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Girl Guides and Boy Scouts

BY LADY BADEN-POWELL AND COLONEL GRENVILLE
WALTON, O.B.E.*

PRESIDENT A. F. BISHOP:—Ladies and gentlemen, may I suggest that this being the first meeting of the Canadian Club year and following so closely upon the jubilee celebration, our first duty is to rise and drink a toast to Their Majesties†

It is fitting to-day that we should have as guests of the Club members of the Women's Canadian Club. We have also eighty delegates from the convention of Girl Guides. We have eleven provincial commissioners and, finally, to crown all, we have Lady Baden-Powell and Col. Grenville Walton. Unfortunately, Lord Baden-Powell cannot be with us, due entirely to the enthusiasm aroused by the tour and the crowded program, arranged by Mr. Frank Cairns, of the Boy Scouts of Toronto. We look back to the many pleasant associations this Club has had with Lord Baden-Powell in the past. Lady Baden-Powell will speak for the

*A joint meeting with the Women's Canadian Club.

†Colonel Bishop's suggestion was followed by the toast and the playing of the National Anthem.

Girl Guides. For me to say anything in that respect would be to waste time as she has an interesting message. Col. Walton will take up cudgels for the Boy Scouts. Lady Baden-Powell.

LADY BADEN-POWELL:—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, and fellow maniacs, first of all may I offer my most cordial thanks to the Men's Canadian Club for their very great kindness for giving us this generous, kindly, hearty and charming welcome. I feel very embarrassed and a little alarmed, I may say, at being asked to come and address the Men's Canadian Club as I gather this is a special privilege not often allowed to a woman. (laughter). But I am awfully glad to be here, though I feel I am a very poor substitute for my husband. I know he would have loved to have been with you. He hoped to come, he would have liked to come because he has very happy memories of times with Canadian Clubs throughout Canada and of former interests here but, unfortunately, he is no longer young and he has come to Canada to see the Scouts and that is the first thing he has to attend to. Therefore, other things have to be rather left on one side.

But I am so delighted to have this opportunity of talking to you about my hobby and I want to also say how tremendously glad we are to have this wonderful opportunity of seeing the growth of our movement throughout the length and breadth of this great and wonderful country. We have had most beautiful, charming and kindly welcomes from all the different cities we have visited and we are touched to the heart by the cordiality and generosity with which we have been received by old and young alike. We want to offer our thanks to groups and clubs for they have welcomed us as if we belonged and, indeed, I would like to say we do feel definitely that we are at this moment very Canadian. We have been inspired also to find the Scout movement growing in such a magnificent way throughout the Dominion. Some people have been much too kind in saying that we have been able to inspire them.

It is inspiring and encouraging to see the game that my husband invented about twenty-seven years ago, being played with such vigor, such enthusiasm and such wonder-

ful success by these thousands and thousands of boys. I want here and now, if I may, to pay tribute, a small meed of tribute, to that magnificent body of men and women who are giving of their time, their talents and their services to the children they have under their care. It is due to the efforts of those adult leaders that the movement has grown steadily and surely year by year. I am proud to be able to say, in front of your own Chief Commissioner and the other provincial commissioners, that I feel they are doing a most magnificent service for their country and their kind.

Now, during our tour, we have had an opportunity of seeing thousands and thousands of radiant, happy, cheerful and enthusiastic boys and girls. Behind the movement there is that beautiful and loyal spirit of training themselves to serve their neighbor and their country. You can see in their eyes the shining light of enthusiasm. All of you who were present on Saturday last at the big Coliseum must have felt what strength there was behind the work — the strength of solid, loyal patriotism and love of doing for themselves and their neighbor, and that is one of the key-notes I would like to mention later on. One of the interesting things that we have noted here in Canada as we proceed on this tour has been the fact that you have all the parents and grown-ups through the country in sympathy with our movement.

Some time ago, my husband and I went on a tour in Australia where there was a rally of 17,000 girls and scouts. Forty-five thousand grown-up people paid at the gate to look on. When we arrived these very kind people cheered and seemed very pleased to see us. I feel I must have felt rather famous and conceited that so many people had come, but I was told, "They did not come to see you, they have come to see their own little Willie and Mary marching past." (laughter.) That was the best tribute they could have paid to us as it showed that the parents were realizing that we were not completely mad in this game of scouting.

It is interesting to look back on the history of the progress of this movement which, in itself is a most romantic story. Founded in one man's brain, inspired—(I would

almost say divinely inspired) as he was, he launched this wonderful hobby merely in his own country—in the little country of Great Britain. He tried it as an experiment to see how this training in character might benefit boys of vast slum cities and in the small, isolated villages, to see how we could help train a young Briton to become the man that Britain wanted. That was how scouting actually began and it grew and it grew because it was needed in the world. Then we came along. The girls were not going to be left behind and they got a movement started. The first actual scene of the guide history was laid at the Crystal Palace in 1910, when a large concourse of scouts and a few girls paraded in their brothers' hats and said, "We are the girl scouts." And so we got the movement started from that little beginning and it has gone steadily forward and, from a handful of half a dozen, we now number 1,250,000.

