actually appeared on April 14th, 1908.

(d) A Press Campaign to interest the public in the aims and methods of Scouting.

Meantime, plans were being made and invitations sent by the Chief for his great experimental camp, which was started at Brownsea Island in July, 1907.

CHAPTER II.

BROWNSEA ISLAND.

There are two things which I have always regretted. I have not kept a diary and I have not been an amateur photographer. How much better it would be for me and how much more vivid a story could I tell of that memorable camp at Brownsea Island if only I had kept my own personal records in words and pictures.

The events leading up to that experimental camp may be lacking in romance, but the camp itself, was just one long thrill from beginning to end.

None of us had any conception, except the Chief himself, of what might be the future of his scheme. We just imagined a set of boys having a good time on the Island

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under the Old Chief's leadership. Well, this is what it was but it was something much more. A trail was being laid at that camp, to be followed by boys and girls, that would reach round the world.

During the Summer of 1907, the Chief was gradually completing his plans for this camp. He was fortunate enough to find a friend in Mr. Charles van Raalte, who placed a portion of Brownsea Island at his disposal. This island was ideal for the purpose. It is about two miles long by one mile wide, was very thickly wooded in parts with two lakes in the centre and plenty of what we should call now "good Scouting country," and with a sandy southern shore on which the camp was set.

Having chosen his site, the Chief chose his boys, twenty in all, sons of friends at Eton and other Public Schools, poor boys from the East End of London, and a number of Secondary School boys from the neighbouring town of Bournemouth, who were recruited by Mr. G. W. Green, of Poole, a man who for years had been interested in work among boys in his native town.

The Chief was also helped in his preparations by Mr. Henry Robson, Captain of the Bournemouth Boys' Brigade, who told us something of his share in the plans when 500 Scouters made a pilgrimage to Brownsea Island at the time of the Bournemouth Conference in April, 1927. He gave us a very vivid account of the marooning of the stores on the night before the Chief's arrival; how it was only by the mercy of Providence that the whole of the equipment for the camp did not find a watery grave; he also amused us with the story of the "impossible" requests received from the Chief before the camp. "Harpoons," he said, "which the Chief wired for on the eve of the camp, were not readily obtainable in a small seaside town!"

To help in the actual running of the camp, Major Kenneth Maclaren, D.S.O., was chosen by the Chief – a great soldier and a very keen boy-man.

I had been helping during the Summer in collecting material and in making arrangements for the assembling of the boys at Brownsea Island. I was overjoyed, therefore, when the Chief asked me to come and give a hand at the actual camp.

I may as well admit straight away that my only possible qualifications for that job were (1) that I had long been associated with two young people's organisations, Pearson's Fresh Air Fund and The Children's Happy Evening Association in the East End of London; and (2) that I had been brought up on a farm and knew something of the amenities of country life.

But on the technical side of Scouting, Signalling, Knots, Hut and Mat making, emergency work and camp organisation, I was supremely ignorant.

Anyhow, the Chief thought that I could help him and I was delighted to have the chance of being at this historic camp.

The boys arrived at Brownsea Island on July 25th, 1907, and were in camp for fifteen days.

May I quote in the Chief's own words, the programme which he had arranged for part of the period.

1st Day – PRELIMINARY.

After settling into camp formation of Patrols and distribution of duties, orders, etc., each subject of the course was explained with demonstrations.

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Patrol Leaders received a special course of instruction in the field for them to impart subsequently to their Patrols.

2nd Day – CAMPAIGNING.

Camp resourcefulness. Hut and mat-making. Knots, Fire-lighting, Cooking. Health and Sanitation. Endurance. Finding way in strange country. Boat management.

3rd Day – OBSERVATION.

Noticing and memorising details far and near. Landmarks, etc. Tracking. Deducing meaning from tracks and signs. Training eyesight, etc.

4th Day – WOODCRAFT.

Study of animals and birds, plants, stars, etc., stalking animals. Noticing details of people. Reading their character and condition, thereby gaining sympathy, etc.

5th Day – CHIVALRY.

Honour. Code of the Knights. Unselfishness. Courage. Charity and Thrift. Loyal to King and to Employers or Officers. Practical chivalry to women. Obligation to do a “Good turn” daily, and how to do it, etc.

6th Day – SAVING LIFE.

From fire, drowning, sewer gas, runaway horses, panic, street accidents, etc. Improvised apparatus. First Aid. Albert Medal, etc.

7th Day – PATRIOTISM.

Colonial Geography. History and deeds that won the Empire. Our Navy and Army. Flags. Medals. Duties as citizen. Marksmanship. Helping Police, etc.

8th Day – GAMES.

Sports comprising games or competitive practices in all subjects of the course.

The boys were arranged in four Patrols; Ravens, Bulls, Curlews, Wolves. Their names were as follows: –

Wolves Patrol.

R. Wroughton
Cedric E. Curteis
John M. Evans-Lombe
Percy A. Medway
Reginald Giles

Curlew Patrol.

G. Rodney
H. Watts
A. Vivian
T. E. Bonfield
R. Grant

Bull Patrol.

Thomas B. A. Evans-Lombe
Arthur Primmer
B. Blandford
James Rodney
M. Noble

Raven Patrol.

H. Emley
B. Tarrant
W. Rodney
B. Collingbourne
Humphrey Noble.

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In addition to these twenty boys came young Donald Baden-Powell a nephew of the Chief's, such a keen lad, and bearing quite a strong family resemblance to Peter Baden-Powell as he was fifteen years later.

I have many vivid memories of that camp. Hoisting the Union Jack at 8 o'clock every morning was a most impressive ceremony, especially when one realised that it was the identical flag which had been flown at Mafeking. It was riddled with bullet-holes and suffered, I am afraid, still further damage in a big gale which blew one day during the camp.

The Patrol system was a novelty. We were quite astonished to find that the Chief allowed Patrols to camp on their own, under their own Leaders, with full responsibility for their tents, cooking, etc. They were put on their honour to carry out the Chief's wishes, and right well did they respond.

Then the rest after the midday meal was something new. I am not quite sure that it appealed to the boys any more than it did to me. But now, having a son and grandson of my own, I see the wisdom of it.

We were all tremendously thrilled with the Scouting games which the Chief devised, especially when their underlying value was realised.

Deer-stalking was one of the most popular games. One fellow goes off with six tennis balls. Then four hunters each armed with one tennis ball, give him five minutes' start and try to capture him. Three hits constitute a "capture." One hit disposes of the Hunter. This is still one of the best Scouting games I know, where there is plenty of cover. Other popular games were Beat the Bear, Foot cock-fighting and water sports, including Harpooning the Whale and Tug-of-War in boats.

But the most vivid memory of all was the Camp Fire before Prayers and Lights Out. To see the Chief dancing round the fire leading the Eengonyama Chorus, to hear his inimitable yarns, to watch with wonder the ready way in which he tackled any question that was fired at him, to listen to his imitations of the songs of the birds and the calls of wild animals. All this is a memory which will ever remain with me.

Of the "Night" work, I will again quote the Chief's own words: –

"Each night one Patrol went on duty as 'night picket,' i.e., drew rations of flour, potatoes, meat and tea, and went out to some indicated spot to bivouac for the night.

"Each boy carried his greatcoat and blankets, cooking pot and matches.

"On arrival at the spot, fires were lit and suppers cooked, after which sentries were posted and bivouac formed. The picket was scouted by Patrol Leaders of other Patrols and myself some time before 11 p.m. After which sentries were withdrawn and the picket settled down for the night, returning to camp next morning in time for breakfast."

The days passed all too quickly. The break-up was on Thursday, August 9th. On the previous day we accepted a very delightful invitation to visit Mr. van Raalte's house, "Brownsea Castle" as it was called locally. This was full of many wonderful mementos, collected by the owner from all parts of the world, and after visiting the house and grounds, the Scouts were most hospitably entertained by their host.

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In the evening when we returned to camp, I asked one of the boys what had impressed him most. "Splendid tuck in," he said "and Mr. van Raalte's pet monkey, which snatched at the boys' hats as they passed."

The last night of the camp was both happy and sad. Happy in the wonderful memories of a splendid holiday, and sad because the holiday was nearly over.

The main impressions which I carried away from the camp were the wonderful personality of the Chief and the bursting happiness of everyone who was there.

The Chief was the life and soul of every moment, from his first meeting with the boys on their way to the Island, to the time when he saw them off to their homes. I cannot recollect one unhappy episode in the whole of the life of the camp.

The Chief was ably helped by Maclaren, who caught the Chief's spirit and inspiration, and by his Orderly, Donald Baden-Powell, now a distinguished Professor at Oxford. He showed quite a keen sense of responsibility and was a great help to his uncle in running the camp.

May I quote from his reminiscences of Brownsea, given in "The Scouter"?

"Among the first things we did was tracking for which the sand was especially good. We learned to distinguish the tracks of a man running from those of a man walking, and also those of various animals and birds.

"The island was well wooded, with many different kinds of trees and shrubs, and owing to the kindness of the owner, we were allowed not only our camping space, but also had very free use of the island as a whole. A competition was organised to see which boy could collect and name the greatest number of leaves, which we also had to draw, all in a given- space of time. As we were not expecting such a competition to take place, our success depended largely on how much we had noticed the nature of the trees which we had passed every day.

"The owner of the island had a dog which was exceptionally well trained. One day he demonstrated to us that if he dropped something personal, such as a glove, the dog would pretend to take no notice, but would walk soberly along at his heels. Later his master pretended to notice for the first time having dropped the glove and the dog, remembering where it lay, went back to fetch it.

"The Chief Scout may have used these ideas for developing the powers of observation of the boys. Again, after the leaf collecting competition, we were shown how one boy would take leaves from several trees of an outstanding nature, and that, by looking at these, the other boys should be able to follow his trail. Another such object lesson consisted of an area of land reclaimed from the sea on one side of the island which was used to show us what man can accomplish with knowledge and perseverance.

"These occupations such as the technique of camping and tracking, may seem unremarkable to the Scout of today; but it must be remembered that such things were complete novelties to most, if not all, the boys at Brownsea Island Camp, and that details which are mere matters of routine today were evolved and suggested from this first camp and its successors."

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Many letters came from the boys and their parents after the camp was over. One, a working boy, wrote:—"The most important thing that a great many boys need to learn is to look at the bright side of things and to take everything by the smooth handle. I myself found that a great lesson, and I shall never find words enough to thank you for teaching me it. I have already found it a great help, even in everyday life."

Again: "I found it very stuffy when I got home, sleeping in a room, so I opened my window as far as I could; but when my brother came to bed he wanted it shut. But after a bit of an argument, I managed to get him to leave it half open."

Another wrote: "It would be a very good thing if you could have a course of instruction for *parents*, to teach them how to train their sons."

Looking back on the Camp, apart from the Chief's brilliant and versatile personality the features that impressed me most were: –

The Patrol system;
The full use of games;
The Good Turn;
The joys of the Camp Fire;
with a grand background of the Promise and Law.

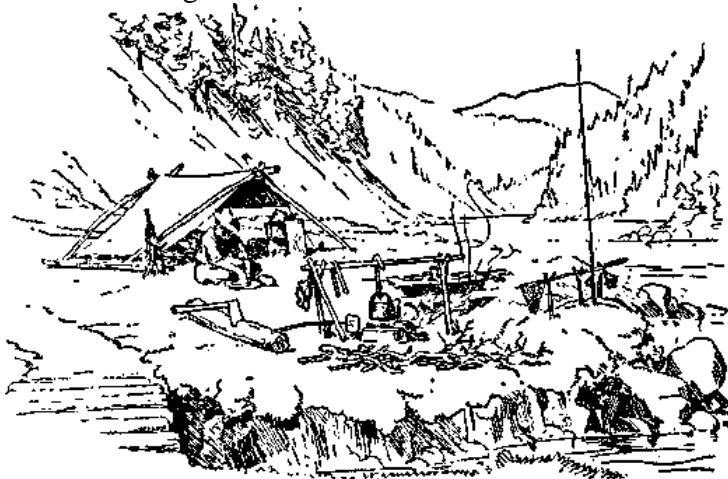
The Chief was delighted with the success of the Camp and there was already enough encouragement to him to decide to give his scheme to the world, so during the winter of 1907-1908, in the midst of his military duties, he started on the preparation of *Scouting for Boys*.

This is perhaps the best opportunity of introducing a reference to the "Coming of Age" Re-union of those who were at Brownsea Island, which took place at "Pax," the Chief's home on July 27th, 1928.

Once the Chief had hit on the idea of having a Re-union, it became my job to track down all those who were entitled to have an invitation. Some had passed on, some were abroad, but I did succeed, after making many enquiries and sending numerous letters and telegrams, in clearing up the history of every individual at that camp.

Out of the twenty boys, seven were dead, seven were out of the country and the rest were present.

You can imagine what a joyous meeting it was, the gathering of what the Chief so well called "The aborigines of the Movement."



CHAPTER III.

“SCOUTING FOR BOYS.”

When the old Chief was satisfied that his Brownsea Island Camp had been a success, he was naturally anxious to tell the people of this country about his experiment.

In his own words, written to me in September, 1907: –

“I now hope to be able to organise the wider distribution of this scheme and to issue a Handbook or ‘Self-Educator’ such as will assist Schoolmasters, Officers of Boys and Church Lads Brigades and Cadet Corps, and all others interested in boys, in the development of manliness and good citizenship among the rising generation, by an adaptable and inexpensive means which is not only popular and attractive to the boys, but is also intensely interesting to the instructors themselves.”

To carry out this programme was no light-task for a man who was already fully engaged in an active Army life, yet during the autumn and winter months of 1907, and in the early spring of 1908, not only did he speak at many large centres of population on the aims and objects of the Movement, but he also found time to write the whole of the first edition of *Scouting for Boys*.

Many of his meetings were organised under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A., who throughout the whole history of the Movement have been tremendously helpful.

Of his speeches throughout the country, I will only say a word or two. He addressed meetings at Exeter, Cardiff, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Darlington, Glasgow, Birmingham, Newcastle, Swansea, Hereford, Manchester and London, amongst other places, and everywhere received an enthusiastic welcome.

I went to two of his meetings and was impressed, like everyone else, with his simple eloquence, his sense of humour and the sincerity of his appeal. He would generally speak for about three-quarters of an hour and then answer with the greatest liveliness, the various questions with which he was bombarded. I do not know of anyone who could hold an audience, whatever its class, creed, age or sex, so well as the Chief, and I am sure that these meetings, held throughout the length and breadth of the British Isles, introduced Scouting to the British public in the most effective possible way.

These meetings, in spite of the most careful planning, involved much night travelling, and as they all took place during the winter months, must have been a real hardship to the Chief. But he carried out the programme which he had laid down for himself, and in between these meetings and his Army work he found the opportunity, as a genuine spare time activity, to write the chapters of *Scouting for Boys*.

