

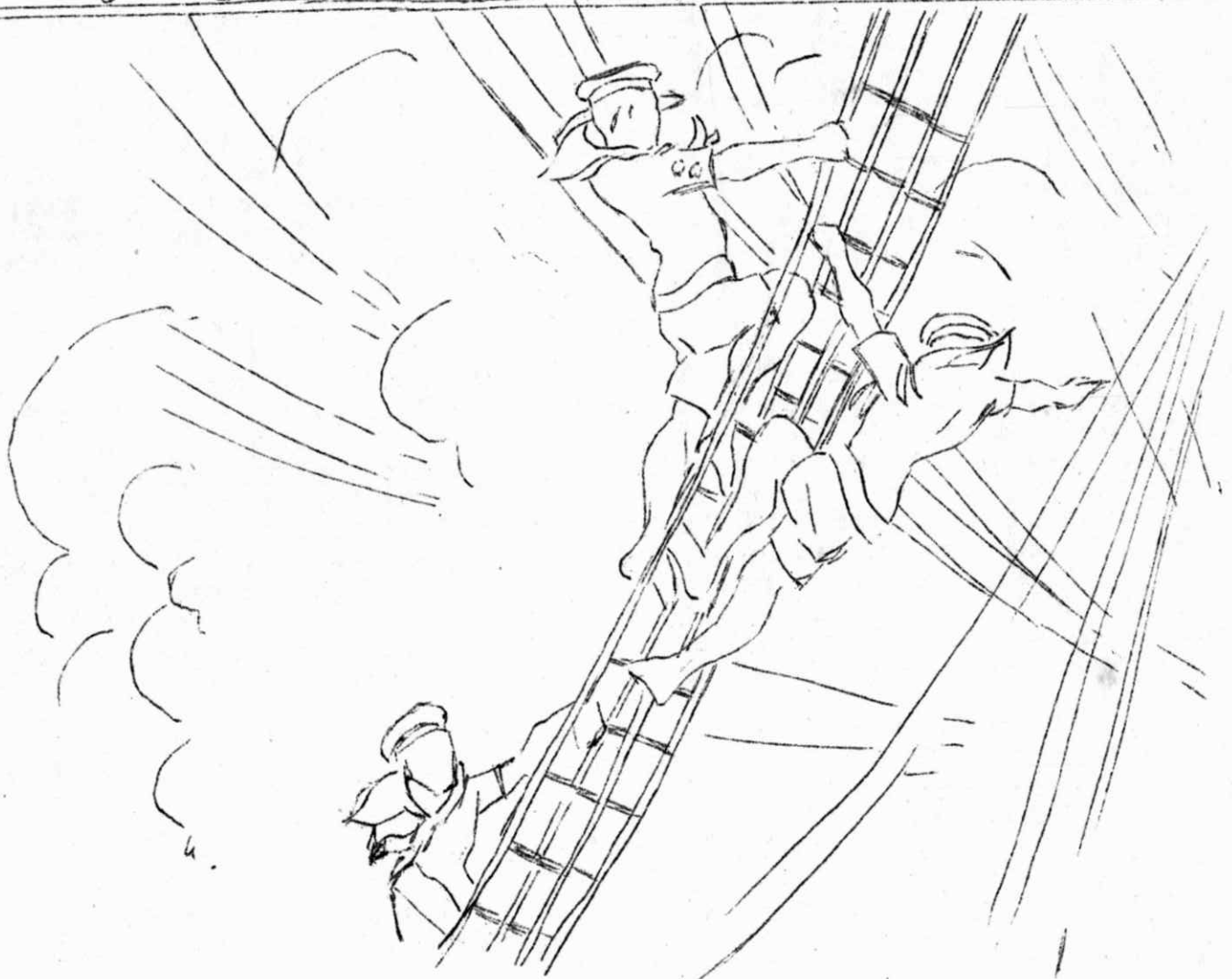
WATER RAT

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"THE WATER RAT".
Edited by Robt.H.Marrion.

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for 1900 1936



E D I T O R I A L .

It is scarcely our place to add to the many fine tributes that have recently been penned to our late beloved Sovereign, His Majesty King George V. Leanders who joined the procession or lit bonfires in honour of his Jubilee, went together last Tuesday to the service in the Parish Church commemorating his funeral. Not one but felt the loss to be a personal one. We can do no more than echo the sentiment expressed in Tubby's Topical Talk this month - "he will be missed".

The Water Rat takes this opportunity to affirm - in common with the whole Scout Movement- its wholehearted loyalty and devotion to His Majesty King Edward VIII. On the opposite page appears an article recording the interest taken in Scouting by King George V.

... ..

We much regret the necessity of commenting on another recent loss - that of Rudyard Kipling, Poet of Empire. Which of our readers, even outside the Cub world, has not read with pleasure his Jungle Tales, marvelled over the Just So Stories, or revelled in the Land and Sea Tales? Our early recollection of Kipling's poetry is in connection with "If" - it was used at School as an imposition in preference to the copying of numerous identical lines; but that was a cruel injustice to a noble poem. Let us trust Mr.Kipling has found another world as heroic as his conception of this.

... ..