Scouting and guiding has sometimes been called a patent medicine. All the ingredients of scouting and guiding are put together to achieve certain health. The ingredients are mixed in a long preparation. It is suitable and acceptable and effective for the children of all kinds, classes and creeds, from the youngest to the parents, from India to Australia and from France to Canada. They are all made of the same stuff. A child is a child the world over. This, in itself, is a lesson we have learned because we have vision behind all that we are doing. We are trying to instil in the minds of millions of children the idea of friendship. There is no hatred and no distrust in the heart of a child. It is only we grown-ups who have made a mess of the world and so we are trying to instil in the minds of children these high ideals of working for themselves and making themselves fine, splendid individuals in their own communities, but with that further ideal behind it that they are going to serve their God and the world of humanity in the way they ought. We want to instil and inculcate in all these growing-up children these Christian principles that we lack so seriously and so desperately in the world to-day. That is why I may almost venture to say that guiding and scouting is practical Christianity which is needed so badly today, in small villages, in provinces, in states and in the world gen-

erally, where there are so many artificial barriers that we have worked so hard to erect. We do it quite consciously, sometimes unconsciously. We are only here for these short years on this earth and it is up to all of us grown-ups, (we should realize this in our four score years and ten in this world), to try and make the best of them and build so that there will be happiness and peace in the communities and in the world.

Now, here in Canada you have such wonderful opportunities in a country which is being built. It is new in comparison to those other countries in Europe and the East where civilizations are ages old. But here you can build on the experience of other people and learn and profit from their mistakes. Here you have a great tradition. Your pioneers and others who came faced with fortitude and courage their difficulties, hardships and dangers and, indeed, with all our steps toward civilization are we very much further toward happiness and prosperity? Those pioneers had their own hardships and dangers to face, but now in a super-civilized age we have got other dangers, hardships and difficulties which the young generation of the present day has to face in its turn. So the girls of Canada today are the important people of Canada tomorrow, and your work and our work—our responsibility—lies in fitting them and strengthening the best assets in their characters in order that they may be fine girls, sweethearts, wives and mothers that Canada needs tomorrow. And that is what guiding is trying to do—trying to do its work in fitting them by character training so that they may be self-reliant, resourceful, sane, level-headed, tolerant and kindly women that are needed for guiding the nation's future.

And so that is why I appeal to you about the guides. It is not only a game for keeping children out of mischief. It has a much higher and deeper purpose behind it. In this age of materialism we want girls to be more spiritually beautiful and to be the highest influence in life. In this age when we are hurriedly rushing—seeking, for we don't know what—this modern craze for speed that has laid hold of the young, we want young people who are going to be useful, wholesome and homely.

There are many things in guiding I would like to tell you about, but I will merely commend to your notice the fact that this movement is alive and figures in your midst. But we want more leaders. You cannot go forward without leaders. The age limit is eighteen to eighty-one. I make this appeal for the sake of Canada, the Empire and the world.

Thank you, everybody, for listening to me. You have been so kind and so patient.

PRESIDENT:—Thank you, Lady Baden-Powell. For the Boy Scouts, Col. Walton will now take the floor. He needs no introduction. He is a brilliant soldier as you will see by the long array of medals. He is a man who has given up his private interests and sacrificed them for the Boy Scout movement. I won't say that he is Lord Baden-Powell's chief helpmate, but he is his right hand man and chief mouthpiece.

COL. WALTON:—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I should like to thank you very much indeed for your kindness in asking me to be here today. Perhaps you will realize some of the difficulties of my position. Many of you no doubt have been to the theatre and heard an announcement made saying that the management craves the indulgence of the audience because the chief performer is unable to appear and that his place is being taken by the deputy assistant scene-shifter. (Laughter). And so, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure for this occasion to play opposite our leading lady.

As one who has had a certain amount to do with the Scout movement I should like to pay my tribute to those who have been working behind the scenes—those who are working throughout this magnificent Dominion of yours for the sake of the Scouts and Guides.

What is going to be the result of this visit of the Chief Scout and Chief Guide to Canada? There is going to be, I think, a response from the boys and girls themselves who are not in the movement to come in and join. The message I would like to give you today—to you, my seen audience and you, my unseen audience—is: can you possibly help in some way or another in this movement? As you know the

Scout movement has many different branches. The more important ones are those of the Rover Scouts and the Boy Scout Troops, which is the most important of the lot.

Although you and your friends may not feel that you have the time or perhaps the temperament for the position of a leader, yet do take on this job of service in helping the boys and girls in this training for citizenship. You may perhaps be able to help working on committees. We do hope to get for the Scout movement many more sportsmen to help us in the training of the youth of the Dominion. I am sure, Mr. Cairns, your Provincial Commissioner, who works so tremendously hard, will be only too glad to receive any help that you and your friends can give.