There were many consultations in the autumn of 1907 about the methods of publication of his book. Should it appear as a complete work – or in parts? If the former, publication would naturally have to be delayed till the whole MSS. was written – which might mean that the book could not be published till the late spring of 1908.

Meantime, however, as a result of the Chief’s first meetings, letters were pouring in, asking for copies of the book, when little of it had actually been written. So it was decided that publication should be made in six fortnightly parts – the first part to be published just as soon as the Chief could deliver the MSS.

Actually the first part appeared in January, 1908, and the sixth and last part, early in April of that year. The price of each part was 4d.

Having come to this decision, the problem then was how would the Chief find time to prepare the MS. for press?

He had collected most of the material but he was a very busy man with many other important duties. Where and how could he get down to the job? Eventually he took a room in an old windmill on Wimbledon Common to which he could retire when his duties would permit, and be free from all interruptions. It was in this windmill that the early chapters of *Scouting for Boys* were written. Later chapters came from his mother's house at 22, Princes Gate, and some were written on his journeys about the country.

The Chief had the invaluable quality of being able to concentrate anywhere and at any time on the particular job in which he was interested. He could write just as fluently in a train or even in a car, as seated at his desk.

My special duty was to act as intermediary between the hungry printer and the Chief; to extract copy from the Chief, get it set into type and decide how much was to be used in each part, to read proofs, pass the pages and carry out the other technical details which fall to the lot of the sub-editor.

I therefore paid frequent visits to Wimbledon to consult him on the many points which continually arise between author and editor.

Speaking with considerable experience of authors, illustrious and otherwise, I know of no one with whom I have had more pleasant relations than with the Chief. He was quite willing to admit that editors have their troubles and problems, as well as authors! He was so extraordinarily helpful that it was a real joy to work with him and for him.

He was much more business-like than most authors and artists, partly, perhaps, because he adopted that excellent labour-saving device of returning your own letter with his appropriate comments against each paragraph. In this way I could always depend on a quick and satisfactory reply to any queries.

The Chief's MS. was all hand written, and decorated with sketches. Sometimes I would have to wait at Wimbledon while he finished a chapter. It was fascinating to watch him writing and sketching, now with the right hand, now with the left, for, as you all know, he was ambidextrous and could write or draw equally well with either hand.

I can still see him at Wimbledon, surrounded by a mass of papers, sketches, notes and all sorts of cuttings and letters. He was an omnivorous reader of books and papers, and was quick to find and use any fact or incident which would be helpful.

He was also most careful to check any statement made, and I can only remember one instance in which he was misled.



He had sent to me the story of a boy who had shown great presence of mind in a case of poisoning. This was being set up for use when I received the characteristic note which is reproduced as No. 4 in the illustrated supplement.

whole set complete now These Honour Badges should, I suggest,
 be charged for. *Yes*

You promised to let me have a revise of the 2d.
 pamphlet "Boy Scouts Scheme". I am sending you another copy in
 case the ones you have have been mislaid *will return it to you*

I am going to Switzerland for ten days from December
 17th. I should like if possible to put all these things in hand
 before I go. *Good luck to you!*

Yours sincerely,
P. L. Ernest

I suggest badges for
 Pioneering 
 Seamanship. 

Special rules for the badges necessary and I will
enclose
Ernest
10.12.08

Lieut. General Baden Powell.

The sales of the Parts as they appeared were very large. Generally a work which is published in parts goes off with a bang for Part I, with diminishing numbers for subsequent parts. With *Scouting for Boys* it was different; the sales increased as each succeeding part appeared. With this great popularity came an overwhelming flood of letters, not only from Schoolmasters, Educationists, Clergy and people in all walks of life, but also in greater numbers from the boys themselves who had bought the parts and were anxious for any further information that could be obtained about this great new game.

An office was taken to deal with this correspondence, where Major McLaren and later on Miss MacDonald (who afterwards became Secretary to the Girl Guides Association) did yeoman work.

During these early months of 1908, Scouting received great publicity in the Press through the notices of the Chief's meetings and from comments on the Parts as they were published.

The Chief suggested, and wanted to use, another method of publicity, namely, a trained party of Boy Scouts to tour the country. In a letter to me he offered to have the Scouts in Newcastle, where he was at the time, to superintend their training himself, and so get them really good in the various points required before sending them out. "I believe that would be most valuable in spreading the Movement," he added.

We all agreed, but unfortunately it was impossible at the time to find the boys to be trained, so this scheme fell through.

But it is interesting to recall that even in those early days the Chief realised that the example of a good Patrol or Troop was the best possible propaganda for the Movement.

Although deprived of this particular kind of help, Scouting grew by leaps and bounds. Patrols sprang up in all directions, many of them run by the boys themselves. The need for organisation, therefore, became urgent, especially as in April the first issue of *The Scout* was published, about which I shall have something to say in chapter five.

CHAPTER IV.

EARLY TESTS AND THE SILVER WOLF.

Before I pass on to the events which immediately followed the publication of *Scouting for Boys* in parts, I must say a word or two about the contents.

I have just been re-reading these parts and find them so intensely interesting that I am sure that you will agree if I devote this chapter to some interesting comparisons between the message of Scouting as it came fresh from the Chief's mind and the changes that have since been made.

But I ought to place on record here that the first part was actually published on January 16th, 1908, the second on January 30th and the remaining four parts at fortnightly intervals afterwards.

Two other dates are important: the first issue of *The Scout* appeared on April 14th and the complete edition of *Scouting for Boys* in book form was published on May 1st.

Leaving for the moment the early history of *The Scout*, I come back to the six parts which have become historic now, and should be appreciated by anyone who is lucky enough to possess the complete set. There are not many in existence, and I make no apologies, therefore, for quoting freely from them.

In Part I, in the Foreword for Instructors, the Chief emphasises that the system is applicable to existing organisations such as Schools, Brigades, Cadet Corps, or can be worked on its own where these do not exist. He goes on to say:

“But in all cases I would strongly commend the ‘Patrol’ system: that is, small permanent Groups, each under responsible charge of a leading boy, as the great step to success.

“I recommend the Instructor to begin with a Patrol of eight boys and when these have qualified, to select the best five or six to raise each a Patrol of his own and instruct it under his (The Instructor's) supervision.

“A great step is to obtain if possible a room, barn or school to serve as a Club, especially for work on long winter evenings. It must be well-lit and warmed. And to have a Camp-out in the summer.

“There need be no great expense in working a Troop of Boy Scouts.

“Finance must largely depend on the efforts of the Scouts themselves. Methods for making money will be indicated in Part IV. I do not hold with begging for funds if it can possibly be avoided.”

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Here, in essence, is the advice which we give to-day to anyone who is anxious to start a Troop.

The Scout Promise was originally called the “Oath” and ran as follows: –

“On my honour I promise that: –

1. I will do my duty to God, and the King.
2. I will do my best to help others, whatever it costs me.
3. I know the Scout Law and will obey it.”

The word “Oath” was felt to be unnecessarily emphatic and was changed to “Promise” in 1912. As you will see, there has been no change in the spirit of the Promise, only in the wording, which is now rather simpler in character.

There were originally nine Scout Laws almost exactly as they are to-day. The tenth, “A Scout is pure in thought, word and deed” was added in 1915.

The fine explanatory notes which the Chief wrote to accompany the Laws have varied little in the passage of time.

I wonder whether we, as Scouters, are making as much use of them as we ought.

May I again quote the Chief’s notes on one Law, the 8th: –

“A Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances. When he gets an order he should obey it cheerily and readily, not in a slow, hang-dog sort of way.

“Scouts never grouse at hardships, nor whine at each other, nor swear when put out.

“When you just miss a train, or someone treads on your favourite corn – not that a Scout ought to have such things as corns – or under any annoying circumstances, you should force yourself to smile at once, and then whistle a tune, and you will be all right.

“A Scout goes about with a smile on and whistling. It cheers him and cheers other people especially in time of danger, for he keeps it up then all the same.

“The punishment for swearing or using bad language is for each offence, a mug of cold water to be poured down the offender’s sleeve by the other Scouts.”

I want particularly to draw attention to the last paragraph, and I am rather inclined to think, from enquiries I have made, that this form of punishment has fallen out of fashion. Perhaps nowadays boys are easier to control without any sort of disciplinary measures. I wonder?

Speaking from my own experience in running a Troop in the early days, I did find its application on one particular occasion, most efficacious.

Originally an Assistant Scoutmaster was called an Adjutant and a Second a Corporal, but both these titles were soon abolished as having somewhat of a military flavour.

Comparison of the Second and First Class Tests with those of to-day is most interesting. There was no first aid in the Second Class Test, no signalling in either test and no swimming for First Class, or mapping or axemanship. In fact, it would not be far wrong to say that the tests for the present Tenderfoot are about the same standard as those of the original Second Class Scout. The old First Class Badge could be

gained with much the same knowledge as is now required for Second Class. I wonder whether the tendency has been to make the present tests too elaborate and too difficult?

The actual First Class Cooking Test was originally as follows: – “To lay and light a fire, using not more than two matches and cook a quarter of a pound of flour and two potatoes without cooking utensils.”

The history of the Silver Wolf is interesting. Says the Chief: –
“‘The Wolf.’ – The Red Indians of North America call their best Scout ‘Grey Wolf because the grey wolf is a beast that sees everything and yet is never seen.

“So in the Boy Scouts a special badge and title of ‘Wolf will be given as a reward for very special distinction in Scouting; not more than one will be granted in a year.”

And later on: – “A Scout who has the ‘Wolf’ honour is entitled to make the sign with the first finger and thumb opened out, the remaining fingers clenched, thumb upwards.”

The Silver Wolf does not appear until the second edition of *Scouting for Boys*, where conditions of the award are described as follows: – “So in the Boy Scouts a special badge entitled ‘Silver Wolf’ will be given as a reward for very special distinction in Scouting.” The sentence “Not more than one will be granted in a year” has disappeared.

A year later the Silver Wolf is defined as a Scout who has passed 24 tests for efficiency and the “Honorary” Silver Wolf is given in certain cases for exceptionally valuable work on behalf of the Movement.

I used the word “knowledge” in regard to tests just now, but I find this comment by the Chief in the second edition of *Scouting for Boys*: –

“The idea underlying the award of the badges is to offer to the young Scout continual inducements for further improving himself, e.g., from Second to First Class Scout, and then on to pioneering, signalling, life saving and so on.

“The mistake usually made is for Scoutmasters and examiners to require too high a standard of proficiency before awarding a badge. Our real object is to instil into *every* boy and encourage an idea of self-improvement. A fair average standard, of proficiency is, therefore, all that is required. If you try higher than that you get a few brilliant boys qualified, but you dishearten a large number of others who fail, and you teach them the elements of hopelessness, which is exactly what we want to avoid.”

There were only three proficiency badges in the original edition. They were called “badges of honour” – a very nice title which I am sorry has disappeared. They were for signalling, first-aid and stalking. The rest of the badges which now number over 60, were added by degrees over succeeding years and I happen to have the Chief’s original draft for the Cyclist’s Badge which is re-produced facsimile in the illustrated supplement.

There is one interesting paragraph regarding the way badges and medals should be worn which I had quite forgotten: –

“All medals and badges are only worn as above when Scouts are on duty or in camp. At other times they should be worn on the right breast of the waistcoat, underneath the jacket.”

The cover-designs of the Parts were rather a problem – to find something fresh, striking and Scoutlike was a real difficulty. May I reveal here one little secret about the cover of Part II. What was wrong with the picture? It was drawn by an artist whose life had been mostly lived in London and whose knowledge of tracking was infinitesimal. No one spotted the error till the block had been made, the work on the point of going to press. Fortunately the Chief was available for consultation in the emergency. His advice was: “Use it. It would draw attention to the point that the Scout might not try tracking with his back to the light as this boy is doing. If used as an illustration it might be labelled ‘A Boy Scout trying to track with his back to the sun’.” (See the cover of this Book!)

Well, I must say good-bye to the Parts now. Do read them in full, if ever you get the chance. They reveal so vividly and vigorously the spirit of Scouting. The first impressionist picture, painted by the Chief, has a charm which cannot easily be re-captured.

But whether you can get an early edition or not, do read again now your own copy of *Scouting for Boys*. Every time I read it, I find something fresh. So will you.

CHAPTER V.

“THE SCOUT” AND HUMSHAUGH.

Although the first number of *The Scout* was not to appear until April 14th, 1908, plans were being laid, covers discussed, stories and features chosen as early as the month of February.

Both the old Chief and Sir Arthur Pearson took a very active part in these discussions. An Editor was appointed, Mr. Herbert Shaw, already a well-known writer and editor. He was assisted by Mr. H. Holt, who later became our Quartermaster.

Holt had been engaged specially to deal with the vast amount of correspondence which was pouring in as the result of the issue of *Scouting for Boys* in parts; also to interview callers. Mr. Elwes, he often reminded me, was one of his earliest visitors, and Holt had a busy time in satisfying his keen desire for information.

Holt’s job on *The Scout* was partly clerical and partly sub-editorial, but the real responsibility rested on Shaw, who, of course, acted in consultation with the Chief and Sir Arthur Pearson. He certainly deserves the main credit for the successful first issue.

Shaw had vivid recollections of the Brownsea Island Camp, but was very modest about his share in the launching of the paper.

The first number contained a splendid foreword by the Chief, entitled “How I started Scouting,” and I think that this is the right place to mention that every single issue contained his familiar weekly yarn from April 14th, 1908 to January 18th, 1941, except three times – once when his place was taken by Lord Charles Beresford and twice in 1912 by Ernest Thompson Seton, who was then Chief Scout for America and was paying a visit to this country.

Mr. Seton’s wonderful talk at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, in July of that year, will be vividly remembered by those who were present.

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My friend, Haydn Dimmock tells me that the old Chief contributed 1,700,000 words (it is his computation, not mine!) to *The Scout*. A wonderful record.

The appearance of *The Scout* at once increased the number of letters and callers. Still more Patrols and Troops sprang up in all parts of the country. This rapid spread of the Movement made it absolutely essential that some plan of organisation and supervision should be created, which would apply to the whole of the United Kingdom.

As the Chief Scout said in a very early circular: – “The Movement is one which has the power of doing real and lasting good to the boys of our country, but, at the same time, if there is no proper system of control, it can be given a doubtful reputation by youngsters who may use the Scout Badge as a licence for lawless deeds.”

I remember one letter which we received from a boy: – “Please will you send me dozen cards which will allow me to go into fields without being persecuted at 4d. a dozen.”

The Chief, therefore, during the summer of 1908, encouraged the organisation of Boy Scout Committees in all the big centres of population, very much on the lines of the Local Associations of to-day.

Help in forming these Committees was given by Captain Pearse, who was one of the earliest Scoutmasters in North London, and had been appointed by the Chief to help him as a kind of Travelling Secretary.