This month we print the first instalment of a paper by Captain J.J.Cameron, A.C.C.(Sea Scouts) for Surrey, on the historic "Bounty" mutiny. It seems peculiarly apt at the moment in view of the recent release of the film based on this mutiny. Those who see the picture (we assure our readers, without "boosting", that it is well worth while) will want to know the true facts of the case, to compare and contrast. For there are certainly differences, if justifiable ones. Captain Cameron, as many will know, is well qualified to recount this history, having made a special study of the facts at as near first hand as is possible. Perhaps one day we may persuade him to come along and yarn on the topic.

In case anyone's interest should be awakened to the extent of further enquiry, we recommend three books:-

"Mutiny",
"Men Against the Sea", and
"Pitcairn's Island",

all collaborations by Messrs. Nordhoff and Hall, from the first of which the film is taken. Rattling good yarns, and absolutely true. Again we are netting no advert.fee!

HIS LATE GRACIOUS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIFTH.

Boy Scouts throughout the Empire are mourning the death of their beloved Patron, His Majesty King George V.

Since the day when King George came to the throne, his interest in the Boy Scout Movement has been a constant encouragement to all its members.

On his Coronation Day a special place was reserved for the Boy Scouts on Constitution Hill, and in July, 1910, the King reviewed 300 Scouts at Aldershot. On July 4th, 1911, the King attended and inspected a massed Rally at Windsor of over 10,000 Scouts, and a fortnight later he reviewed 2,350 Scouts in Edinburgh.

During the War years His Majesty proved his continued interest in Scouting by inspecting a Patrol of Coast Watching Scouts at Buckingham Palace.

At the great Olympia Jamboree in 1920 the King was unable to attend in person, but contingents of Oversea Scouts were inspected by him at Buckingham Palace after the occasion.

In 1934 the first National Boy Scout St. George's Day Service was held at the St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and the King paid a surprise visit to the Scouts on this occasion, and repeated his gracious act at the second Service held in 1935.

Another example of his kindly interest was on the occasion of the Edinburgh Scoutin'-Schaw in 1934. Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York were to have attended the event, but illness intervened, and so that the Scouts should not be disappointed, Their Majesties the King and Queen graciously attended in their place.

On the occasion of the King's Silver Jubilee, the Boy Scouts were responsible for the lighting of the Jubilee Beacons throughout the Empire. The first beacon, in Hyde Park, was ignited by the King in person, and the electric button which he used on this great day was presented by him to the Boy Scouts Association, and now occupies an honoured place in the Council Chamber at Imperial Headquarters.

Two tokens of approval shown by His Majesty for the Boy Scout Movement and its founder was in 1921, when Lord Baden-Powell was created a Baronet in recognition of the International Jamboree at Olympia, which took place the previous year, and in 1929, on the occasion of the 21st Birthday Celebrations of the Boy Scout Movement, a peerage was conferred upon the Chief Scout.

THE MUTINY OF THE BOUNTY
and
THE STORY OF PITCAIRN ISLAND.

by Captain J.J.Cameron.
.....

In the year 1787, the British Government fitted out the vessel "Bounty" for the purpose of proceeding to the South Seas for young breadfruit plants to be conveyed to the West Indies where, in the opinion of Sir Joseph Banks, the eminent botanist who had visited Tahiti with Captain Cook, they could be successfully cultivated.

This voyage was undertaken in consequence of a petition to King George III by certain merchants and planters who had heard how widespread and prolific the breadfruit was in the South Sea Islands and believed it would make a cheap and suitable food for the negro slaves on their West Indian plantations.

William Bligh was appointed to the "Bounty" in the dual capacity of Captain and purser; he was at that time a Lieutenant in the Navy 33 years of age and had been sailing-master under Captain Cook in H.M.S. "Resolution". The "Bounty" was fitted out at Deptford on the Thames under the supervision of Captain Bligh and Sir Joseph Banks, the advice of the latter as to the best method of keeping the tender young plants alive during a long sea voyage being of great value, and the vessel's hold was specially prepared for that purpose.

The breadfruit tree is about the size of a common English oak, with large spreading branches and foliage of a deep olive green. The fruit itself, which is round in shape and about the size of a melon, is pulled before it is quite ripe and roasted, then the thick outer rind having been removed, the inside is found to be somewhat like wholemeal bread. It is pleasant to the palate, a nutritious food and, as it bears during nine months of the year, is a staple article of diet amongst the natives where it grows.

Two days before Christmas, the "Bounty" sailed from St. Helens Roads for the South Seas. She was a sloop of war of 215 tons. Her dimensions were 91 feet in length over-all, 24 feet beam, and 10 feet depth of hold and her complement consisted of forty-six persons all told, including a Surgeon, a Surgeon's mate, a Botanist and a gardener.

The "Bounty" was stored and victualled for a period of eighteen months and had on board a quantity of articles of iron and steel, beads, trinkets, looking-glasses and suchlike for traffic with the natives.

When four days out from St. Helens Roads a heavy gale was encountered in which the ship was so damaged she had to put in to

Teneriffe for repairs. After a stay there of five days she proceeded on her voyage towards Cape Horn, the route which Captain Bligh had been instructed by the Admiralty to take, though before sailing he had petitioned for and received their consent to his taking the route by the Cape of Good Hope if he found it expedient to do so.