It is a great privilege to have the opportunity of speaking to the Canadian Guides and so many other important organizations in Canada. Public opinion seems to be well behind the Scout and Guide movements and now, perhaps, you can do much by following up the visit of the Chief Scout and the Chief Guide to these various places by seeing, as practical men and women, what you can do to fit into this work which, I think, all of us have at heart. We are hoping for many things from those who have been Guides and Scouts. Old Scouts are farming in the various provinces and states. I am not sure what our sisters should be called—whether they should be called old Guides or not. (Laughter). But I would suggest to those who have been privileged to have been Scouts and Guides to come back to the movement and give back to the movement something of what they got out of it when they were actual Scouts and Guides. As the Chief Guide has said there is more in this game of Scouting and Guiding than perhaps is generally realized by the general public. The public think, "O yes, these boys in rather a curious garb—it keeps them out of mischief and that is all to the good." But there is a much bigger aim, as the Chief Guide has told you—to make happy, healthy, helpful citizens in Canada—to make good and better Canadians.

At a recent jamboree in Australia, where eleven thousand Scouts were assembled from twenty-three different countries, two things definitely impressed the Chief Scout

above all. One was the wonderful self-discipline of the boys who represented every color and creed. There was never the slightest difficulty of any sort. The second point which impressed the Chief Scout was the great friendliness displayed by the boys of the different countries to each other.

Then we went on to New Zealand and saw the Scouts and Guides there. In six weeks we have travelled three thousand miles and then across to San Francisco where we had the pleasure of meeting the Scouts and Guides there. Then from San Francisco to Seattle and then we started the tour of this great and wonderful Dominion. You can understand, therefore, something of the strain which has been experienced by the Chief Scout and Chief Guide. My highest authority—and who is higher than one's wife?—tells me I am getting very temperamental—ninety-five per cent. temper and five per cent. mental. (Laughter). But ladies and gentlemen, we have in this tour of ours seen wonderful, spontaneous enthusiasm being displayed by the Scouts and Guides of all parts of the Empire. We have been interested most in the Dominions and the Chief Scout and Chief Guide are going this next winter to the jamboree in South Africa where that spirit of Empire has been so strongly exemplified.

A great many things are spoken about universal peace, ladies and gentlemen. We, ladies and gentlemen, in the Scout and Guide movement, maintain that we have done something practical in that way. At these enormous jamborees that are held in Britain, Denmark, Hungary, Australia—held every four years—Scouts gather from all the different countries. At these jamborees young men mix together from all the different countries absolutely on a level plane. They manage to get hold upon the view of the different countries so that when they become leaders of business and commerce in their respective countries they will be able to think of the times they had at jamborees when they met brother Scouts of other countries. In that way, the Chief Scout hopes to promote a spirit of universal peace.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, my message today is from

the Chief Scout that it may be possible for either you or your friends to join in the movement which has for its aims the making of happy, healthy and helpful Canadians—to make good citizens of the Empire and good citizens of the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you very much for your hospitality and for your patience in listening to me.

COL. BISHOP:—Ladies and gentlemen, it is not the custom of the Canadian Club to propose a vote of thanks but, I think, in view of the occasion and the presence of two very distinguished guests we may diverge a little today from the established custom. We are very fortunate in that Mrs. Albert Matthews, president of the Women's Canadian Club, is with us, and has kindly consented to say a few words in response to the magnificent addresses and inspiring talks we have had. Mrs. Matthews.

MRS. MATTHEWS:—Mr. President, I count it a great honor to express the thanks of this audience to our guests, Lady Baden-Powell and Col. Walton. Our president has said that this audience is made up of several organizations. At this time, I want to express the appreciation of our Women's Canadian Club at this the first meeting with the Canadian Club of Toronto to enjoy a luncheon and guest speakers together for the first time. It seems appropriate that this should be the first occasion because our guest speakers bring to us a common interest held by men and women all over our country, and our Chief Scout and Chief Guide are known and admired the world over. It seems to be an appropriate occasion to make our first visit here. Col. Walton and our Chief Guide have presented to us something of the great vision which first came into the brain of her husband, Lord Baden-Powell, when he started this great movement; and how fortunate for the world it was that so great an influence could come from the idea. We feel that this is one of the most vital and most ideal of international contacts.

We would wish you, Lady Baden-Powell and your husband and Col. Walton a happy and successful trip in your world journey. We thank you for your addresses which have been an encouragment and an inspiration to us.

COL. BISHOP:—I have an announcement to make before we break up. Next Monday at a meeting of the Men's Canadian Club we will have the pleasure of hearing Mr. Beatty, President of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He is not going to reply to the Honorable Dr. Manion. He will discuss the farmer's place in Canadian national life.