The first Committees to be formed were at Birmingham, Barnstaple, Ipswich, Shrewsbury, Worcester, Manchester and Scarborough; and in the following districts of London: – Hampstead, Battersea, East London, Wandsworth, Finchley and Islington.

* * *

I had almost forgotten to mention that my own Troop, the 1st Elstree, came into existence in the early months of 1908. No idea had ever crossed my mind of running a Troop. I felt much too ignorant and much too humble to imagine that I could make any sort of success of the job. But what are you to do when a deputation of six boys from your village comes and says in chorus: “Please, sir, will you be our Scoutmaster?”

These fellows had been reading the parts, and were all eager to start. I succumbed, put an old stable at their disposal and spent some of the happiest afternoons and evenings of my early Scout life with them. Together we acquired some of the spirit and adventure of Scouting.

At the same time, I was very doubtful whether my guidance was leading them very far on the right road to good citizenship. Every Scouter must have had this same feeling. I can only say now, looking back on what has happened to the original members of my Troop, “Don’t be discouraged. Sooner or later, if you are sincere in your job, you will find that something you have said has gone home and, though you may not realise it at the time, many fellows in your Troop will be really grateful for what you have done.”

That summer saw a very rapid growth of the Movement, but the Chief was still in command of a Northern Territorial Division and could only give his spare time to Scouting. However, he did manage to exercise a wise supervision over those of us in London who were carrying on the Headquarters Office and were trying our best to

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tackle all the problems of uniform, Troop management, badges, etc., with which we were confronted.

He was not in London much during the early summer but, fortunately he did find time to take a very active part in running the camp that was held at Humshaugh in August, 1908. This was really the first camp of trained Scouts that assembled under the Chief's leadership. There were 36 of them, representing all parts of the country. They were divided into six Patrols, the Curlews, Ravens, Wolves and Bulls, as at Brownsea, with the Kangaroos and Owls. Their tents were pitched 150 yards apart, and each Patrol fended for itself. This was a wonderfully happy, useful and successful camp. It was held on the edge of the Roman Wall in Northumberland, in magnificent Scouting country. The Chief's three assistants were J. L. C. Booth, Eric Walker, who now runs a remarkable hotel in Kenya with wild animals to be watched in safety almost at the door, and W. B. Wakefield, a fine Scouter whose gift of Great Tower Plantation will for ever keep his name fresh in the history of the Movement.

The programme of the camp included expeditions along the Roman Wall; a visit to Haughton Castle, an ancient British fortress; to Hexham Abbey and to the Elswick Works; also many wide games, as well as Bang the Bear, Cock-fighting, Mattress-making, Pole Jumping, Tracking, an attack on the camp and many other Scout activities.

I spent a few days in this camp, and had the honour, when re-visiting the site, of telling the story of that early adventure at a wonderful camp fire which was held on the ground where the original Troop had pitched its tents.

It was rather an uncanny feeling to come back again after 27 years to Humshaugh, and find, not the changes that one is led to expect nowadays all over the country, but the field, the woods, the rocks, just as they were when the Chief gathered his Scouts around him in 1908. No new houses, no new main roads to change the landscape, but just as of old, a perfect camping ground.

Over a thousand Scouts from all parts of Northumberland and Durham, as well as members of the Train 'Cruise, who were staying the night in the district, were present at the Camp Fire – and I think we recaptured for a few minutes, something of the adventurous spirit, something of the pioneer thrills of that first camp.

Carved in the rocks now is the inscription, "B.-P., 1908. Look Wide." Humshaugh is well worthy of a pilgrimage.

CHAPTER VI.

EARLY PLANS.

One more chapter about the year 1908. Looking back on this year, I am still filled with bewilderment at the amazing growth of the Movement and of the many problems, large and small, which were continually cropping up.

The only Scouts at the beginning of the year were the few who had camped at Brownsea and those who had heard of the Chief's scheme, either by personal contact with him or through the Brownsea Scouts.

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At the end of 1908 there were at least 50,000 of them; probably many more; certainly the biggest development of any youth movement in the world, in its first year of existence.

No complete census was taken, but a fairly accurate estimate could be obtained by the sale of the Scout Badge and by the figures which were received from certain parts of the country.

As the numbers grew, so the problems multiplied. The Chief had been purposely vague in certain details of administration, not only because the Movement was still in an experimental stage, but also because he wished his ideas to be sufficiently elastic to prove adaptable to boys of all types, and to any existing organisations which might care to absorb them.

One of the early problems was, what should be the exact title of the Movement? First it was called "The Legion of Boy Scouts." Other names used include "Baden-Powell's Boy Scouts" and "Britain's Boy Scouts."

The Chief was consulted, and his reply was, "Much better stick to 'Boy Scouts,' pure and simple" – and so it was.

Then the Chief had to decide a minor point; should the hat be worn with the ridge or dent in front? His reply was: "I don't care; what really matters is the head under the hat! but if I have to decide, then wear the dent in front."

Organisation and publicity occupied our minds a great deal. It soon became evident that help was wanted throughout the country in forming local committees and giving advice.

The following notice appeared in *The Scout* early in the autumn of 1908: – "Owing to the extent of organisation of the Boy Scout Movement, Mr. W. B. Wakefield has been appointed Scout Inspector for the North of England, Scotland and Ireland, and Mr. Eric Walker for the same post for the South of England and Wales."

In subsequent months, Messrs. Walker and Wakefield did some splendid work in local organisation and in giving encouragement and help to Scoutmasters.

The Chief was very insistent on the value of photographs. In one letter to me he wrote: "The photographs are our very best advertisement; they give the really attractive side of the organisation, and photos cannot lie and thus bring it home to the boys and parents alike. I don't quite know what is the best way to spread them, whether by postcards or by an extra sheet in the Christmas number of *The Scout*, with extra copies for distribution, but I am certain that anyone who sees them will take up Scouting. They are the most attractive and telling advertisement we can issue." He was referring to the photographs which were taken of the Humshaugh Camp, many of which were used in one of the early pamphlets entitled "All about the Boy Scouts." They still seem to be very attractive. (See Illustration 12).

I had sent to the Chief some ideas for a circular which I thought might be helpful. In his reply, dated September 9th, 1908, he says: –

"Many thanks for your draft of a circular. I had already drafted one myself. I now enclose a kind of combination of the two. If it meets your views, please send it round to our leading supporters as soon as possible. I don't think we ought to make the test of Scoutmasters too stringent for fear of putting them off. I think we might issue a guide for Scoutmasters (though it seems to me that the Handbook already provides this):

but all that examiners or candidates need bother themselves about would be the simple tests shown on my list of 'Tests for Scoutmasters.' Hope you agree."

This circular, entitled "Development of the Organisation of Scouting for Boys," duly appeared, dated September 29th, 1908.

It gives much interesting information about the duties of Local Committees, the appointment of Travelling Inspectors, methods of getting badges and of testing the ability of Scoutmasters. Here are the tests for Scoutmasters referred to in the Chief's letter, as set out in this circular:

TESTS FOR SCOUTMASTERS.

- (1) A general knowledge of the handbook, *Scouting for Boys*, especially the "Scout Laws."
- (2) A full appreciation of the moral aim underlying the practical instruction all through the scheme of "Scouting."
- (3) Personal standing and character such as will ensure his having a good moral influence over boys and sufficient steadfastness of purpose to carry the venture through difficulties and slack times.
- (4) Age not less than eighteen.
- (5) Able to provide a clubroom of some sort for Scout meetings.

It is interesting also to record how the Chief proposed to deal with existing Scoutmasters and Scouts: –

"I should like it to be understood that those who have been acting as Scoutmasters during the past few months, and have borne the brunt of the work in the early days of the Movement, will be entitled to the rank of Scoutmasters without going through the Regulation Tests. These would take effect, say, from December 1st next.

"To any of these gentlemen who may be recommended by the Local Committee, or who send me a satisfactory report of what they have done as Scoutmasters, I will award certificates as Scoutmasters.

"In the case of boys who may be wearing First or Second Class Badges, it will be necessary for them to tell the manager under what circumstances they obtained their badges if they wish to obtain a Scout's Certificate, or such certificate will be forwarded on recommendation by the Local Committee."

The Chief asked for suggestions to avoid clashing with existing organisations for boys, and to put Scouting on the firmest possible basis. Many valuable ideas were received as a result of the distribution of this circular.

In another letter the Chief emphasised the importance of lantern slides. Quite a good set was assembled in 1908 and was frequently used throughout the country before the end of the year.

Again the Chief wrote: "I hear of the great want among Scoutmasters for some ideas for Scouting Schemes and Games, only I cannot find time for devising these games. Perhaps a prize to Scoutmasters might elicit some."

Publicity was given to the Chief's notice, with the result that many good games and Scouting schemes were suggested, and the Chief's book, *Scouting Games*, was the result.

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I still have a great number of my own letters to the Chief, asking innumerable questions. They were mainly typewritten and, as I have said, the Chief adopted the practice of returning your letter with his comments upon it. He specially asked that a wide margin should be left to give him plenty of room for his remarks!

I have in front of me one of my letters to the Chief dated December 9th, 1908, in which reference is made to: –

(1) Complete list of Patrol animals, with suggestions for - colours for the shoulder knots.

(2) A request for Patrol Flags for the various animals.

(3) The status of the various new badges and medals for life-saving, including the Bronze Cross, the Silver Cross and Gilt Medal of Merit.

I had outlined the conditions for the gaining of each of these awards, of which the Chief signified his approval.

(4) The free presentation of these awards by the Boy Scouts Organisation – also approved by the Chief.

(5) I sent designs also for the Badges of Honour, as they were then called – for Signalling, First-Aid and Stalking – and asked where they should be worn, and whether he had any other subjects for which similar badges might be awarded.

The Chief promptly made delightful little sketches of two more, Pioneering and Seamanship, and sent the conditions under which they could be earned.

In another note the Chief suggested a small Camping Guide on the experiences of the Humshaugh Camp, giving the work each day, items of equipment of every description that are required, feeding, and the expenses, etc. He says: – “I think it would command a sale as being so useful to hundreds of Scoutmasters and others getting up camps next year.”

This was duly produced.

Other problems were: – When should a Scout salute? What was to be done with Girl Scouts? etc., etc.

I quote a paragraph drafted by the Chief in 1908, on saluting: –

“When the hand is raised shoulder high, that is the half salute; when raised to the forehead, it is the full salute. When a Scout meets another Scout for the first time in the day, whether he be a comrade or a stranger, he salutes with the sign in the half salute. And he always salutes an Officer – that is, a Patrol Leader or a Scoutmaster, or any officer of His Majesty’s Forces – with the full salute.

“He salutes, also, the hoisting of the Union Jack, the Colours of a regiment, the playing of ‘God Save the King,’ and any funeral.”

The problem of the Girl Scouts I will leave to another chapter.

So I could go on describing many other stages in the evolution of the Movement in that first vital year, but I am sure I have said enough to make you all realise what an interesting and strenuous time those of us had who were privileged to help the Chief then.

CHAPTER VII.

1909

1909 was a notable year in the history of Scouting. Numbers increased rapidly and by the end of the year there were at least 75,000 Scouts in the British Empire.

Several foreign countries were also recorded as having started Scouts, including France, Sweden, Germany, the Argentine Republic and Chili. Also, there were many Troops in the British Overseas Dominions, especially in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and India. The Chief also received messages from Scouts in Malta and Gibraltar.

There were many outstanding events in 1909: –

(a) The first appointment of Commissioners, with Sir Edmond Elles as Chief Commissioner.

(b) The publication of the first issue of the *Boy Scouts Headquarters Gazette* (now *The Scouter*) in July of that year.

(c) The Chief Scout's Camp on the Beaulieu River from August 7th to August 21st.

(d) The big Rally at the Crystal Palace on September 4th.

(e) The special interest which his Majesty King Edward VII showed in the Scout Movement.

(f) The formation, in the last days of December, of the Headquarters Committee.

Before dealing specifically with these events, a word or two must be said about the development of the Secretarial work at Headquarters.

The problems of organisation, both at Headquarters and in the field, were becoming increasingly important – also the problem of how best to deal with the supply and supervision of badges and warrants.

Major MacLaren, had been acting as Secretary since the early days and had carried out those duties with remarkable success. He was succeeded in March, 1909, by Mr. J. Archibald Kyle. Kyle had been a very successful Organising Secretary of the South West London District. He was a man of great enthusiasm for Scouting and had a good practical knowledge of the Movement. He had both organising and business ability, and whilst he was Secretary the Movement made great strides, the organisation at Headquarters was placed on a sound basis, whilst the Equipment Department was given a good start.

The Movement owes much to Kyle's businesslike handling of the many problems that arose during his tenure of office.

Kyle received the appointment of Chief Scoutmaster, a position which, though it did not carry much real responsibility, gave a certain seniority to the holder.

Kyle organised the first Scoutmasters' Training Corps at Richmond in the winter of 1909. In a notice announcing the formation of this "Corps," it was stressed that "one of our chief needs at present is that of officers" – just as it is now! Every member of the new Corps had to give an undertaking that he would serve with the Troop for a minimum period of one year after election, and would further undertake that when he left the Troop and had passed the required tests he would train a Troop

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of Boy Scouts on behalf of Headquarters. This Corps was specially helpful, during its short existence, in South West London.

During the year large numbers of local Scout Committees were formed to control the Movement locally and the appointment of Scoutmasters was subject to still closer scrutiny. There were three ways in which a Scoutmaster could in 1909 become officially recognised: –

1. Through a Travelling Inspector.
2. Through three members of a Local Committee.
3. Through two qualified Scoutmasters.

The issue of badges was also a difficult problem. Before the formation of Local Committees, Patrol Leaders badges and First and Second Class badges could only be obtained from the Head Office. When applying for a Patrol Leader's badge, the applicant had to give the name of his Scoutmaster and the Troop to which he belonged. If working a Patrol by himself, he had to send full particulars for registration. In the case of the First Class badge, the name of the Scoutmaster before whom the test was passed had to be given. In the case of the Second Class badge, the name of the Scoutmaster or Patrol Leader before whom he had passed the tests. These conditions were followed in October, 1909, by a considerable tightening up. No badges at all were issued except to the Secretaries of Committees so that in those places where Troops existed and Committees had not yet been formed, the Scoutmaster had to take immediate steps in conjunction with the Commissioner, if there were one, to form a local Committee of representative residents.

No Troop or Patrol could be formed unless steps were first taken to form a Committee for the management of the proposed Troop and any others in the immediate neighbourhood. Until the Committees were formed, cases of isolated Troops were considered on their merits – direct from Headquarters.

* * *

I have already mentioned the early history of the Silver Wolf.

It is interesting to note that the first Silver Wolf Badge awarded to a Scout for badges gained was to Francklin, of the 1st Syston Troop. This was chronicled in the Headquarters Gazette for October, 1909, as follows: –

“The first ‘Silver Wolf badge (a small silver wolf hung round the neck with green an yellow cord), won by a Boy Scout, was awarded to Corporal B. J. Fairfax Francklin, of the 1st Syston Troop.