In due time the "Bounty" reached the latitude of Cape Horn and on opening up the ocean to the Westward of it became exposed to the fury of the mountainous seas and the westerly gales which blow there almost without intermission throughout the seasons of the year. Against that awful weather they battled for thirty days without being able to make any progress to the Westward; the ship became strained and leaky, the sails and gear much worn and the crew almost exhausted. Then Captain Bligh considered he had tried enough, he put the helm up and squared away for Cape Town, where they arrived on 23rd May, 1788, exactly five months after the departure from England. Nearly six weeks were spent in Simon's Bay repairing the ship, refitting her and taking in stores and water.

On leaving there a course was shaped for Van Dieman's Land, as Tasmania was then called, and seven weeks later they came to anchor in Adventure Bay where they stayed a fortnight taking in wood and water.

The track they followed next was round the southward of New Zealand where a group of islands was discovered and named after the ship - they are still known as The Bounty Islands - and the "Bounty" arrived in Matavai Bay, Tahiti, on 26th October, ten months and three days out from England, having covered a distance of more than twenty-seven thousand miles.

During the voyage there had been one casualty; James Valentine - an able seaman and one of the most robust on board - was bled in the arm for some slight illness by the Surgeon, who was lazy and a drunkard. Soon the arm became inflamed and painful and the man died, no doubt from blood poisoning caused by the use of an unclean instrument.

Tahiti had been visited previously by Captain Wallis and by Captain Cook, who had established friendly relations with the natives so the "Bounty's" people received a cordial welcome. They gave presents to the various Chiefs and particularly to Tinah, the principal Chief, whom the white men flattered by treating him as a sort of king, and when he expressed a wish to return the compliment by sending a gift to King George of England, Bligh took the opportunity of saying that nothing would be more acceptable to His Britannic Majesty than some young breadfruit plants that he might grow them in his own Dominions. Thereupon the gathering of the plants was set about by the natives and the crew, chiefly the former, and eleven hundred carefully selected specimens were obtained and stowed in the hold of the ship, together with a few other varieties which Sir Joseph Banks had

recommended might be tried. But it took a long time and there is every reason to believe it was done too leisurely.

Tahiti must have seemed an earthly paradise to those rough seamen, and we can imagine with what reluctance they would leave it when called upon to resume the hardships of life at sea in the eighteenth century. The land was beautiful and the climate a perpetual summer, the natives mild mannered and friendly, and the young women of a gentle disposition and handsome pleasing appearance. The beach opposite to where the ship lay at anchor was the meeting place each evening for natives and crew where games, sports, dancing and singing were indulged in, and besides, those seamen had plenty of good fresh wholesome food which was in marked contrast to the scurvy salt fare on board ship in those times.

The "Bounty" had been only a few weeks at Tahiti when the Surgeon died of drink and the assistant Surgeon was promoted in his place. Not long after that three of the seamen - Churchill, Muspratt and Millward - deserted and, taking arms and ammunition, made their way to a neighbouring island - Tettaha. With the help of the natives they were recaptured, and to Bligh's credit be it said he did not inflict the severe punishment which the law sanctioned for the crime of desertion. One morning early in February the cable was found to be nearly cut through close to the surface of the water. In those days ships' cables were of stout hempen rope, not steel chain as they are now. Captain Bligh was not able to discover whether this had been done by the natives or crew, but suspected his own men of a design to wish the vessel cast away, that they might remain on that delectable island. Incidents such as the desertions and the cutting of the cable were plain warnings to Captain Bligh that his stay at Tahiti had been sufficiently prolonged. His education and training enabled him to break away with fortitude from the languorous existence at this tropical Garden of Eden, but how different the feelings of the untutored seamen who thought only of the passing hour! Preparations for departure were speeded up, and on the 4th April, 1789, with many gifts of vegetables, fruit, pigs, poultry, etc., and the good wishes of the friendly natives, the "Bounty" sailed.

Twenty-four days later when the ship was near Tofua, one of the Friendly Islands, some 1,300 miles from Tahiti, the historical mutiny took place.

On the previous day there had been a violent quarrel between Captain Bligh and Lieutenant Fletcher Christian, the Master's Mate; the latter, brooding over the insults which had been heaped upon him and sick of Bligh's tyranny sounded a number of the seamen during the night and found them willing to join him in an attempt to seize the ship. They obtained arms by pretending they wanted to shoot a shark which was following and at dawn woke Captain Bligh, tied his hands behind his back and hauled him on deck. This mutiny has been the subject of much controversy but the verdict of posterity is in agreement with that of Sir John Barrow, permanent Secretary to the Admiralty about a century ago, that Captain Bligh himself was greatly to blame.

He was a man of robust constitution, a highly skilled seaman and navigator, one not readily dismayed by danger and, as we shall see, was resourceful, self-reliant and persevering in circumstances of difficulty and hardship. But with those fine qualities were alloyed some evil ones; he had a harsh and overbearing manner, a violent uncontrolled temper and a bitter abusive tongue. A contributing cause of the mutiny was the unduly prolonged life of dalliance at Tahiti - nearly five and a half months - where the bonds of discipline had been so relaxed they could not be tightened again without trouble ensuing, and for that of course Bligh was responsible.

