

The South India Boy Scout

The Magazine for all Scout Workers, Officers and Boys.

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL
of the Boy Scouts Association : Madras Province

SCOUTERS' & ROVERS' SECTION

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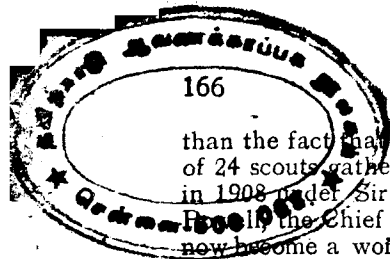
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than the fact that starting with a small band of 24 scouts gathered in the island of Brownsea in 1908 under Sir Robert (now Lord) Baden-Powell the Chief Scout of the world, it had now become a worldwide international organisation numbering 3 millions of scouts and scouters. The aim of scouting was to train the young people of the land to become healthy, useful and happy citizens. The methods adopted for securing this aim are varied to suit the age of the boys—cubbing for boys between 7 and 11, scouting for those between 11 and 17, and Rovering for those of 17 and above. The principle underlying all the three stages of training is the same, namely, that happiness is best attained only by self-reliance and self control and self-less service,—by going out of the way to try to help other people and make others happy. Little children are fond of make-believe and love to hear stories especially of animals and have a strongly developed imitative faculty. This peculiarity of child nature is taken advantage of in cubbing to teach them the cub laws in a simple way by telling them stories of good and bad animals and making them play games in which they figure mostly as animals, and inducing them to imitate the traits of good animals and avoid those of the bad ones. They promise to do their best to play the game straight, according to the rules, the two laws of the game of cubbing being that the cub gives in to his elder and does not give in to himself. The cub has to do at least one good turn a day. The game of cubbing is developed into that of scouting for older boys, among whom a spirit of adventure makes itself manifest and the sense of honour

side of the body. This is found to be quite convenient and comfortable. The only trouble is that one has to untie and unroll the whole bundle every time one has to take out something.

A Survey map of the locality will enable the scouts to pick up their way and they will really find it a help as regards the choice of halting places and so forth. And besides, it will make excellent map-reading practice.

The Journey is a great affair, and the test is going to be rather exacting. But it is a very good idea to try a practice hike of the kind I have mentioned earlier in this letter. Why not try it? It will crystallise your own notions of the thing, as it did in the case of my boys. Your scouts will have some one with

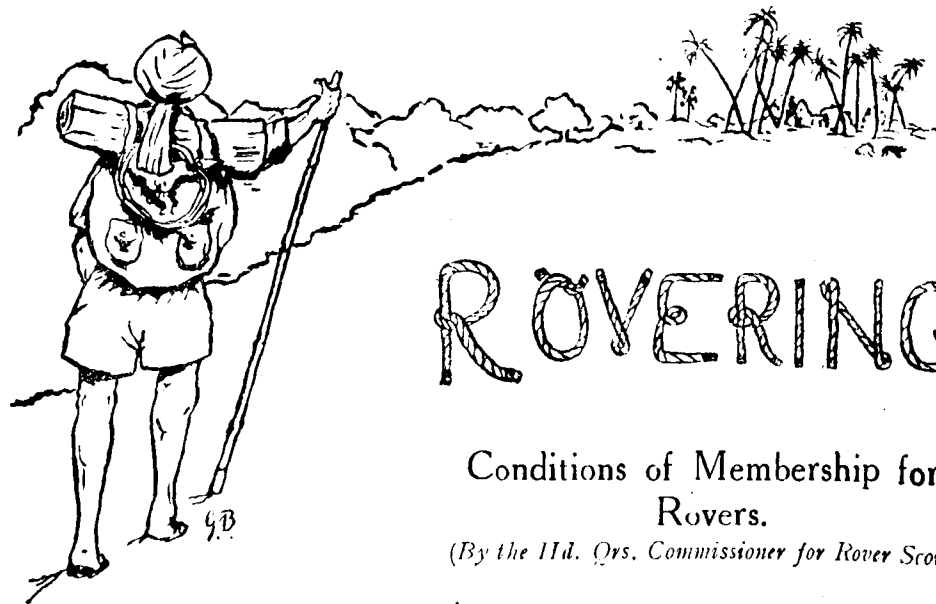
them from whom they can get every tip that will make their hike really successful.

I should think that you should now get hold of your lads and put the matter before them and go ahead with the arrangements for this practice. And if you start them along the right path from the very outset, your lads will, when they have to take the test take it successfully and in the proper spirit. The actual observations to make and the writing of the report, I must leave for my next scrawl.

Now I had better dry up and leave you to think things out for yourself.

Chee-ri-o!

Best of luck!!



ROVERING

Conditions of Membership for Rovers.

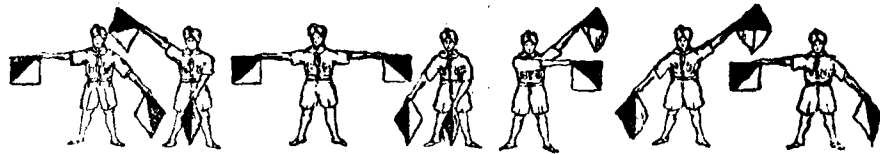
(By the Hl. Qrs. Commissioner for Rover Scouts)

It should be borne in mind that while it is essential that a young man should acquire certain knowledge before being admitted as a Rover, the thing that is really of importance is for the Rover Leader to see that he has acquired something of the spirit of scouting; without that, all the knowledge in the world will not make a Rover. The spirit of scouting is caught and not taught. One of the first things will be to make the new-comer feel entirely at home; whilst visits to other crews or to some large Rover or Scout gatherings will help him to realise what scouting is. In many cases it will be left to the Rover Leader to inspire new Rover by talks on scouting and its principles. The Conditions of Membership can be likened to obstacles to be overcome to prove his sincerity of purpose.

The following syllabus will be found useful as a basis to work upon:

(a) Practical Scoutcraft.

Must have taken part in at least three week-end hikes or one week camp, under instruction, except in the case of a first-class



For Scouters. Troop Programmes.

SPOTTED Dove raised an important point in his last letter and gave a reference to it, which deserves our attention. It was about the propriety of jumbling together topics peculiar to the Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class subjects, rather than taking them stage by stage.

This has really been a moot point with many scouters. Indeed most of us thought we shouldn't, for instance, take the First class topics with a boy who has his Second class to secure yet or a Second class topic with one who was only passing his entrance tests.

To teach the principles of Fires and Fire-lighting to a prospective Tenderfoot, or the treatment for drowning or of unconsciousness to one who was yet working his way up to the Second Class might have shocked the 'leadership conscience' of many of us!

But, (as it would appear) needlessly!

The point is sufficiently clearly brought out, only it is not put down in so many words, by B-P himself, in his *Scouting for Boys*.

It is there in his "Notes to Instructors" prefixed to Camp Fire

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