Corporal Fairfax has gained badges for proficiency as cyclist, pioneer, electrician, seaman, clerk, gardener, musician, horseman, signaller, stalker, cook, marksman, man-at-arms, and is now entitled to make the sign of the Wolf after the Scout salute.”

The Conditions for King's Scout Badge were first published in November, 1909. This badge was created by the special suggestion and wish of His Majesty King Edward VII.

The tests at that time included being a First-Class Scout and having passed four of the following efficiency tests: –

Cyclist	Seaman
Marksman	Ambulance

Signaller
Bugler

Pathfinder
Public Service

one of which must be the Pathfinder's Badge.

In 1909 the number of proficiency badges had now increased to 33, the Ambulance and the Cyclist Badges, as at the present time, being the most popular.

The closest co-operation was maintained with kindred organisations such as the Y.M.C.A., Boys' Brigade, and the Church Lads' Brigade. But in addition many new organisations came into being under such titles as The British Boy Scouts, National Peace Scouts, Rangers, National League of Scouts, and Empire Scouts. These were run on somewhat similar lines to the parent Movement, but were not affiliated in any way. Of these the Chief said in the first Annual Report: –

“We welcome the additional workers and improved methods in the field, so long as they keep on the right line.

At the same time, what seems to be needed, if the good of the future manhood of the nation is really their object, is the concentration rather than the dispersion of such effort, the amalgamation of all into one great ‘combine,’ is the only way of dealing successfully with the big and vital question before us.

In order to prevent confusion among these many associations, it may be well to point out that the parent (Baden-Powell's) organisation is registered under the plain title of ‘The Boy Scouts,’ without any prefixes or additions.”

* * *

I am glad to say that now all these kindred Scout organisations have been merged into the main Movement or have disappeared – or are working in the most friendly co-operation with us.

CHAPTER VIII.

COMMISSIONERS AND THE GAZETTE.

The First Commissioners.

Now we come to the appointment of Commissioners – the Chief Scout's personal representatives in the various districts.

In the early summer of 1909, Sir Edmond Elles joined the Chief in the control of the Headquarters organisation. He was appointed Chief Commissioner, and for 25 years filled that office with rare ability and distinction. The Movement owes much to his wise guidance.

The duties of Scout Commissioners, much as they are today, were first made public in the November, 1909, issue of the Gazette.

I was honoured by an invitation to become Commissioner for Hertfordshire in August, 1909. Although my Troop was taking up all the spare time which I could really give to Scouting, I felt it a duty to assume the greater responsibility. Fortunately I had by this time two assistants, one of whom became Scoutmaster. I was therefore able to concentrate a good deal of energy on the organisation of Hertfordshire. It was a most fascinating job getting in touch with existing Troops and isolated Scouts in different

parts of the County, obtaining a list of their chief supporters, discovering how best to divide the County into Local Associations. I decided that the County could be conveniently split up into 16 areas and before the end of the year meetings had been held at which 12 of the Local Associations had been formed with a well-known local resident as President, a certain number of Vice-Presidents and an Executive Committee of people who would be willing to work actively, with a Secretary upon whom one could depend to deal with correspondence.

I have always felt, and still feel that the Secretary of the Local Association is a most important link in the chain of our organisation. All credit to those splendid people who carry this burden on their shoulders and who do the job so remarkably well, with very little publicity or thanks. The other two key-men are the Chairman and the Treasurer.

I don't think I have ever enjoyed any Scout job more than the organisation of Hertfordshire. Everybody seemed so keen to help this new Movement in any way they possibly could.

This was before my motoring days but I found a bicycle a very useful means of locomotion and for meetings within a reasonable distance of Elstree, walking served on many occasions.

May I quote just one passage from the *Headquarters Gazette* for November, 1909. It gives a good picture of an early Rally.

“The Scouts of the Langley Troop were recently inspected by Mr. Percy W. Everett, Commissioner for Hertfordshire. Mr. Everett, accompanied by his aides-de-camp, Scoutmaster Hemingway and Assistant Scoutmaster Evans and by a Patrol from his own Troop (1st Elstree) arrived at Kings Langley at 3 o'clock and was there met by nearly sixty Scouts of the Langley Troops under the command of Scoutmaster Lieutenant Bramwell Withers.

“A move was at once made to Langleybury Park, where three Patrols took part in a tracking competition. The Langley Scouts then gave an exhibition of stretcher drill, signalling and patrol drill, the Peacock Patrol specially distinguishing itself.

“After tea the Scouts formed up in a large circle, and the Commissioner, in a few words, congratulated both officers and boys on the excellence of the display and the smartness with which all orders were carried out. He also impressed upon the Scouts that while they were learning much that would be useful to them in the future – how to render first aid, how to cook, how to signal, how to find their way about – they must always remember the solemn promise which they made when they were enrolled – namely, to be loyal to God and the King, and to help others. He hoped every Scout present did his good turn every day, and tried his level best to be cheerful, obedient and courteous at all times.

“The singing of “Auld Lang Syne” and the National Anthem concluded a good afternoon, after which the Commissioner left with his Scouts for Elstree, the whole party walking a distance of nine miles home.”


My only comment on this paragraph is: –

Why don't we walk more nowadays? I suppose we are, or think we are, too busy to spare the time.

My warrant as Commissioner is dated September 17th, 1909, and my name is gazetted with eleven others in the September *Gazette*—the first list of Commissioners, apart from Headquarters staff, which was published.

The "Headquarters Gazette."

Just a few paragraphs now about our official publication for the officers of the Movement. The *Headquarters Gazette*, as it was then called, came into being in 1909. It first started as a page in *The Scout*, dated April 10th, 1909. I reproduce the top half of this page. The rest of the page was devoted to a list of Secretaries of Local and District Committees.



HEADQUARTERS' GAZETTE

TO BE KEPT FOR REFERENCE.

HEADQUARTERS' ADDRESS 116-118, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.
Telegram—"SCOUTCRAFT, LONDON." Telephone—2432 GERRARD.

HEADQUARTERS' STAFF:

PRESIDENT and CHIEF SCOUT	Lieut.-Gen. R. S. S. RADEN-POWELL, C.B.
MANAGING SECRETARY	J. ARCHIBALD KYLE
ADVISER	PERCY W. EVERETT, M.A., F.S.S.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Captain D. COLBROOK PEARSE
INSPECTORS	W. B. WAKEFIELD, C.N. CARLETON STIFF, E. G. S. WALKER
QUARTERMASTER	HENRY HOLT.

INSTRUCTIONS AS TO CORRESPONDENCE.

It is particularly requested that all letters referring to Organisation, Scout Reports and News, Camp Fire, Queries, Equipment, and Roll of Honour be addressed to the Managing Secretary at the above address. The department to which the letters refer should be marked on left-hand corner of envelope.

Letters concerning matters purely Editorial, Contributions, Camp Competition, Physical Culture, and Advertisements should be addressed to the offices of "The Scout," 33 Henrietta Street, London, W.C.

The *Gazette* appeared as a separate entity in July of that year.

The first issue was produced in the offices of those very good friends of the Scout Movement, Messrs. James Brown and Son, of Glasgow.

The *Cassette* naturally received a very warm welcome. The first issue contained 16 pages, was bound in a green cover, and the price was 3d. The Chief's introductory message ran as follows:—

"Owing to the increase in our numbers and distribution it has become necessary to issue an official Gazette for the information of our many branches in all parts of the country and of the Empire.

"It is well that these branches should all be in touch with Headquarters and with each other as far as may be possible, in order that they may be run on right lines and to a good standard of efficiency.

“At the same time, by linking all together with a Gazette we are decentralising and giving more individual freedom to the different officers in showing them definitely what are our chief aims and the best steps towards attaining them, and in leaving them to work for these, each in his own way.

“This Gazette is intended primarily for members of Councils and Committees, Secretaries and Scoutmasters, and will in no way take the place of *The Scout*, which will continue, every week, to provide interesting and attractive matter such as will tend to wean the boys from the pernicious literature which is so freely available to them.”

There was also an interesting letter from him to landowners: –

Dear Sir,

May I ask your interest in the Boy Scouts of our District. They camp and scout under certain rules, by which it is hoped they will improve themselves and become good, manly citizens of Great Britain.

If you will be kind enough to grant them permission to go on your land, you would be doing them a great kindness, and would be giving a valuable help to our efforts to improve the boys of our country.

They will carry out any instructions which you may give them with regard to trespass to be avoided and so on.

Also, they will be glad to do any jobs that you may wish in return, such as mending fences, weeding, or chopping wood.

Hoping that you will be prepared to help us in this,

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) R. S. S. Baden-Powell.

The number also contains an account of the successful visit of eight Boy Scouts to Germany and of a return visit of German Scouts to this country.

The organisation of local Boy Scout Committees is explained in detail; a list of equipment obtainable at Headquarters is given. Then follow the names of local Secretaries and of warranted Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters. There is an article on Esperanto and on the Spion Kop disaster (one of the chief incidents in the South African War). Also some advice on First Aid.

In succeeding issues there were many interesting announcements by the Chief, and reports were published regularly each month of the doings of individual Troops and Associations.

The Chief wrote on such subjects as: –

Funds – earning, not begging.

Red Tape.

Recruiting (with a strong appeal not to accept boys from other organisations, except by mutual consent).

Sunday Scouting. This is what the Chief said: –

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

“Briefly, my idea is that every Scout unit should make a point of attending Divine Service on Sunday, either at Church, Chapel or on parade; and that the rest of the day should be devoted to Scouting in the form of ‘nature study,’ in the fields and woods if fine, or museums, etc., if wet, so that Scouting may take the place of the usual loafing which is so largely prevalent throughout the country on Sundays.”

Another contribution by the Chief is headed: –

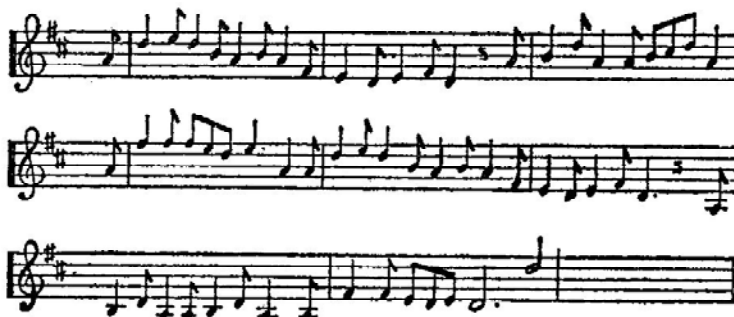
Scouting Instruction: – Which end to begin at.

His answer was: “The right end for the teacher to start with is the end with the Jam on it.”

He also wrote on camping, particularly standing camps, weekend camps, tramping camps and ship or boating camps, and emphasised the value of small camps. He suggested a circular rally from cover, rather than a ceremonial parade.

There was also a splendid whistling song, words and music by the Chief, which I reproduce.

THE WHISTLING SONG



When fun's about the Scouts are out,
Are out upon the trail,
And each Patrol seeks out its goal
By road, or river, or rail.

Hoh!

Old Tommy Smooks wears saucy boots,
When out upon the trail,
etc.,

And Willy Jones will rattle his bones,
When out upon the trail,
etc.,

It's "Be Prepared" and don't be scared
By difficult work or play;
To play the fife, or save a life,
Is all in the work of the day.

Hoh!

From the very first number, the *Gazette* established itself as an essential part of the equipment of every well-regulated Scouter.

CHAPTER IX.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE RALLY.

The Chief's Third Camp.

I now come to the Chief's camp on the Beaulieu river, which was held from Aug: 7th to Aug: 21st, 1909. Actually there were two camps, one on land at Bucklershard, by permission of Lord Montague Beaulieu, on the shores of the Beaulieu river. The other on Mr. C. B. Fry's training ship, the *Mercury*, which was lying in the river Hamble, and was lent for the occasion.

There were 100 Scouts in camp for the fortnight divided into two sections, and they changed over at half time. Among the boys camping were Rudyard Kipling's son, and Donald Baden-Powell, the Chief's nephew, who had been present both at Brownsea and Humshaugh.

A very varied programme was provided under the Chief's supervision, including seamanship, swimming, signalling, life-' saving, map-reading, cooking and astronomy.

Mr. C. B. Fry, the famous cricketer and athlete, having lent his training ship, was present as an observer, and paid a glowing tribute to the discipline of the camp, and quick assimilation of boat work and seamanship, and the simple unaffected enthusiasm of the boys. He also told me how impressed he was that no damage at all was done to the ship which was full of attractive tackle.

The late Mr. H. G. Elwes also spent the fortnight in the two camps. He was there to report to the Archbishop of York on the possibilities of Scouting for boys coming under the care of the Church of England Men's Society. He, too, was impressed with the hearty, friendly and unselfish spirit of the camp. He emphasised the importance of daily prayers and religious observance, and concluded his report by saying that after 13 years' work among boys, he had seen no scheme with such wonderful possibilities for influencing character.

Mr. Elwes' experiences of this camp led naturally to the discussion on religious policy which ensued at the Scouters' Conference preceding the Crystal Palace Rally. After that Conference followed those meetings with the leaders of the churches in which Mr. Elwes took the principal part, and which finally led to the formation of our religious policy.

The Movement owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Elwes for his pioneer work in building up this charter of religion to which all leading denominations subscribed, and which has given to Scouting a stable, inter-denominational character.

But I have digressed from the Camp which, from first to last, was an unqualified success. There was no illness, "no case of insubordination" (to quote from a contemporary report), and all the boys benefited in health, happiness and helpfulness.

The weather throughout was wonderful, until the last day when it rained without ceasing. Outdoor displays were cancelled and the 100 boys met in the *Mercury* for the presentation of badges and the final farewell talk by the Chief.

One little experience of the Chief at this camp: When he arrived in his car just about tea time, it was noticed how wet the Chief was. On remarking on his wet condition, the Chief said he had been on the steamer to the Isle of Wight, and on board the boat he found there were two women who had not kept their weather eyes

open, and so soon as the storm began, one had to have his coat and the other his waterproof. The Chief Scout did not forget to practise what he preached.

Crystal Palace Rally.

The Rally of 11,000 Scouts which was held in the afternoon of September 4th, 1909, followed the Conference of Scoutmasters which took place earlier in the day. This had been called by the Chief to discuss, among other problems, the attitude of the Scout Movement towards religion.



By courtesy of "Punch"

The Conference, which was attended by over 100 Scouters, was opened by the late Mr. H. G. Elwes, in a speech in which he pleaded for an open acknowledgment of the religious foundation of the Scout Training.

The two following resolutions were unanimously passed:

That the attention of all Scoutmasters be called to the first obligation of the Scouts' Oath, namely, Loyalty to God, and that they be requested to consider the

best means of keeping this obligation prominently before the notice of their respective Troops.

That the leading representatives of various denominations should be invited to a Conference to discuss methods by which a common and practical religious ideal may be better imparted to the Movement.