Christian, who was then 24 years old, was of a good family in the North of England. His brother was an eminent barrister, professor of law at Cambridge and Chief Justice of Ely. He was not one who might be expected to become the ringleader of a mutiny, but Bligh's harsh discipline had made him desperate, and like many others on board he still felt the lure of that island of sunshine and laughter they had recently left.

One of the ship's boats was lowered and into her were forced Bligh and eighteen others, mostly officers and petty officers; they were given 32 lbs. of salt pork, 150 lbs. of biscuit, a 28-gallon keg of water, 6 bottles of wine, 6 quarts of rum, 4 cutlasses a small boat compass and a quadrant; as the boat was veered astern some canvas, rope and twine were thrown into her. Then casting off the anchor as someone called out "three cheers for Tahiti", the "Bounty" sailed away with twenty-five souls on board, leaving the boat a mere speck on the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean which then was but little known and imperfectly surveyed.

(To be continued)

TUBBY'S TOPICAL TALK TO ROVERS. (continued)

During the past few weeks the Nation has lost three great "Rovers" - King George, Admiral Jellicoe and Rudyard Kipling, who although not officially Rovers, nevertheless dedicated their lives to our ideal of SERVICE. These men will be missed. Who is going to take their place - you? I think the one great test of Rovering is to live up to your motto of Service so that when your time comes to leave this world people will pay you the greatest tribute possible, just four simple words; "He will be missed".

How about our jobs. What is the state of your bank-book; is it healthier than last year? What about your position on your firm, have you gone ahead during the year? Or are you sinking into a rut? January, the first month of a new year, is the time for stocktaking. Go away from the crowd for a moment or two, examine yourself, and then plan for 1936 and GOOD LUCK!

TUBBY'S TOPICAL TALK TO ROVERS.

As the clowns in the pantomime say, "Here we are again!" and as this claims to be a topical talk and is being written on the morning after the building of the "Wall of Jericho", I feel I should like to discuss a few impressions I received from it. FIRST the "Brains" of the job, the Skipper; by profession an Optician and by nature a man of vision. His planning and obvious enthusiasm spur us on and only when we have actually done the job do we realise the difficult proposition we have tackled. We slogged hard but in reward the Skipper's smile of complete happiness when he went home on Saturday night was alone worth it.all.

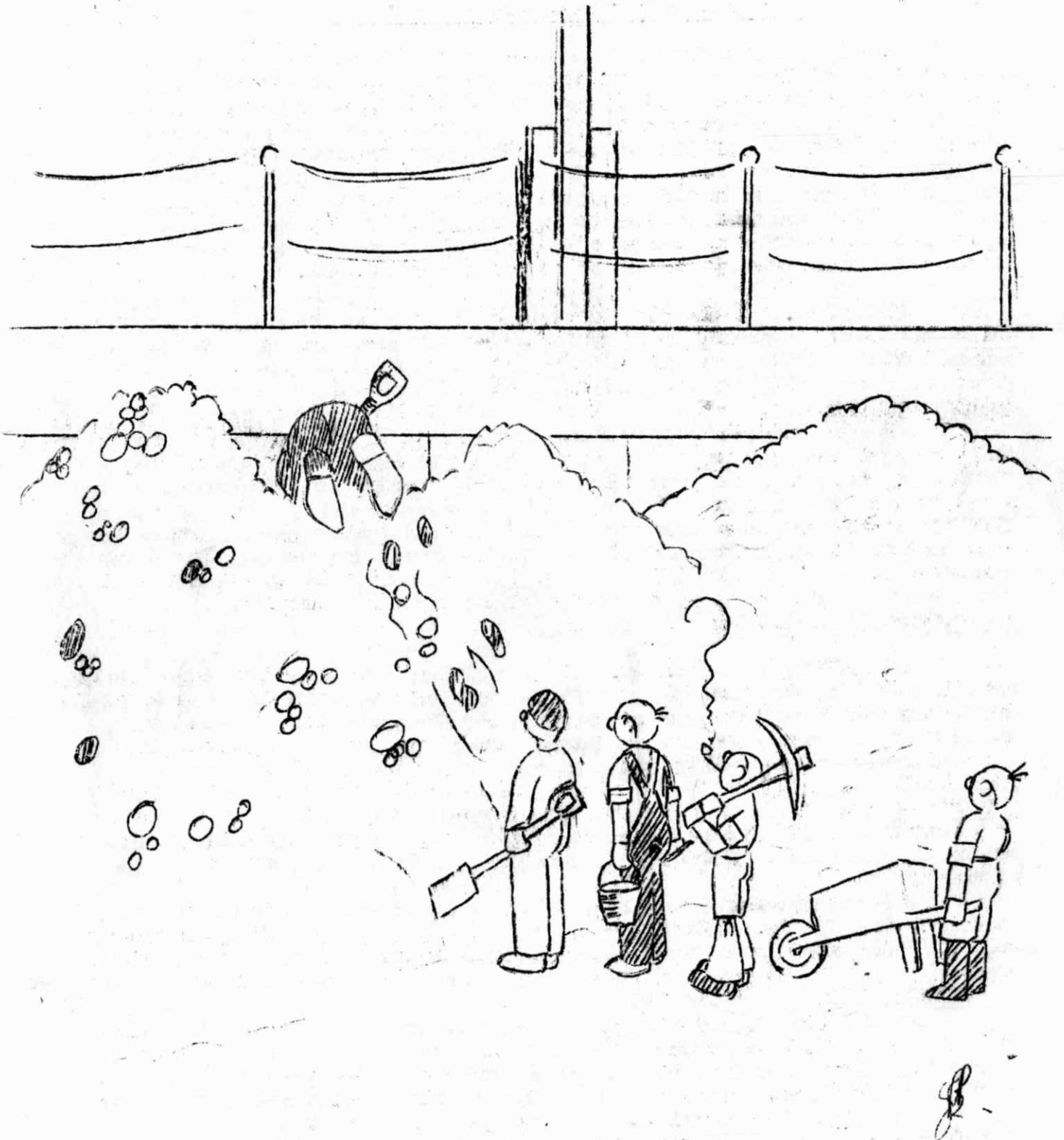
SECONDLY, a valuable lesson; that what seems to be a knock-out blow may be a blessing in disguise. On Thursday night you Rovers earned your salt. The job of work you did was a tonic to me and increased my faith in you and then on Friday to find a fall of earth had undone it all, was like a kick in the pants by a mule. For the moment we were stunned. We realised the full magnitude of the proposition and said "It can't be done". But we pulled ourselves together, woke up the young ladies on the telephone exchange, re-arranged our ideas and then said "It CAN be done" and it was. Now if it had not been for that fall of earth which at the time seemed a smashing blow, I do not believe with our old plans we should have succeeded. So it is in life and it is a lesson well worth learning, that when things seem to be their blackest just remember it may be and probably is a blessing in disguise.

