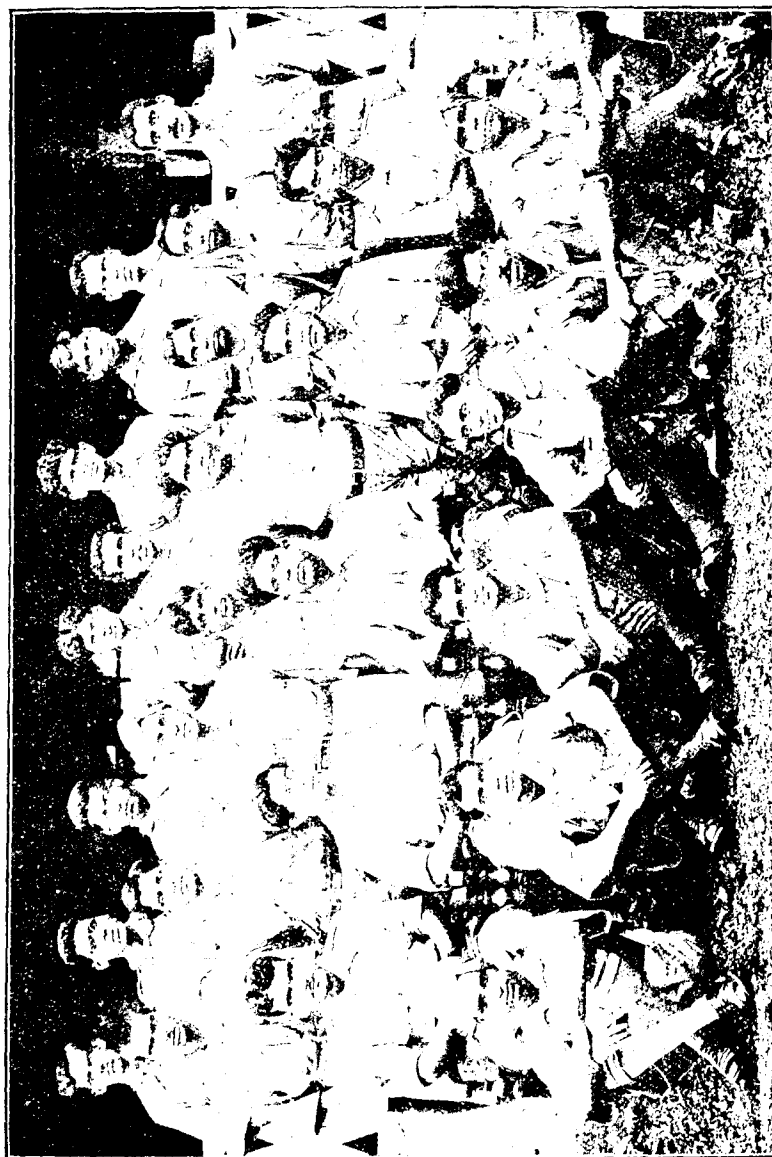
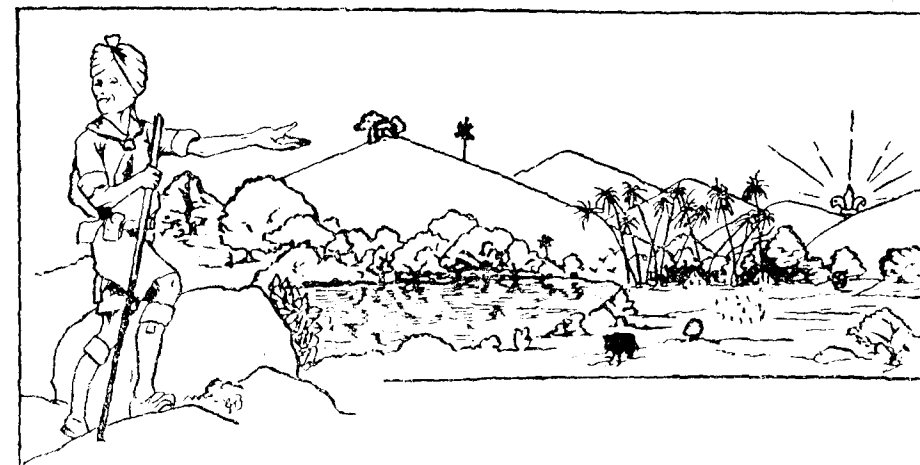




Scoutmasters' Training Camp: Palparamba, North Malabar - May 1928.

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Thought for the Month.

" Can I to-night look back across the span
Twixt dawn and dark and to my conscience say
Because of some good turn to beast or man
The world is better that I lived to-day? "

(The Scouter)

Discouragement is a rustic bench that tempts us to
rest a while when toiling up the mountain of achieve-
ment. We must rather push on to the next turn in the
trail, a corner that is called HOPE.

(The Fiery Cross)

OURSELVES.

Welcome to Our Brother Scouts.

IT is with very great pleasure that we extend our good wishes and welcome into the field for another year of useful and active work, all those who have had a spell of rest during these holidays. We also offer our congratulations to all our Cubs, Scouts and Rovers who have passed in their examinations and proved to the world that scouting instead of being a hindrance to schooling, is a distinct help. To those, in the minority we hope, who have not been so successful we would only say "keep smiling and do better next time." In this connection it would be very interesting to compile statistics as regards percentage of passes in examinations among students belonging to the movement as compared with that among students not yet in the movement. Our sister Association—the Mysore Boy Scouts usually compiles

an annual statement from which we have learnt that Scouts really fare very much better in examinations than their non-Scout brothers. Will our Readers help in compiling such a list for each of their troops and send the result on to us? We would be happy to publish them with our comments.