* * *

As I have already said, the Conferences with religious leaders which followed upon this resolution led to the creation of our religious policy almost in the form in which it appears in *P.O.R.* to-day.

Other subjects were discussed at this Conference, including militarism and Scoutmaster's uniforms, but religion was the chief topic. The Chief, in his closing address, said: –

“Religion had been foremost in his mind when he wrote the Handbook for the Movement, but one man could not lay down definite lines for such a scheme. What was wanted was a practical religion that entered into the boy's life – not lip service only, but a daily life ideal.”

Of the Rally itself my most vivid impressions are of the large number of Scouts who were present – many more than was expected; the cheeriness of the Scouts, in spite of the dreary, misty afternoon which turned to heavy rain and drove us indoors for the March Past; the delightful surprise of the message from the King, which I quote in full:

“The King is glad to know that the Boy Scouts are holding their first Annual Parade. Please assure the boys that the King takes a great interest in them and tell them that if he calls upon them later to take up the defence of their country, the patriotic responsibility and habits of discipline they are now acquiring as boys will enable them to do their duty as men, should any danger threaten the Empire.”

Finally, the Chiefs message to his Mother. He said: “Like you I have a Mother, and it is her birthday to-day. She looks upon me as her son, and upon you as her grandsons. I am going to send her a telegram of congratulation, and if any Scout would like to join me in it, let him put up his pole.” (Eleven thousand poles were upraised).

During the afternoon there had been a variety of competitions in trestle bridge making; tent pitching; signalling; live-saving; swimming; ambulance; model competition; boxing and cycling, among others.

One of the enthusiastic Press men thus describes the scene:

“Eleven thousand boys appeared on parade. They came from all parts of the United Kingdom. Bare-kneed young adventurers, wearing with straight-backed pride their khaki shirts and knee-breeches, their backwoodsman hats and cowboy cravats, they went about their business with an admirable spirit and discipline.

“A fine, crackling, bustling show began the day. Boys careered round the track on bicycles, picking up wounded; stretchers were improvised and carried by three cyclists; bugle bands marched by; there was tent-pegging and there was lemon-slicing. Then

CHAPTER X.

KING EDWARD VII's INTEREST.

The keen interest which King Edward VII took in the welfare of the Scout Movement was shown in many ways during this year. First and foremost was the personal tribute paid to the Chief Scout, when His Majesty, having expressed the wish to hear, first hand, about the ideals and progress of the Movement, invited the Chief to Balmoral, and bestowed on him a knighthood.



By courtesy of "Punch"

The Chief, in writing about his talk with the King, said:

“He has carefully watched our progress, understands our training, and is evidently deeply interested in us. He is especially pleased with the fact that we are not merely banded together to play games, but are a great brotherhood who are learning to be resourceful and able to look after ourselves, and who also can look after other people by doing good turns and saving life, and who are willing and able to help our country if called upon to do so. He was much interested to hear of the several recent cases in which Scouts have assisted the police at risk to themselves.

* * *

“The King’s encouragement is enough in itself to make everyone of us, from the Chief Scout to the last-joined Tenderfoot, put his back into it and work harder than ever to get efficiency all through our Movement.”

Earlier in the year, the King had accepted a copy of *Scouting for Boys*, and had expressed his appreciation of the Old Chief's wonderful work for the youth of this country. He inspected the Scouts at Norwich on October 25th, 1909, and complimented them on their turn-out. And again in Stirlingshire, where the Scouts formed a Guard of Honour at Duntreath Castle, His Majesty noted the fine appearance of the Scouts and wished them all success.

He had shown his close knowledge of the details of Scout training when he suggested to the Chief that a King's Scout Badge should be instituted.

He had sent a greeting to the Scouts at the Crystal Palace Rally. Finally he had expressed the wish that the Scouts should parade before him at Windsor in the following summer.

Unfortunately the King died before his wish could be fulfilled, but in the following year, 1911, King George V took the place of his father and rode round the cheering ranks of 30,000 Scouts at that memorable Rally in Windsor Park on July 4th, 1911.

King George continued to show his interest in the Scout Movement until the time of his death, and now we have the same active support and kindly interest from our present King.

The First Headquarter's Committee.

During 1909, the responsibility for the development of the Movement increased enormously, and the Chief felt that it was most important to have a properly constituted Committee to assume control at Headquarters, especially in view of his prolonged oversea tours.

The following official notice on the subject appeared in the January number of the *Gazette*, 1910:

The extensive development of the Movement has necessitated a considerable enlargement of the directing staff, and an Executive Council has now been formed for carrying on the work. This council at present consists of the following, with power to add to their numbers:

CHAIRMAN: Lieutenant-General Sir R. S. S. Baden-Powell, K.C.B.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Major General Sir Herbert Plumer, K.C.B.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER: Lieutenant-General Sir Edmond Elles, G.C.I.E.

COUNCIL: Colonel Ulick de Burgh, C.B.; Colonel Brownrigg; Mr. H. Geoffrey Elwes; Mr. Percy Everett; Mr. Francis Pixley.

SECRETARY: Mr. J. Archibald Kyle.

Actually this Committee was constituted in December, 1909. The first meeting was held on December 17th.

It was agreed to hold weekly meetings every Friday at 4 p.m. So far as the main Committee was concerned, the change was soon made to monthly meetings, but the various Sub-Committees have met weekly ever since.

Simultaneously with the creation of this Committee, the Chief invited certain distinguished persons to join a Headquarters Council.

The first four acceptances came from Lord Roberts; The Earl of Meath; Sir John Kirk (Chairman of the Ragged School Union); Sir Matthew Dodsworth (Chairman of the Y.M.C.A.); followed by Lord Charles Beresford; Viscount Esher; the

Bishop of Ripon; the Hon. E. Lyttleton; Sir Lauder Brunton; and Sir Frederick Nathan.

So, under the happiest auspices for Scouting, 1910 dawned.

CHAPTER XI.

CAMPING AND MIDDLESEX MEMORIES.

My memories of big events in 1910 are rather scanty. So much of my spare time for Scouting was spent in the organisation of Hertfordshire and Middlesex, as well as in my own Troop.

But as a member of the Executive Committee, I shared in the decision to give the name of “Commissioner” to the Chief’s representatives in the various districts. Nowadays, one cannot imagine them by any other title. But then we had to choose between “Organiser,” “Adviser,” “Scout Head,” or “Representative.” I think we chose the best word.

Also Scout Councils and Local Associations came into existence by name. Their duties and powers were also more closely defined.

Another problem which the Executive had to tackle was the invasion of the Movement by women.

With some diffidence we decided that ladies could, under special circumstances, become Scoutmasters. This was a tremendous step to take in 1910, and many of our Scoutmasters were not at all favourably disposed towards the innovation. However, their misgivings were overcome and by the end of the year, ladies who had received official appointment fully justified the confidence that had been placed in them.

Another very debatable question was the wearing of badges by Scoutmasters. In the early days, quite a large number were very gaily decorated with badges, all-round cords and other adornments. The final decision then was that these adornments were not encouraged, but they were not forbidden!

Later in the year we started making plans for the Royal Rally at Windsor, but, alas, His Majesty King Edward VII died and the Rally, which was to have been held in June, 1910, was abandoned – to be revived by the wish of King George V, and carried through with complete success in June, 1911.

My letters from the Chief in 1910 cover a wide range of subjects. Frequently he stresses the picturesque side of the ‘Movement – the left-hand shake, salute, Patrol calls and the Eengonyama Chorus – and hopes that every Scoutmaster will-see the real value of them in their appeal to the boy.

He urges the importance of getting good men to act as Secretaries of Local Associations. I quote: –

“The ultimate success of the Movement depends on the preliminary organisation, so it is important work that they are doing.

“I am not anxious about *moderate* success. I feel sure that that is bound to come, but I want to see a *big* success, so that eventually every boy in the country is got hold of and trained for citizenship.

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

“So I hope your Secretaries will keep this great national aim before them and not be disheartened or turned aside by small local difficulties, which are bound to pop up from time to time.”

He approves (with amendments) some camping suggestions which I had drawn up for the guidance of the Scouts in Hertfordshire and Middlesex. These, after giving advice as to choice of site, sanitation, kitchen, rubbish, washing, feeding, stores and water (I quote the headings), finished up with the following general rules: –

1. Prayers every morning.
2. No night attacks; lights out not later than 9.30 except when night exercises are ordered.
3. At least one Scoutmaster to each Troop.
4. Ground sheets to be supplied for each Scout.
5. All refuse, paper, etc., to be destroyed at once.
6. The camp fire and all cooking and feeding utensils to be cleaned and put tidily away immediately after every meal.
7. In fine weather the tent brailing to be rolled up before breakfast and let down at sunset.
8. Tent inspection to be a daily order – all kit outside tent except in unsettled weather.
9. A stated time for all work and the work will be done. Stick tight to a daily routine which should be planned in detail the night before.
10. The officer in charge should not try to do everything himself. Let him shift the work on to the Scoutmasters and Scouts. Give the latter as much responsibility as possible. Make them do everything for themselves.
11. See that the Scouts are well housed, well fed and well occupied, then you may be sure of a successful camp.
12. Don't camp on military principles, but on those of the Scouts, each tent separate' from the others, containing a Patrol. Patrol Leader to be responsible for the good order and smartness in his tent and for the cleanliness of the ground round it.
13. Every Scout to report immediately to his Scoutmaster if he feels ill or misses his rear two mornings running.
14. Compulsory rest for half an hour after mid-day meal.

The Chief also emphasised the value of Pioneering and Good Turn Displays at Rallies, rather than imitation military parades. “Displays,” he said, “should not be long drawn out; all should be done quickly and smartly.”

On the subject of Badges the Chief writes: –

“These badges are merely intended as an encouragement to a boy to take up a hobby or occupation and to make some sort of progress in it; they are a sign to an outsider that he has done so; they are not intended to signify that he is a master in the craft in which he is tested. Therefore, the examiners should not aim at too high a standard, *especially in the first badge.*”

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

“Some are inclined to insist that their Scouts should be first-rate before they can get a badge. This is very right in theory; you get a few boys pretty proficient in this way; but our object is to get *all* the boys interested, and every boy started on one or two hobbies, so that he may eventually find that which suits him the best and which may offer him a career for life.

“The Scoutmaster who uses discretion in putting his boys at an easy fence or two to begin with, will find them jumping with confidence and keenness, whereas if he gives them an upstanding stone wall to begin with, it makes them shy of leaping at all.

“At the same time we do not recommend the other extreme, of which there is also the danger, namely, that of almost giving away the badges on very slight knowledge of the subjects. It is a matter where examiners should use their sense and discretion, keeping the main aim in view.”

A good many new badges were added in 1910, including the Pathfinder, Missioner, Handyman, Swimming and Life-saving, besides the Blacksmith, Carpenter, Photographer and other craft subjects.

The original Swastika or Thanks Badge, since appropriated by Germany, was first announced in June, 1910.

I was fairly busy that year with my own Troop, besides my duties as Commissioner for Hertfordshire, to which were added Bedfordshire for a short time, and Middlesex from May, 1910, until June, 1913.

The growth, of the Movement in Middlesex is well exemplified from the fact that in 1911 I was delighted to chronicle an increase in the number of Scouts from 911 to 1,246, in 1912 from 1,246 to 1,779, and another jump to 2,137 in 1913.

Then, under the inspired leadership of Mr. Hubert Martin, the number of Scouts in Middlesex rose to 11,230 in 1935 and with Jeffery as the County Commissioner, to 17,800 in 1948.

It was as Commissioner for Middlesex that I first came in touch with Mr. H. S. Martin, Mr. P. B. Nevill, Mr. Stuart Monro, Mr. Ernest Young and Mr. Percy Armytage, all of whom have rendered such distinguished service to the Movement.

Mr. Martin was Scoutmaster of the 3rd Chiswick Group from 1910 until 1914; he became County Commissioner for Middlesex in 1919. He was a member of I.H.Q. Council and Executive Committee, and Director of the International Bureau till his death in 1938.

Mr. Nevill was Scoutmaster of the 1st Enfield Troop in 1910, until 1913, was appointed A.D.C. Enfield and ran the 1st and 5th Enfield Troops for most of the war period. He has held and still holds many invaluable Headquarters appointments.

Mr. Munro started as a Scoutmaster of the 1st Staines Troop in 1910, has done much County and District work in Middlesex, and is now Hon. Adviser for Dramatics.

Mr. Ernest Young, was in 1910 Scoutmaster of the 4th Harrow, a very fine Troop, associated with the Harrow Secondary School. For some years Mr. Young was Headquarters Commissioner for Education.

Mr. Percy Armytage, first Scoutmaster of the Cranford Group, was one of my earliest friends in the Movement. His association with the Royal House was of great value to the Boy Scouts.

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

As Headquarters Commissioner of Works and as a member of the Executive Committee and the General Purposes Committee, he gave outstanding help to Scouting till his death in May, 1934.

I am rather proud to remember that those five men were all Scoutmasters in Middlesex in 1910.

In those days, Haydn Dimmock was an Enfield Scout, who impressed me by his energy, enterprise and intense Scout keenness.

I was very glad, therefore, for him to join my editorial staff where he quickly blossomed out as a fully qualified Editor and, as all Scouts know, has edited "*The Scout*" with conspicuous success for thirty years;

It is interesting also to note that it was a Middlesex Scoutmaster, the Rev. A. R. Brown, 1st Enfield Highway, who first raised in concrete form the problem, "What shall we do with the boys under 12?" An article on the subject from his pen appeared in the *Headquarters Gazette* for January, 1910. He recommended forming "Training Squads," with the elder boys as leaders; the uniform consisting of a red cloth polo cap and a red elastic belt, otherwise ordinary clothes – the programmes chiefly to consist of picnics, games and a few physical exercises and lessons in obedience and cleanliness! But it was not until the year 1916 that the Cub Movement came into being.

CHAPTER XII.

THE WINDSOR RALLY.

The King's Rally in Windsor Park on Tuesday, July 4th, made 1911 a specially noteworthy year, but in the same period many other projects – some thorny ones – and much of supreme importance to the future of the Movement – came up for discussion and decision. Amongst these was the award of the Silver Wolf for number of badges gained the upper and lower age limits of Scouts, the possibilities of starting senior and junior sections, the uniform of Scouters and the wearing of badges by them, the 10th Scout Law, Sunday Scouting, Bugle Bands and the title "Corporal" for Second in Command of the Patrol. The Committee was, therefore, fairly busily occupied.

Of the Rally it will be remembered that it was postponed from 1910, owing to the death of King Edward VII, but King George V at once expressed his readiness to carry out his father's wishes and the date was fixed for the 4th July, 1911.

The preliminary preparations were in the hands of a committee of three, consisting of Sir Herbert Plumer, as he was then, Colonel Brownrigg and myself, under the guidance of the Chief, who took an extraordinarily active part in all our proceedings.