THIRDLY, adaptability. If ever there was a switching about of plans this job must be a record. Not of the main idea mark you, that has remained constant, but of the details -alterations to enable us to gain our main object. Another valuable lesson; it is no use being hidebound or obstinate. After the fall of earth we had twelve hours, eight of which were occupied by sleep, to plan afresh - quick thinking and putting the new plans into operation. Wonderful training and the beauty of it is, we are learning these great lessons unconsciously, which is the whole idea of Scouting.

Before leaving the subject, just a word of praise for the youngsters. Their enthusiasm and the happy way they slogged into the heavy work would have put to shame any shirker. They deserve their clubroom and it is up to us Rovers to help them to the limit to get it.

Well, 1936 has arrived, and we wonder what changes it will bring to us. Let us ponder for a moment over the past. For the Group the last year has been a great financial success and we have made many friends. Hero has been invaluable and we raise our hats to its skipper, Bob Marrion. I hope you will forgive me if I introduce rather a personal touch here, but I should like to put on record my thanks to my wife for the loyal and unselfish way she has backed me up in my work as Rover Leader.

(continued at foot of previous page)



BUILDING OPERATIONS. - 1.

Preparing to "ABSTRACT" the "CONCRETE".

ROVER NOTES.GETTING AWAY WITH IT.

For several issues of this masterpiece of English literature, I have been able to get past the Editor with a spot of introductory dope, having no bearing on the Note writing business at all. I merely pen a few well-chosen words about my inability to think of any copy, seal same in a Bank Book envelope, dishonestly obtained from the local Post Office, deliver to the Editorial sanctum, in my magnificent limousine, and draw my cheque. This is alright up to a point, but this month I really must make an effort to kid the customers that we have actually performed some activity or other. Hence my brilliant opening. It is one of the highest forms of the journalistic art, to write in February of things that happened in December for a January publication that may come out in March. (All right Bob, don't throw it.)

CHRISTMAS 1935.

We have all recovered from the effect of concentrated festivity, and I am pleased to record reports from all members of the Crew, of the very happy times in their respective circles. On Boxing Day, we were fortunate in being able to enjoy a very excellent gathering of the clans at Jack Stimpson's place, followed by a Dance in Kingston. The success of this occasion produced sufficient enthusiasm for an encore on New Year's Eve.

IN BETWEEN MERRYMAKING

came the somewhat rapid decision to re-commence building operations. Plans were produced, the Skipper was seen flitting about with a face like an Architect, Ping-pong bats were forged into shovels, conversation became a strange mixture of Concrete and Mince-pies, Music and Creosote. However, Tubby turned up with a wooden floor in his pocket which was duly laid in time for

OUR PARTY.

The Joy Cruise 1936, was quite a success. The Committee wish to thank the Crew and their ladies for the gay spirits shown on this venture. The enthusiasm displayed in the Fancy Dress Parades, the excellent catering, the brilliance of the accordion playing by our friend Ronny and the little drops left in the bottles after the show, made it well worth the efforts of organisation.

THE ROLAND HOUSE PANTO.

A party of the Crew and friends was able to foregather at this annual event. It was a tuneful and very bright little performance, showing evidence of how keen-ness may overcome the limitations of the amateur production, and I think we all enjoyed it to the full extent.