Permanent Camp Sites and Health Home for Scouts.

In the June number of last year we stated that attempts were being made to establish a Mountain Health Home for the use of Scouts in Coonoor. We are very happy to be able to state now that it is an accomplished fact and from what we see from the Nilgris Scout Gazette, the response to Col. Porter's letters has been very good. A few districts are ready to have their District huts on the site and the Provin-

cial Headquarters has contributed a sum of Rs. 2000/- for constructing a central Hall on the site. If things had gone on a little quicker it should have been possible for the Health Home to have been used this summer. But it is never too late. The permanent Camp Site at St. Thomas' Mount is also almost in our hands now and final orders are awaited from the Government on the matter. The Provincial Headquarters has allotted another sum of Rs. 2000/- for improving this site also and it is hoped that we will have many troops both mofussil and local coming up to camp on the spot.

Our Provincial Commissioner.

We are very glad that our Provincial Commissioner is now a free person and it would not be possible now for any one to belittle the movement on the score of its Provincial Commissioner being a Government Official. With the laying down of office and the resumption of legal work, our Provincial Commissioner is now able to devote very much more time for the Movement than before. We trust it would now be possible for him to see more of the working of the movement in the various parts of the Presidency than he has been able to till now. If he could make it convenient to see at least one troop or pack once a month whether in the metropolis or in the mofussil, it would not only be a great encouragement to the Scouter concerned but also a much-needed stimulus to slack District Commissioners, of whom unfortunately we have still some. The Provincial Commissioner is determined that things ought to be made to improve and means business. As it is, he is in touch with the progress of the movement in every district and has expressed a very great desire to see every district for himself. He has already seen a good many of them and the few districts he has not yet seen would certainly do very well after a visit from him.

Commissioners' Conference.

With a view to get into personal touch with all the Commissioners, the Provincial Commissioner arranged for this conference to be held at Coonoor and notices were sent out sufficiently early in May and replies were requested to be communicated on or before the 21st of May. Three philanthropic gentlemen had very kindly undertaken to provide boarding and lodging for the three days to those who were to attend. But it is with very great regret that we record here that only eight out of twenty two District Commissioners wrote, with the result that the conference had to be postponed. One is not inclined to comment on this but if District

Commissioners only re-read the Commissioners' Hand-book and realised that they have taken on a job not for their personal glorification but for the Boyhood and the Youth of a district, the response would not have been so poor. If a District Commissioner feels that he is not able to do justice to the work, the best good turn that he could do for the movement would be to give up his commissionership. But what can one do with people who want to retain the commissionership and yet not do any work? And.....there is still such a scramble for offices!!!

The Provincial Headquarters.

It may interest our readers to know that regular offices were secured for the Provincial Headquarters as early as 1922 and after a stay of one year in Flower Bazaar Road we moved on to our present habitat on. Many great men both in and out of India have visited this present Headquarters and have unanimously declared that it is one of the loveliest spots in Madras. An English Scouter even went so far as to say that our location was very much better than many other Association Headquarters he had seen in many other parts of the world. Practically every one knows where the Association is and we have a constant stream of visitors coming in enquiring after various things with regard to the movement. Still it is a matter for surprise to us that there are certain institutions in this city which do not apply for correct and official information as regards scouting and organisation to us, but depend upon people imperfectly posted and ill-equipped with knowledge as regards scouting and as such wholly incapable to advise on scouting matters. We do not very much care for such people who imagine that they know much on scouting, nor do we notice any of their activities but when it comes to their spreading false and inaccurate knowledge on scout matters and if responsible people take action on them, it is time that such activities were put a stop to. The public are warned against people who are very solicitous of giving information on scouting, while such information of the most up-to-date and authoritative kind can easily be had on application to the Provincial Headquarters direct. The headquarters is anxious to help any one who stands in need of any information connected with scouting.

A stir-up.

The Madras Jamboree is almost becoming a memory and every one knows what a great push it gave for scouting in this presidency. After

that big event we have had various gatherings, not so much of boys but of men, so much so, we are almost forgetting the fact that Scouting is for Boys. The Imperial Headquarters has very wisely kept the importance of boys' gatherings in the forefront and once every four years they have their big Jamboree. The present Jamboree which is to come off in August 1929 in England, is expected to attract 30,000 BOYS from all parts of the world and preparations are already well in hand for the big event. In the Madras Jamboree we had 3500 in camp and it was with considerable effort that we could collect 5,000 boys. After the Jamboree was over, the boys went back longing for another such Jamboree and even to day the boys dreaming. It would be obviously impossible for our boys to go to England and it may not be even possible for Madras to send up more than a handful. What about the rest of the Boys? The present stage of the movement in the presidency is such that a big stir-up is periodically required not merely for the sake of the boy but also for the sake of the man in the street. The most opportune time would be the Christmas. We need not have such grand arrangements and elaborate programme as we had during the last Jamboree at Madras but it should be possible for us to get at least a 1000 boys, not one below the 2nd class standard, and give them a very good time in an organised and disciplined manner in camp so that they may go back and leaven up the movement in their localities. We elders have become either too indolent or too rusty and we must look to our youngsters for the future growth of the movement hereafter, we ourselves standing by, lending them a helping hand. We are

sure that our Provincial Commissioner with the help of the Provincial Executive who are both keen on the onward march of Scouting, will be able to think out ways and means for organising such a gathering for our future leaders.

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