About 30,000 Scouts came to Windsor for the day, quite the largest gathering of boys that had ever assembled.

The Rally went off without a hitch. The King, who, with the Chief, rode on horseback right round the line of assembled Scouts and Scouters before the formal rush in, expressed his pleasure and admiration of the Rally in most enthusiastic terms.

I don't think anyone who witnessed the great onrush of 30,000 Scouts towards their King, to be pulled up as if by magic, in the appointed semi-circle, will ever forget it.

Queen Mary who, with all their family, witnessed the Rally from an open carriage, was most favourably impressed, and many of the spectators told me at the time that they had never witnessed a more moving sight.

The Old Chief said that what struck the King more than anything else was the many different types of men who had become Scoutmasters and were in the long semi-circular line which His Majesty inspected. They included famous Admirals, Generals and other officers of the Navy and the Army – business men and clergy intermingled with farmers and other splendid fellows, who, the Chief told the King, were coachmen, postmen and, in fact, men drawn from almost every walk of life.

To the Chief was due the complete success of the day. He had thought and planned and laboured for weeks beforehand. He superintended personally every detail on the day itself, and when all was over, as I have often related before, he was found in the streets of Windsor at 1 o'clock in the morning, just having a final look round to see that no one had been left behind – a marvellous example to us of his complete thoroughness.

Thousands of congratulatory letters and messages were received. I will only quote one from Sir Frederick Dyson, the Mayor of Windsor.

"I think that you will like to hear what an impression the behaviour of the many thousands of boys who were either in or passing through the town for nearly a day and a half, has made.

"I have enquired from many people, including the Chief Constable, and the verdict is that they were most courteous and polite and their conduct exemplary, and they behaved as English gentlemen.

"In spite of the long journeys which many of them had and the excitement of the Review, and the hours that they were on parade, they were bright and cheerful and on the march either singing or whistling.

"Everybody speaks of them in the highest manner possible."

My own Silver Wolf dates from that Rally.

Only one further personal note about the Rally. I collected a large number of photographs and had them made up into an album, for presentation to the Chief. Here is one paragraph of his reply: –

"... as a memento of what was to us all the real birthday of our Movement and to me personally perhaps, the best day of my life. It is exactly what I could wish to have and I've got it!"

One of the outstanding events of the early days of 1911, was a dinner at which the Duke of Connaught presided. It was attended by eminent men of almost every calling. The Chief termed it an "inaugural banquet." The King showed his interest by sending a donation of £50. Over £3,000 in all was subscribed, a very welcome addition to the working funds of the Boy Scouts Association.

Following very shortly after came the first Training Course for London Scouters organised by the Chief during the last days of January, culminating in a camp held at Kendal Hall, Elstree, the week-end, February 4th-6th.

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I was fortunately able to arrange a Rally of Hertfordshire Scouts on the Saturday at Kendal Hall, by permission of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Tillyer Tatham, who had always taken the keenest interest in the Movement, and whose son at Eton went to Canada with the Chief's contingent.

The Rally and Camp fitted in very well together. Here are some of the subjects which were included in the Course: – Scout Ceremonial and Camping; How to run a Troop; Character Training; Health and Sanitation; Food; Physical Development; Contenance; Religion; Public Service; while Captain White, a Scoutmaster, as well as a prominent member of the Legion of Frontiersmen and an experienced backwoodsman, gave most interesting and practical instruction in camp shifts and expedients, in camp cooking, use of the axe, building log-huts, etc., together with yarns at the camp fireside of stirring incidents of a frontiersman's life.

The County Rally which was held at the request of the Chief for the Scouters included the Eengonyama Chorus, Bridge-building, First-Aid, Parade, Fire-lighting, Fire Engine Display and Manoeuvring by silent signals.

I think the Chief was pleased with the organisation of this Rally. Here are his comments: –

“Altogether a very good sample was given of what a Scouts' Rally should be – well-designed and well-prepared beforehand, and effectively carried out.

“Although to Scoutmasters it may have appeared to be a somewhat ordinary Rally, yet to the onlookers, of all classes, it was – according to several accounts which they gave me – an eye-opener to the aims and attainments of our Movement.”

Another successful Training Course was held in Yorkshire in the middle of February, 1911.

This same year saw the start of the International Department. As a result of the Chief's visit to Norway, Sweden and other Northern European countries, he was urged to create some organisation to co-ordinate the activities of the Scouts in the different countries.

This was done in the month of November in order, as the Chief put it, to form a friendly alliance for the mutual interchange of views by correspondence and thereby to promote a closer feeling of sympathy between the rising generation in the different countries.

The Chief had been so much impressed by the cordiality with which he had been received in every country and the great friendship and admiration expressed for their brother comrades by the Scouters and Scouts abroad.



CHAPTER XIII.

SOME THORNY PROBLEMS.

In view of the interest that is being taken by the Government and educational authorities in the health of the nation, I recall with special satisfaction the Old Chief's advice, ventilated in public speeches and at meetings of the Headquarters Committee, and in *The Scouter* in the year 1911: –

“What we require are a few simple exercises of different parts of the body to develop the functions of the vital organs, such as the heart, lungs and stomach, whereby a good foundation may be laid for general health and endurance in each boy, as well as the bodily development in points where he may be, below the average standard.”

In my experience of Troops in many different parts of the world, it is as true to-day as it was in 1911, that a boy's fitness depends far more on the observance of the elementary laws of health than any elaborate system of physical drill.

The Chief's exercises in *Scouting for Boys*, coupled with due care of teeth, ventilation, cleanliness inside and out, diet, clothing and breathing, supply all that a growing boy needs. He gets plenty of natural exercise in his games.

One other of the Chief's major dreams came true in this same year, namely the starting of a farm where Scouts could be trained for life on the land, both in this country and overseas. Mr. Newgass, of Frant, Sussex, put at our disposal Buckhurst Place, an estate of 100 acres with large grounds which could accommodate up to 200 boys. Mr. Mealing, one of the Middlesex Scoutmasters at the time I was County Commissioner for that County, was appointed Principal and a little Committee from Headquarters, of which I was a member, used to meet there at regular intervals, with responsibility to the Chief for its management.

The farm was run on the Patrol system, and each Patrol had a small acreage which the boys could run for their own profit.

In spite of the fact that the soil was none too kindly, so hard in hot weather that it was difficult to get a fork or even a pick-axe into the ground, and so soft and clinging in the wet that it would wrench the heel off a shoe, some splendid work was done and many boys were trained and given an opening overseas.

When at the outbreak of the war the supply of boys failed, it was necessary, owing to the heavy expenses, to close the place down.

Then during that year there were continuous agitations first to raise and then to lower the Scout age and also to start branches for the younger and older boys.

At first the Chief had said that a boy could be a Scout at 10. The age was then raised to 11, the upper limit being 18. Some wanted the lower limit to be raised still further, to 12 or even 13. Some were in favour of reducing the limit again to 10 years. Others wanted the upper limit to be reduced to 16.

Controversy in *The Scouter* and elsewhere waxed fast and furious on these points, but we soon began to realise that these problems were all wrapped up in the bigger psychological problem.

The Chief and the Committee obtained all the information they possibly could. After much discussion, they came to the conclusion that it was useless still further to alter the ages.

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The only possible solution lay in special sections being formed for the younger and older boys.

The Chief concurred and promised that he would tackle the position as soon as he possibly could, but he was still a very busy man, so though in actual fact the Cubs were started experimentally in 1914, no official branch was formed until 1917.

The Cub pioneer was Miss Vera Barclay, daughter of the well-known novelist, Florence Barclay. She was a very fine Scouter from Hertfordshire, and I had long noticed with admiration the way in which she ran the Junior Section of the Hertingfordbury Troop.

Colonel de Burgh, our first Deputy Chief Commissioner and one of the finest and truest Scouts that the Movement has ever produced, was the pioneer of the Rover Scout Section.

* * *

Meantime one horrid practice had to be stopped. At Rallies and Troop Parades a baby Scout often appeared, i.e., quite a young boy, 5-8 years old, dressed as a Scout to act as a sort of mascot to the Troop. This was quickly bringing the Movement into ridicule. The Chief decreed that no such Scout could be recognised and the craze quickly died out.

In 1911 the Equipment Department which had started in a very small way, increased its business by stocking clothing as well as badges. A very wise step, which prospered decidedly under the management of Mr. H. Holt.

Other problems which agitated the Committee in 1911 were: –

(1) *Bugle Bands*. These began to grow alarmingly, in number, and though the step was very unpopular in some quarters at the time, it was decided by the Committee that Bugle Bands must be discouraged. Once this decision was reached there was no further trouble.

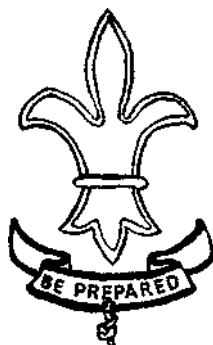
(2) *Silver Wolves*. The giving of the highest award to a Patrol leader who had gained 24 badges led to undue stress on gaining the number of badges quickly and, I am afraid, cheaply.

I remember one case of a boy who had only been in the Troop just over a year, and had gained 25 badges and so was eligible for the Silver Wolf.

So in August, 1911, the conditions were modified so that it was impossible to gain the Silver Wolf as from January 1st, 1912, unless the boy were a King's Scout, had two years' service and twelve proficiency badges, and had performed some very fine piece of Scout service.

Quite soon after the conditions were completely revised, more or less on the lines now in force.

(3) *Scouters' Uniform*. This was another thorny problem. Many weird and wonderful adornments still appeared, not necessarily wilfully, but through ignorance or other reasonable causes. The rule was therefore amended and clarified, and a very strong note was written by the Chief in *The Scouter*, with the result that the worst of the costumes rapidly disappeared.



Scout's Badge.

(4) *Badges for Scouters.* Great controversy raged round the wearing of badges by Scouters. Much could be, and was, said for and against – the strongest argument in favour being the example to the boy. The Committee came to the conclusion that the badges were for the Scout and not the Scoutmaster and that the gaining and wearing of them by the latter was undesirable. I am glad to say that the Movement backed up this decision right loyally.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE ROYAL CHARTER.

January 4th, 1912, was a very important day in the history of Scouting. It was the day on which the Royal Charter of Incorporation was signed.

This historic document marked the official recognition by H.M. King George V and his Privy Council, of the great conception of our Chief, and gave to the Movement a special standing in the eyes of the country, which it never had before.

The first members of the Boy Scouts Association under this Charter included such well-known names as Lord Charles Beresford, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Earl of Meath, Lord Plumer, Earl Roberts, the Earl of Rosebery, all of whom have passed to Higher Service.

There were thirty-one original members of the Association. The only two survivors in 1948 are the Earl of Shaftesbury and myself.

I remember the care which had to be exercised in obtaining the correct titles and descriptions of the various Signatories. For instance, the Archbishop of Canterbury's full description was as follows: –

“The Most Reverend Father in God Randall Thomas by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, P.C., G.C.V.O., D.D.”

In the Charter, the King speaks as follows: –

“Now therefore know ye that we being always ready to give our Royal Countenance and Encouragement to all useful and charitable works do of our special grace and mere motion by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors, give grant and ordain that (*here follow names of Council*) shall be one body corporate and politic by the name of The Boy Scouts Association for the primary object of instructing boys of all classes in the principles of discipline, loyalty and good citizenship.”

Furthermore King George V reserved to himself the right to be First Patron and the Chief Scout was nominated as first Chairman of the Council.

The original Executive Committee of the Governing Council was as follows: –

The Chief Scout, Mr. C. C. Branch, Colonel H. S. Brownrigg, Col. Ulick G. C. de Burgh, Sir Edmond Elles, Mr. H. Geoffrey Elwes, Mr. C. R. Davison, Lt. L. H. Hordern, Maj.-General H. B. Jeffreys, Mr. F. W. Pixley, Rev. W. H. G. Twining, Mr. R. Young, and myself; only General Jeffreys and myself now survive in 1948.

Major A. G. Wade was appointed the first Secretary under the Charter; and during 1912 Mr. Ewan Cameron was appointed Joint Secretary, Wade's special duties being organisation and Cameron's administration.

The rapid development of the Movement kept them both fully occupied till the outbreak of war in 1914, when they rejoined the Army and served their country with distinction.

My recollections of the brilliant work of both Wade and Cameron in the interests of Scouting during their tenure of the secretarial offices, are of the happiest. The Movement was fortunate then, as it is now, in its Secretariat.

Early in the year the Chief started an extended Scout tour overseas, to America, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Vivid accounts of his wonderful reception everywhere appeared in *The Scouter* and *The Scout*.

In the United States alone he visited twenty-one centres – addressing public meetings and taking part in Scout Rallies on every occasion. He also had an audience of the President at White House, Washington.

The Chief's views of the American boy were interesting: –

“The American boy strikes one as somewhat different from his British cousin. He is, I should say, much cleverer and sharper for his years, and much more independent. So that although he does not so much need that part of our Scouts' training which tends to develop individuality, he still needs, perhaps even more than the British boy, that part which inculcates self-discipline, chivalry and sense of duty.”

During the year I was busily engaged as County Commissioner for both Hertfordshire and Middlesex. I even started a magazine for the latter County! I was also Scoutmaster of my own Elstree Troop. At Headquarters, too, there was plenty to be done as a member of the Executive, which met weekly for the first half of that year, and then fortnightly.

During the year I was also rash enough to write a series of articles in the *Headquarters Gazette*, on Scouting, which embraced such a variety of subjects as Education, Amusements, Finance, Character Training, Badge Earning and the Scout's Future.

Forgive me if I quote a few sentences of the first article: –

“*Scouting for Boys* should not only be in the hands, but should also be in the brains and heart of every Scoutmaster.”

* * *

“Do not start with a big Troop.”

* * *

“Every boy has his own individuality and every boy will require a different handling.”

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* * *

“Put yourself into the boy’s place.”

* * *

“Let every boy look upon you as a friend to whom he can go for advice and guidance on all subjects.”

* * *

“Don’t try to do everything yourself. Shift the responsibility on to your Leaders and let them pass some of the responsibility to the individual Scouts.”

* * *

“Besides getting to know the boys themselves, it is very important to get into touch with their parents.”

* * *

“Discipline in the Troop is very necessary but it must not be at the expense of discipline in the home.”

* * *

Such points as these seemed to meet with appreciation, to judge from the big correspondence which followed.

But then, as now, the office received a vast amount of letters on a variety of subjects.

There was a terrific discussion about “sleeves up,” a fashion then only just coming in to follow the Old Chief’s example.

The bugle nuisance, now fortunately beginning to die down, brought many letters. The appointment of Lady Cubmasters and the use of the title “Second,” the wearing of badges in mufti were also popular topics. In fact, the tackling of queries in the post and the interviewing of callers with problems to be solved, were amongst the most interesting and important of the duties of the Headquarters staff.