THE DEN.

The existing Rover Den has now been definitely taken over for 5 years and with a wooden floor and one or two further refinements, we should be very happy in it. We will continue with our Monthly Whist Drives, but it seems that for several weeks we shall need to suspend other activities in favour of building operations. Consideration of the proposed Dance in February has been postponed in

T H E S K I P P E R ' S S C R A W L .

Special reference has been made elsewhere in these pages to the sad loss we have sustained in the death of our late beloved King. I want however to thank all those members of the Group who turned out for the Memorial Service. The notice was extremely short, and I should like to compliment everyone on the obvious care taken to present a smart appearance. This was I think a silent proof of the sincerity of the tribute offered.

... ..

Whilst on the subject of Church Parades I want to give notice that the regular monthly parade in February will be held not on the second but on the third Sunday in the month viz. February 16th. I hope that this change of date will not be allowed to affect the attendance adversely.

... ..

The extension and rebuilding scheme for the Group's Headquarters is now well and truly launched and a few details will no doubt be of interest. In order to level the site behind the boathouse about 150 tons of earth has been moved and the first section of a concrete retaining wall has been constructed. This involved the erection of a huge wooden mould and the placing therein of approximately 10 tons of concrete. By the united efforts of 23 members of the Troop and Crew this was accomplished in just over eight hours - an extremely creditable performance. If everything happens according to plan the remaining two sections of wall, together incorporating about 12 tons of concrete, will be in position by March 7th.

Our very good friend, Mr. J.W. Spink, is preparing the drawings of the new structure and it is hoped that the Corporation's approval of these will be obtained in time to allow of the bricklaying being commenced directly the retaining wall is finished. It is intended to build a new galley, two store-rooms and new lavatories. The space occupied by the present galley and store will be thrown into the "Main Deck" which together with the Rover Den will be fitted with a wooden floor. The old and new portions of our premises will be covered by an entirely new roof of corrugated asbestos. In addition to these main items several smaller improvements will be carried out. The additional floor space will be rather more than a third of that of the present 'Main Deck' and 'Boat Deck' combined. It will be obvious that in order to complete this work without encroaching on the season which we devote mainly to boating, swimming and camping, it will be necessary for everyone connected with the Troop and Crew to make some sacrifice of his spare time. In this I am confident that we shall receive the indulgence of parents and wives so that, after 26 years, Leanders may have a home worthy of their traditions and enterprise.

.....

WHISPERINGS FROM THE JUNGLE.

Dear Wee Brothers,

Pull up your socks and put your backs into getting that model or collection done for the Exhibition which will be held in April next. Time is short and it's no use relying on having the clubroom to do an exhibit in as it wont be nearly clear enough for general use until much too late, so do ask Mother if you may start right away to make something at home. You all have plenty of energy, so do your very best with your exhibits.

Well done big Ginger I am pleased to hear you really helped at the excavations behind the Clubroom one Saturday afternoon; thats the help the Scouts want, they cannot do with anyone in the way.

I think the Greys are doing very well under their new Sixer, B.Ely but Cub D.D.could help by trying to do the tests in a more Cubby way although as he is only a wee boy as yet we must not expect too much, but it is hard luck on the Greys.

The change round seems to have benefitted you Cook! You really are getting on ever so well, Chil tells me you will soon be a full blown Cub with both eyes open. A little more trying and then signalling won't be such an awful hardship to you; I know the last three circles seem too difficult to remember, but you will manage it after a few more tries.

I am sorry to say goodbye to Second D.Tremear. It is not so terrible when I know he will continue in the Scout Land so I will say good hunting to you Brown Cub. Our loss will be someone else's gain, so good luck to you always.

Good Hunting to my little Brothers,

AKELA HAS SPOKEN.

.....

TO THE CUBS' PARENTS.

Dear Parents,

A few words of thanks are due to you for helping me during the year of 1935. Your fellows paid their subs more regularly and their general turn out each Pack night was very much better. Knowing what imps of mischief they can be it was jolly good of you all to keep them up to scratch with uniform etc, and I especially thank those who helped me with costumes for the Jubilee Procession in which we took part; at such a time a little help is most valuable. Now will you see they work over their model or other exhibit they are doing at home. We have not two clear months in hand so they must really keep to it now to get it done in time.

We are starting a Camp Club so your son can pay whatever he likes any Pack night you like him to. I will give those who wish to do that a Camp Saving Card on request.

Trusting Parents all to back me up in the future as they have done in the past, thank you all,

from "AKELA" MYERS,
The Old Wolf.

.....

LETTER TO AUNTIE MURIEL.

Dear Auntie,

I am afraid you've been putting your nose into things you don't know much about. Rather sharper ears or a slightly better memory would have told you that Akela asked Rikki if he would care to change his title to BALOO, not BAGHEERA as you reported last month.

Another thing, the Grand Howl is done in the dark not to save electricity, as you suppose, but because it is the recognised way of getting the proper Jungle atmosphere. The Seeonee pack didn't have electric lamps on every tree when they gathered round the Council Rock.

Beware you do not again cross claws with a still-lively Old Wolf,

AKELA.