* * *

The latter part of 1912 was specially noteworthy for the Chief’s marriage on October 30th.

A couple of months earlier his engagement to Miss Olave Soames was officially announced.

It came as a surprise to most of his friends and was received with much enthusiasm by the Movement.

But amongst the many thousands of letters which reached the Chief, one specially amused him. Said the writer: –

“I am dreadfully disappointed in you. I have often thought to myself ‘how glad I am that the Chief Scout is not married because if he was he could never do all these ripping things for boys.’ And now you are going to do it. It is the last thing I should have expected of you. Of course, you won’t be able to keep in with the Scouts the same as before because your wife will want you and everything will fall through. I think it is awfully selfish of you.”

The Chief said: –

“That is the wiggling I have had for getting engaged, but I can assure the Scouts that the writer is wrong; I shall keep in with the Scouts just as much as ever.

“My future bride is as keen about Scouting as I am; she will help me in my work, so that the marriage, instead of taking me from the Movement, will bring in

another assistant to it, and one who loves the Scouts as they, I am sure, will love her, so soon as they get to know her.”

Those who were privileged to meet Miss Soames before her marriage with the Chief had no such qualms.

We knew instinctively that she would be a tremendous asset to the Movement, and on looking back to that momentous event in the Chief’s life, we all realise how much both the Scouts and the Guides owe to this happy union.

CHAPTER XV.

THE BIRMINGHAM RALLY.

The great event in 1913 was the Birmingham Rally and Exhibition. Though it was not to be held until July, plans were being laid and perfected throughout the previous winter.

In view of the importance which the Chief attached to the display of handicrafts, plenty of warning was necessary. It was the first effort which had been made on a large scale, to demonstrate to the public the value of Badge Work.

I have never seen anywhere, before or since, so comprehensive and impressive an exhibition of what Scouts can make. As the Chief said to the Scouts at the opening of the Exhibition: –

“People know what a Scout looks like, but they don’t all of them know what he is and what he can do, and it is what you do that matters.”

Almost every badge was represented, from Bee-farmer to Blacksmith and from Laundryman to Basket-worker.

The Exhibition was opened by Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck (now the Earl and Countess of Athlone) on Wednesday, July 2nd, at Bingley Hall, Birmingham. It lasted a week and attracted crowds of visitors all the time.

The big Rally was on Saturday, July 5th, and was much on the same lines as the Windsor Rally. Prince Arthur of Connaught represented H.M. The King.

Another feature of the Birmingham show was a very fine Sea Scout Display, under the charge of Lord Charles Beresford, who was then Chief Sea Scout. This took place on Edgbaston Reservoir on July 4th. It was a very wet blustering afternoon and there was quite a “sea” on the reservoir.

An excellent programme was carried out including ships capsizing and their drowning crews being rescued by swimmers and boats. Also crews of sinking ships saved by the aid of rocket apparatus and breeches buoys, with other thrilling displays afloat.

These were followed by a Rally of about 50 boats, with a stirring address to the Sea Scouts by Lord Charles Beresford at the stern of his launch.

Altogether the Birmingham programme was carried out with complete success from beginning to end.

One of my most interesting experiences during the early part of 1913, was the impressive ceremony at Chingford on March 15th, when the new reservoir was opened by King George V and Queen Mary.

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Only a fortnight before the Scouts were asked by the Metropolitan Water Board to provide a Guard of Honour and I was invited by the Chief to take charge. It meant a bit of a hustle, but 3,000 Scouts from North London, Essex, Middlesex and Hertfordshire, responded to my invitation and we were able to line the route on both sides of the private roadway leading to the reservoir.

All the Scouts had a particularly good view of Their Majesties, both on arrival and departure, their car slowing down to walking pace as they passed through the lines.

The King and Queen were evidently very pleased with their reception, and gave me a most cheering message to give to the Scouts afterwards.

I had little thought then that within the next few years I should have to take a hand in selecting the Central Camping and Training Ground for Scouts, overlooking this reservoir.

We at Headquarters were deputed by Mr. de Bois Maclaren, a Scottish Commissioner, to find a likely site near London as a gift to the Chief. After seeing many places, in the end we choose Gilwell Park, which, as all the Scout world knows, was presented to the Movement in 1919.

Two other interesting events for me in 1913 were the Middlesex Scout Rally at Harrow on June 7th (I was still County Commissioner for Middlesex) and the Hertfordshire County Rally on June 14th. We were lucky in getting good weather and a successful show on both these occasions.

The Harrow Rally was specially memorable because the Chief Guide made her first public appearance at a County Rally representing the Chief Scout. She came in the new car given to the Chiefs as a wedding present and was received with tremendous enthusiasm. This Rally was also my farewell to Middlesex.

My most vivid recollection of the Hertfordshire Rally is, not the Displays or the Handicrafts Exhibition, but the fact that one of the Troops showed a model apiary, containing 20,000 bees. Quite unjustifiably, I worried a lot as to what would happen if these bees got loose among 2,000 Scouts.

A word or two about the Chief's wedding present from the Scouts.

Naturally we consulted him and suggested certain alternatives. His letter to me dated March 25th, 1913, is interesting: –

“Many thanks for your letter *re* the Scouts' wedding present.

1. *Re* portrait by Herkomer. I have already four portraits of myself by different artists! – so don't much hanker for another.

2. Picture by Carlos I would like – but

3. The motor car appeals more. A motor car in which my wife and I could visit Scouts everywhere – as a kind of return for their kindness it would bring us nearer to them in their own car. If the sum subscribed does not run to a brand-new car a good second hand one is easily got nowadays, quite as useful as a new one. And it would be a very great help to me in getting about to Scout inspections.”

So a car was chosen, a *new* one. A 20 h.p. Standard with a silver model of a Scout on the front of the radiator.

A special ceremony was arranged for its presentation by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, President of the Boy Scouts Association, on May 7th, 1913.

Unfortunately, though the formal presentation took place then, the actual car was not ready for delivery until May 17th.

The Chief's first passenger, he told us, was his Mother, who was 88, and had never been a long drive in a car before. She liked it so much that the Chief took her for quite a distance out of London.

CHAPTER XVI.

SENIOR SCOUTS AND WOLF CUBS,

During the latter months of 1913, the problem of the boys over and under Scout age became more insistent. A good deal of time was spent at the meetings of the Executive and in consultation with the Old Chief, with a view to forming some definite policy for both sections.

Of the Senior Scouts the Chief wrote in the November *Gazette*:

"It has long been a general desire on the part of all the Movement, that some means should be devised for keeping ex-Scouts in touch with the Movement and under its good influences. We believe that we have found a means to this end in the form of an Insurance and Friendly Society for Scouts. Every lad on attaining the age of 16 has, by law, to subscribe to an approved society of this kind so that he may as well belong to the Scouts' Benefit Society as to any other. It will have its branches all over the country, and he will thereby be able to transfer from one branch to another, according as his career takes him elsewhere.

"The various centres being subsidised by Government, will be self-supporting, and the periodical local meetings of members, called for passing accounts and other business, will serve to keep up the social and friendly ties of the brotherhood.

"It is thought that the members will prefer to be bound, under some similar promise to that of the Scouts, to be helpful to others. Some ritual for entry into the Senior Scout Branch will therefore be devised to that effect.

"I have very many applications from grown-up men asking whether there is any way by which they can join the Scouts to carry out their ideals. Of course, my reply is that by becoming Scoutmasters they can do it, but I think that this Society will also attract many of them."

Thus the Scouts Friendly Society started on its successful career. But it did not quite fulfil all the needs of a Senior Scout Branch. This problem remained in abeyance for another four years. It was not until 1917 that the Senior Scout Scheme for the more advanced training of Scouts over 15 (note the age!) was initiated, and a year later that the Rover Scout Scheme was fully launched.

The problem of the younger boy had come up from many sources. Some Scoutmasters wanted to lower the age for Scouts. Others desired different methods of tackling the boy of nine or ten. Others again, thought that we ought to confine the Movement to those boys of Scout age and not worry about the older or the younger fellows.

But so many Scoutmasters were worrying about the boys between 9 and 11 and tackling their difficulties in their own way, that something had to be done.

It fell to my lot to prepare a scheme for Junior Scouts – as we called them in the office then—for submission to the Chief.

Here it is as put forward for his amendments early in November 1913: –

Suggested Rules for Junior Scouts.

Title. Wolf Cubs or Young Scouts.

Age. A boy can become a Young Scout at the age of nine, and he can continue as one till the age of twelve, though he may, at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, become a Scout when he reaches the age of eleven.

Uniform. A Young Scout wears uniform like a Scout, but with the following difference: Instead of the Scout hat he wears a cap, dark green in colour with a yellow cord border. Instead of the Scout shirt he wears a jersey, He is not allowed to carry a staff. He may not wear any of the Scout Badges or any of the other Scout decorations. He may not wear either shoulder knots or garter tabs.

The privilege of wearing these is gained when he is promoted to be a Boy Scout.

Organisation and Training. Troops or Patrols of Young Scouts will be run, so far as possible, on the same lines as Scout Troops and Patrols. Fuller details of the training will be found in the Chief Scout's new book (shortly to be published) entitled *Wolf Cubs. A Handbook for the training of Young Scouts,*

RANKS.

(1) *Young Tenderfoot or Cub.* A boy must satisfy his Scout master that he knows the Scout signs and the Salute. Then he promises to try and help other people at all times. He is then entitled to wear the Young Scout's Wolf Cub Badge, and become a Young Tenderfoot or Cub.

(2) *One Star Cub.* Before being awarded the Star (which is yellow and is worn on the front of the cap) the Young Tenderfoot must: –

(a) Know the composition of the Union Jack and the right way to fly it.

(b) Be able to tie the following knots: – Reef, sheet bend, clove hitch, bowling, fisherman's and sheep shank; and understand their special uses.

(3) *Two Star Cub.* The tests for this rank are exactly the same as for a Second Class Scout, except that Clause "A" reads: "Have at least three months' service as a one-star junior," and in Clause "D", "thirty minutes" is allowed for tracking and in Clause "E" fifteen minutes to do a mile at Scout's pace.

Troops or Patrols of Wolf Cubs can only be started with the sanction of the District Commissioner.

On November 19th, the Chief wrote to me as follows: –

"Thank you very much for the proposals re Junior Scouts. I think them very good and just what is wanted.

"Two points I suggest for further consideration: –

"1. The name '*Junior Scouts*' will never do as a permanent one. I never thought of keeping it – but it does for preliminary use as explaining the Movement. We must invent a name that will appeal to the small boys. One S.M. called his 'Beavers,' Not a bad idea.

"Another man suggested to me 'Nippers.'

"I had originally in my mind 'Wolf Cubs' or 'Cubs', or 'Colts', or 'Young Scouts.' 'Trappers' might be an attractive name if explained that a 'trapper' is

assistant to a hunter or Scout. Doubtless you can think of a name. ‘Cub’ might do for ‘Tenderfoot’ junior.

“2. *Cap*. I was going to suggest a khaki sailor’s cap as giving a more uniform appearance – but I daresay your green cricket cap would do equally well, and be more in keeping with their school cap, etc.

“In any case, I think a jersey is more applicable to small boys than a shirt, and gives them a smarter appearance.

“All this is minor detail – but the principles seem already formulated. I shall have to write a *small* handbook for Junior Scouts, I think. What do you say?”

On December 9th he sent me some additional suggestions. These included an introductory note: –

Junior Scouts.

“Everybody agrees in the importance of keeping touch with ex-Boy Scouts at the critical age between boyhood and manhood. Hence our scheme for ‘Old Scouts.’

“But very many are also equally agreed on the importance of getting hold of boys younger than the Scout age and shaping them in the right direction while they are yet specially susceptible to good influences.

“So convinced of this are many that a large number of boys are allowed to be Scouts before they have reached the authorised age.

“This is bad for them and bad for the Movement. They are apt to overstrain themselves in trying to do the same work as bigger boys. The bigger boys feel ridiculous when parading with very small boys in the same uniform.

“For these reasons, this scheme of Junior Scouts is now offered.”

The Chief also sent me his first original designs for the Badge and the Salute, and the first draft of the Promise. These are reproduced facsimile in the picture supplement.

And finally, on December 10th, 1913, I had a further note from the Chief, in which he said: –

“The rules might show that Patrols of Young Scouts may be formed in connection with existing Troops as feeders.”

This scheme was carefully considered by the Committee and was started experimentally in the country in 1914. Owing, however, to the great war, no final plans were settled then.

CHAPTER XVII.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA’S RALLY.

My memories of the first seven months of 1914 are naturally dwarfed by the momentous event which followed, i.e., the outbreak of the Great War on August 4th – but these early months were full of interest.

The Wolf Cubs or “Young Scouts” received the official blessing of Headquarters in an article which was published in the *Headquarters Gazette* in January, 1914. The Promise and the tests for One Star and Two Star Cubs, were all set out. There was no Cub Law then. The publication of these details led to a vast

amount of correspondence. Cubs, and the scheme for training them, were welcomed especially by ladies who saw in this new Branch of the Movement a special way in which they could help the Chief. A very large number of packs were started, and many men and women who were specially attracted by this novel method of training the younger boy joined the Movement then.

Early in the year, too, came the first beginnings of Part I of the present Wood Badge Course. Each month, until the outbreak of war, the Chief outlined in the *Gazette* a very carefully thought out scheme for "Scouting for Scoutmasters" as he called it. Questions were set and replies submitted to a Board of Examiners at Headquarters, consisting of Colonel De Burgh, who was then Deputy Chief Commissioner, Captain Wade, Secretary of the Boy Scouts Association, and myself. Subsequently the services of Mr. Elwes and Mr. Ernest Young were also enlisted.

A large number of Scouters entered the Course. To help in the training, many Study Patrols were formed and week-end camps were arranged.

The task of reading the papers submitted occupied a great deal of our time during the summer months. It was a herculean job, but a mighty interesting one.

Before recommending candidates for the Chief Scout's Certificate, we had to satisfy ourselves that they were proficient, not only in the written replies but also in the practical work connected with the management of their Troops. This was more difficult.

Investigations however, were carried out all over the country but unfortunately owing to the war, the final results were never completed.

Two interesting new ranks, if you can so call them, were made by the Committee in 1914, both on the recommendation of the County Commissioner for London, namely: Scout Inspectors and Scout Advisers. I don't like the sound of either of them in the light of more recent experience, and I do not think that either rank survived the war very long.

A Scout Inspector was a person who might be appointed on the recommendation of the County Commissioner, to test the qualifications of Scouts for the badges they possessed. They were to receive a warrant from I.H.Q. with the rank of Instructor and were to be allowed to wear the uniform and the badges of that rank.

A Scout Adviser's duty was to visit Districts to advise Commissioners, Local Associations and Scouters. They were evidently the forerunners of the Travelling Commissioners of to-day.

Two outstanding events in the early months of 1914 were: –

(1) The Manchester Conference, held at Manchester Grammar School, April 11th, 12th and 13th.

(2) Queen Alexandra's Rally on the Horseguards Parade, June 13th.

I have not space to give details of the Manchester Conference which was one of the most inspiring I have ever attended.

Its success was largely due, first of all to the Chief who was present throughout and summed up practically every Session in his own inimitable way, and then to Geoffrey Elwes, Arthur Gaddum and Roland Philipps, a triumvirate of organisers who made the whole Conference go with a swing, both in and out of Session.

I have paid my tribute elsewhere to the life and personality of Roland Philipps. His cheeriness and enthusiasm were quite irresistible.

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

I had seen a good deal of him in 1913 when he asked me to come and speak to the East London Scouts on the 5th Scout Law. He himself wrote and talked so well to boys that I asked him to write those letters on the Patrol System which have proved so helpful to the Movement ever since.

He was always most humble about his own ability to write for Scouts, and most grateful for any help.

In one of his notes to me written on April 22nd, 1914, he writes as follows: –

“Thank you for helping me so readily in connection with the publication of the book on the Patrol System.

“I hope that one day the happiness may come along of doing some Scout work with you and under your direction. A great many of the best things in Scouting seem to emanate in some way or another from the County Commissioner for Hertfordshire.”

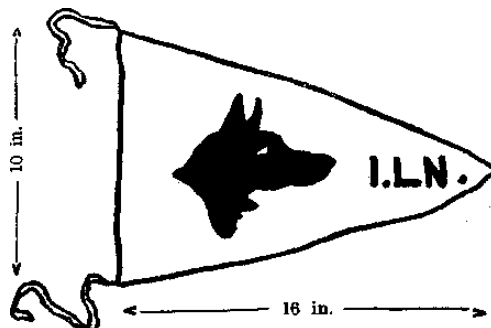
His death in action two years later was a disaster to the Movement. But fortunately in his writings and at Roland House we are still able to capture something of his wonderful Scout spirit.

The second notable event in the Summer of 1914 was Queen Alexandra’s Rally when 11,000 Scouts from London and the Home Counties were inspected by Her Majesty and her sister, the Empress Marie of Russia, on the Horseguards Parade, on June 13th. The Rally was in every way a brilliant success, under the leadership of General Jeffreys, then Commissioner for London.

May I say in passing that there is no one in the Scout Movement who has such a long, consistently fine record of good Scouting as General Jeffreys. After leaving London, he became County Commissioner for Sussex. He is just as young and keen a Scout as ever, though I believe, in point of age he could have given the Chief Scout a year or two’s start.

My most vivid impressions of that Rally are of the thoughtfulness of Queen Alexandra in inviting the Chief and General Jeffreys to join her in her carriage which was proceeding at walking pace through the ranks of the Scouts with the Chief on foot in front, and the wonderful charge of thousands of Scouts from the far side of the square shouting their Patrol cries for all they were worth. As the Chief said, it was a magnificent and moving sight.

Other activities of 1914 included the registration of the Scouts Friendly Society and the inauguration of an appeal for a Scout Endowment Fund. Mainly through the Chief’s inexhaustible efforts in speaking in the big cities and making innumerable personal appeals, over £ 100,000 was already subscribed when war broke out and this like many other valuable activities, had to be suspended.



Patrol Leader’s Flag of “The Wolves Patrol” of the 1st London Troop.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE FIRST GREAT WAR.

The day that war broke out the Chief Scout wired and wrote to all County Commissioners pointing out how the Scouts could help the nation in this great emergency.

The response was wonderful and within a few hours, thousands of Scouts all over the country were guarding bridges, railways, reservoirs and telegraph lines. A very large number were also employed in carrying messages, collecting information and generally supplying the needs of hospitals and Government Offices; also of municipal and public authorities.

Being able to rig their own shelters and cook their own food – being organised in patrols – they were absolutely prepared to carry out many other useful duties – especially in coast watching.

In the Coastguard Service alone, 1,400 Scouts were employed. They received no pay, but a subsistence allowance of 1s. to 1s. 3d. per day. To give an idea of the extent to which the Scouts helped in this work, over £50,000 was paid by the Admiralty to the Boy Scouts Association for subsistence allowance for Scouts on coastguard duty.

During the winter, the Scouts on coastguard duty suffered considerable hardship, owing to the severe weather, but an appeal from the Chief brought in a fine supply of warm clothing.

Queen Alexandra showed her very practical sympathy with the Scouts by providing a Christmas dinner to all on coastguard duty on the North Norfolk coast.

The Scouts on coastguard duty were under fire on many occasions and acquitted themselves well. At Whitby the coastguard station was shelled and blown to pieces by a German man-o'-war, and one of the Scouts on duty, Bob Miller, a King's Scout, was so seriously wounded that his leg had to be amputated.

The Chief telegraphed his sympathy and received a reply from Miller that he was still smiling.

Meantime, news came of many brave deeds of Scouts at the front. I only mention one – Lieutenant J. H. S. Dimmer, of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He was the first Scout to win the Victoria Cross and actually "his was the first Cross awarded for fighting in Flanders.

He was in charge of a machine gun during the attack on November 12th at Klein Zillebeke. The men with him were shot down one by one, but he continued to serve the gun himself, and he was wounded no fewer than five times, three times by shrapnel shells and twice by bullets. But he stuck to his gun until it was finally destroyed.

As the Chief said, this was a fine example of "sticking to it," and of the motto "Never say die till you're dead."

Many Scouts who were at school at the outbreak of war and who volunteered for public duty, were given special exemption by the education authorities.

In other instances they were allowed to do a week on duty, alternating with a week at school.

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

The Chief Scout instituted a War Service Badge which could only be gained by a Scout who did at least a month's voluntary service connected with the war. Over 20,000 of these badges were issued in the first year.

Another idea of the Chief's which met with instant success was a strong message headed:

“TO THE BOYS OF BRITAIN.”

“Boys of Britain! Don't go about waving flags and shouting because there is war. Any ass can do that. And don't stay idle, doing nothing – that is almost worse. Come and do something for your Country. She needs your help. The Boy Scouts are now a service in all parts of the Kingdom. Come and join the nearest Troops in your own district and do duty like a man.”

This was published throughout the country and created a wonderful impression. The result was a very big rush of boys to join the Scouts. Roland Philipps told me that in East London alone on the first day when the Chief's appeal was issued, over 200 boys came to the local Scout Headquarters and asked to be enrolled.

All through these early days of the war, we were amazed at the Chief's ceaseless activity; in organising and inspiring the Scouts to help their country, in starting the Old Scout Corps and the Scouts Defence Corps, in writing innumerable articles and letters, in undertaking big tours of inspection to encourage the Scouts on coastguard duty, in initiating recruiting schemes, and in placing his services at the disposal of the Government in many important ways outside the scope of the Movement; you can imagine, therefore, that his time was very fully occupied.

Within a week of the outbreak of war the uniform of the Boy Scouts Association, with the fleur-de-lys badge, was recognised by His Majesty's Government as the uniform of a public service non-military body. This was a wonderful gesture to the Movement. Special instructions were, of course, issued that no Scout or Scout Officer in uniform must on any account carry arms.

The following notice was issued to Scouts in London: –

A FEW POINTS FOR SCOUTS TO REMEMBER.

You are now wearing uniform publicly recognised by Government. The honour of it lies in your keeping.

We cannot always get the jobs we like; we must therefore do our best to like the jobs we get.

Nobody can afford to waste time; a Scout certainly cannot. When he is not doing work he can always be learning how to do it.

Above all, be clean and tidy, alike in your person, your work (so far as it permits), your manners and conversation.

People will then be glad to employ you.

Do things for yourselves, don't leave it for your mothers to do for you; remember they have plenty to do as it is, and will be glad of any real help you can give them.

Headquarters was naturally a very busy centre, and I often counted as many as 50 bicycles along the kerb, outside 16, Victoria Street (then the Headquarters of the

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

Scouts), all belonging to Scouts who had come to carry messages and orders for the Chief and for H.Q.

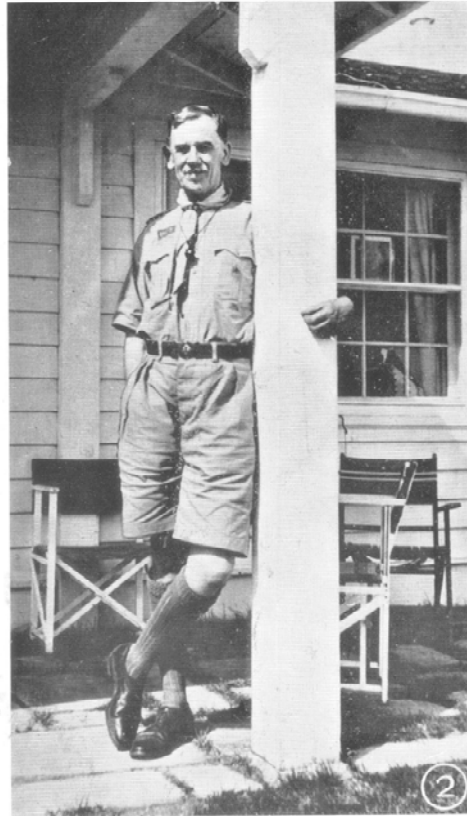
The war brought great changes in the staff. Both Wade and Cameron, the joint Secretaries, resumed their military service during the month of August and it is interesting to recall that we tried to persuade Dymoke Green, our present Secretary, to come and help. -But unfortunately he was unable to give his whole time to the work, so Mr. C. H. West, C.I.E., was appointed Secretary, to be joined in 1917 by Dymoke Green, as Assistant Secretary.

A year later, Green was appointed Secretary, a position which he held for 21 years with great advantage to the Boy Scouts Association.

One sad piece of news I must mention here. The death of the Chief's mother in October, 1918, was a deep blow, not only to him but to the whole Movement. She had always taken a keen interest in the progress of Scouting, and as the Chief said in his "Outlook": "With her enterprise and experience, she urged me to go on with the idea recognising from the first the educational possibilities that underlay it, such as I had hardly foreseen myself.

"So it was largely thanks to her that the Scout Movement made its start in the world."

And so I come to the end of my personal reminiscences of the first 10 years of Scouting. The wonderful growth of the Movement, its speedy flow into all civilised countries, the many historic events in the life of our old Chief, the brilliant phase of Scout history when Lord Somers was our Chief Scout, 1941-1944, and the even brighter chapter which is dawning for the Movement with the indomitable energy and the wonderful inspiration of our new Chief, Lord Rowallan – all these will be told in the official history of the Movement which Josh Reynolds is writing.



P. Everett Sr.

Please delete the story I sent
you for Sixty of Boys of the
land who saved his mother's
life from poisoning; Independent
in Ohio shows he had killed
her with the wrong remedies!

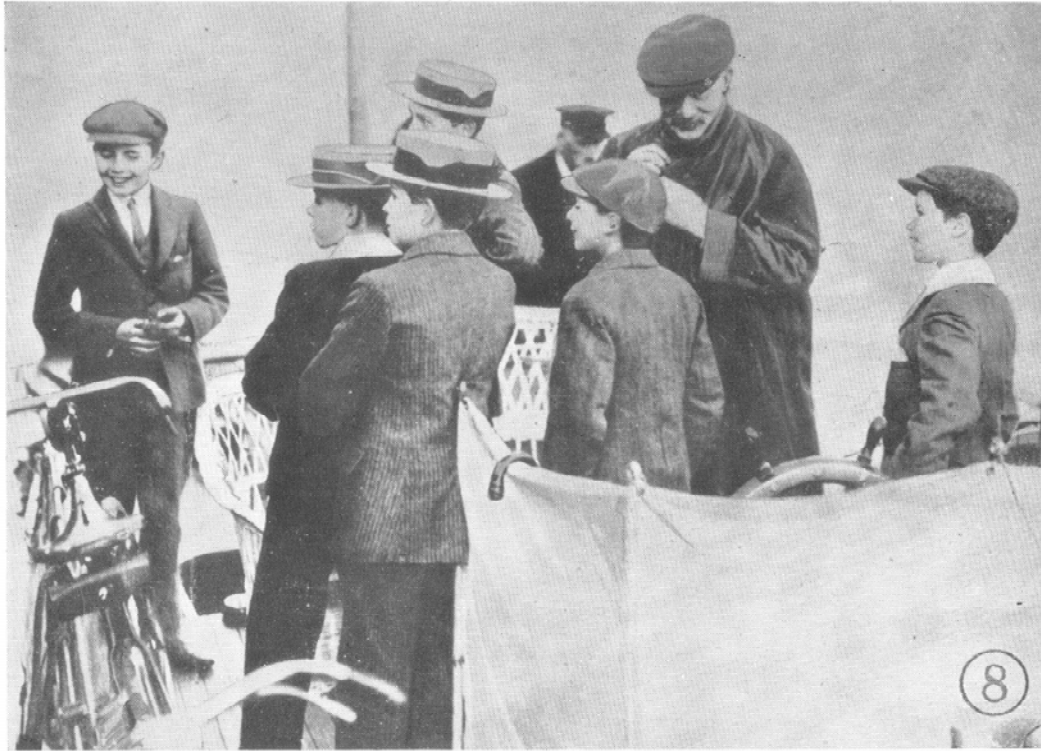
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THE FIRST TEN YEARS



THE FIRST TEN YEARS



16. 5. 09

Dear Everett.

I see very great importance in your idea of a Cyclist's Badge for Scouts, & I think we sh^d. make a special effort to get it in the book - ~~There is~~ ^{There is} my idea for the Qualifications - which might form a door to our recognition by Govt !!

Yours
J. G. R.



The Govt, a condition that he should own a bicycle in good working order: which he is willing to use for service of the Government if called upon at any time in case

of emergency such as national defence, carrying despatches, etc. He must be able to ride his bicycle satisfactorily, & when practicable, either leasing to own or to have the use of a bicycle the same time as he returns to land back his badge.

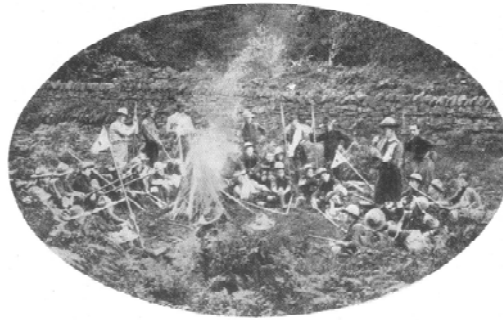
His rank would be that of "Cyclist Scout".

He must be able to read a map, as we expect some of a varied nature.

P.T.O.

(10)





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Part I.

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PUBLISHED BY HORACE COX,
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B

The Wolf Cub Badge



Sign of Salute



Promise

1. Honour God & the King
2. Do a good turn to some body every day.

[The two stars which ^{he} gains as a cub, are then represented on the Scout's badge which he eventually gains]

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THE FIRST TEN YEARS



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PAX HILL

July 28, 1928.

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