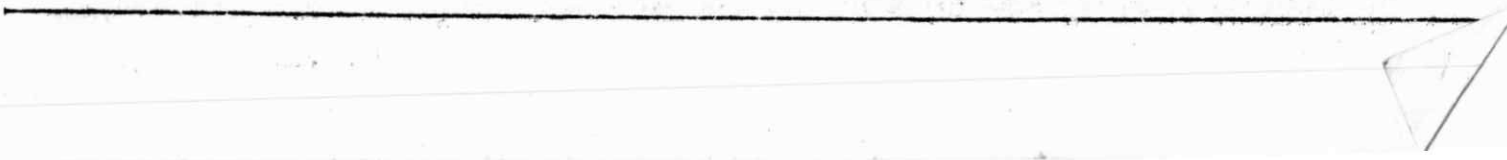
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RUDYARD KIPLING.

Scouts throughout the Empire, and particularly the Wolf Cubs, will mourn the death of Mr. Rudyard Kipling, for it was to his Jungle Books that the Chief Scout turned for help when considering the best method of training for the new Wolf Cub section in 1915. Much of the foundation work in the training of new Wolf Cubs is connected with the jungle stories, as is evidenced by the wording of the Cub Law: "The Cub gives in to the old wolf, the Cub does not give in to himself". The Cubmaster is known as Akela, and the Assistant Cubmasters are frequently given the names of Bagheera and Baloo. In writing the Wolf Cubs Handbook, first published in 1916, the Chief Scout dedicated the book to Rudyard Kipling in these words:-
"To Rudyard Kipling, who has done so much to put the right spirit into our rising manhood, I am very grateful for permission to quote as my text his inimitable 'Jungle Book.'"

Mr. Kipling has always been interested in Scouting and particularly in the Wolf Cub section. He was an interested observer at the Alexandra Palace Rally in 1922, and at the big Empire Jamboree in the Wembley Stadium in 1924 on the day when the Wolf Cubs did their special performance. From time to time he has attended Cub functions, and possibly his last appearance at a big function was at the Kent Jamboree at Maidstone in 1932, when he was most interested in the Cub performance of a pageant called "Children and Literature" and made a number of helpful comments as to its production.

He has been a member of the Boy Scout Council since 1923.



HEADS I WIN !

I found him in the Elite Cafe, alone. Sunk deep in a wicker chair, legs crossed, he squirted jets of acrid smoke toward the ceiling, and glared at the opposite wall. He recognised me, but only nodded to my greeting, so I sat at the table beside him and ordered the ubiquitous coffee. Starting up about the weather, I made a few intelligent comments and was passing on to an appreciation of English climate in general when he suddenly sat up, drew a coin from his pocket, spun it in the air and inverted it on his knee. Then with one glance and a vicious imprecation he thrust it back and resumed his former attitude.

Sensing that there was something on his mind, I refrained with infinite tact from direct questioning, but made a remark instead about the state of his shoes, which were covered in mud. Gloomily he removed the pipe from his teeth, shook it so as to eject a stream of coloured juice across the carpet, and ejaculated: "Yes, walked ten miles tonight". "What, alone?" I returned, "whatever for?" "Problem to solve, watch this!" He drew a handful of coins from his pocket, spread them on the table, and sorted them into heads and tails. "Tails again, what did I tell you", and sweeping up the money, he re-lit his foul pipe and slumped back in the chair.

Completely mystified at these extraordinary manifestations from a normally sane man, I lapsed into a pained silence. Five minutes later my companion burst forth again: "Can't make up my mind, that's the trouble. If I take a certain course of action now, it'll alter everything, but I can't be sure it's for the best. Been on my mind some while, so I took a long walk tonight to think it out. All the lonliest and darkest places I could find, but coming back to the street lights I still couldn't decide, so I've been tossing coins ever since, heads I do, tails I don't".

"And they always come down tails", I sympathised, "Too bad. Who did you say was the lady you're worried over?" He was on his feet in a flash, glaring at me. "I never said it was a girl". "Oh quite. I must have forgotten", and I motioned him back to his chair. "Well, I can only suggest that you try once more with the coin. I'll spin it myself", I added, "just for a change. And you really must abide by the result". Fishing in my waistcoat pocket I extracted a copper, spun it, caught it, and reversed it on my left hand. "Heads I do, tails I don't", he muttered, biting hard on his pipestem.

I uncovered the coin. "Heads! It's heads!" he yelled, overturning the table as he sprang up and gripped my hand as in a vice. I turned in time to see his tall figure striding through the door, a trail of sparks falling to the floor behind him. Righting the table and calling for more coffee, I smiled to myself as I carefully replaced my double-headed penny in the special pocket I keep for it.

:: 1935 - FUN-FAIR & BAZAAR. ::

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

By.-	£.	s.	d.	To.-	£.	s.	d.
Sale of Tickets ...	8.	11.	-.	Hire of Hall ...	3.	-.	-.
Taken at Door ...	1.	7.	6.	Prizes for Ticket			
Programmes - Sales		13.	8.	Sellers ...		7.	-.
- Advert.		6.	6.	Play Royalty ...		15.	-.
<u>STALLS.</u>				Make up ...		6.	-.
Handicrafts ...	13.	7.	6.	Printing ...	1.	-.	3.
General ...	9.	12.	3.	Duplicating ...		10.	-.
Grocery ...	2.	18.	-.	Flowers ...		5.	-.
Fancy Goods ...	1.	3.	-.	Wood ...		6.	5.
Refreshments ...	3.	6.	3½				
Confectionery ...		6.	11½				
<u>DONATIONS.</u>	2.	19.	6.				
<u>COMPETITIONS.</u>							
Cookery ...	2.	2.	-.				
Weight of Joal ...		12.	2.				
<u>PALMISTRY.</u>	1.	12.	-.				
<u>SIDESHOWS.</u>							
Darts ...	3.	6.	4.				
Bagatelle ...	2.	-.	-.				
Hoop-la ...	1.	9.	-.				
Bubbles ...	1.	15.	-.				
Peas ...		9.	-.				
Spinning Wheel ...		12.	3.				
Hero & Live rail..		11.	7.				
				PROFIT ...	6.	9.	8.
					52.	11.	10.
	£ 59.	1.	6.				
					£59.	1.	6.

N.B. The amounts shown under each Stall, Competition and Side Show are the nett takings after deducting expenses and value of prizes.

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SOCIAL FOR BAZAAR WORKERS.

As suggested at the last Bazaar Committee Meeting a Social Evening for Stall Holders and other workers in connection with the Fun Fair and Bazaar will be held at the Group Headquarters in Lower Ham Road, on Saturday, February 29th, at 8 p.m. Details will be circulated to those concerned.

LISTEN-IN to AUNTIE MURIEL.

I should like to know whether, at the Church Parade early in January, T.m C..p..t.r was late through waiting for the two Cubs, or whether the Cubs were late through waiting for T.m?

.....

I hear that the Skipper is so wrapped up in the building job at H.Q. that, the other day, instead of asking his wife for another helping of pudding, he asked for "some more of that concrete, please!".

.....

Is it true that the recent Rover Cruise was so successful and the atmosphere so like the real thing that Messrs.Cooks have decided to organize a "tour" in the Rover Den Sunshine Islands?

.....

Anyhow, I hear on very good authority that J.e B.nk.n has been booked for Scenery painting for ALL next year's Pantos, after the wonderful Landscape he produced for the Rover Den.

.....

Going up the "gang-way" several of the "passengers" complained of feeling quite sea-sick. I said going up, NOT coming away!

.....

The Skipper was asked the other day if he had a chap in the Troop named "Bitter". The enquirer really meant Peter B.rt.n!

.....

Now that it is the fashion for troops to be "adopted" by important people, Leanders are feeling rather out of things, so it has been suggested that Lord Bandstand of Canbury Gardens should be approached with a view to adopting the Leanders!

.....

Glad to hear that Geoff C.x has recovered from Measles. What "hard" luck, Geoff, coming back on the very day of the Concrete mixing.

.....

"Hero" will have to look to her laurels, now that we have a rival next door.

.....

JANUARY, 1936.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE WATER RAT.

THAMES SEA SCOUT COMMITTEE NOTES.

A Gathering for ALL Sea Scouters will be held on board the "SEA SCOUT" at Lambeth Pier on Saturday, February 15th, commencing at 6 p.m. A special feature will be a talk by Captain J.J.Cameron on "Scottish Clipper Ships" on which subject he is an authority.

During the evening separate meetings will be held at which the A.C.Cs and Scouters of London, Middlesex and Surrey will be able to discuss informally the aims and needs of Sea Scouts in their respective counties .

A somewhat similar 'get-together' for Sea Scout Patrol Leaders and Seconds will be held on Saturday, February 29th. It is hoped that a good number will arrange to stay the week-end. In this connection attention is again drawn to the requirement that anyone intending to stay the night aboard the "SEA SCOUT" should inform Mr.A.Mackenzie, 11, Hillfield Road, N.W.6. by postcard at least 24 hours beforehand.

... ..

"BOY SCOUT" - There will be no rehearsal for the Albert Hall Production of Mr.Ralph Reader's Play "BOY SCOUT" during the week ending February 15th. The next rehearsal will be on TUESDAY February 18th at 7.30 p.m. at the CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER. Subsequent rehearsals will be each TUESDAY until the show.

... ..

A new Sea Scout Troop has been started in connection with Holy Trinity Church, Barnes. The Scoutmaster is Mr.G.J.Wethered of 19,Holroyd Rd.Putney.

... ..

Rover Sea Scouts of the 3rd Hillingdon Group are now getting into their stride. They have a fresh Assistant Rover Scout Leader in Mr.W.E. Christian who has been a professional sailor.

... ..

The 1st.Carshalton (Sea Scout) Group have been given the signal honour of being designated "Sir Malcolm Campbell's Own".

... ..

The dramatic entertainment "BIAS BAY" by the 27th Fulham Group which was originally announced for Jan.31st and Feb.1st and postponed on account of the death of His Late Majesty, King George V., will be presented at St.Etheldreda's Church Hall, Cloncurry Street, Fulham, on Friday and Saturday, Feb.14th and 15th, at 8 p.m.

... ..