

and fight fires as far as permitted by the legal 16-year-age limitation. Ten troops in Pennsylvania have planted 44,200 trees this year. Considerable other work was done by scouts of which the department had no record, it was said.

From Massachusetts comes acknowledgment of the planting this year of 6,500 trees by scouts. The boys also assisted in extinguishing forest fires and in fighting the blister rust.

The effectiveness of this work has received national recognition. The September issue of *American Forests* carried a direct appeal to boy scouts for reforestation of our depleted resources under the heading, "Wanted, 10,000 boy scout forests."

The idea originated with Troop 19, of Madison, Wis., who have developed a 10-year plan for the development of a wooded tract near their city. The plan calls for the construction of trails, fire lines, picnic and camp grounds, signal towers and rustic bridges, reforestation, improving thinnings of the forest and studies of tree growth. "A nation-wide movement for boy scout forests modeled on this plan for permanent use and development," continued the article "would be a tremendous force in American boyhood, indeed a force in the forest attitude of the whole nation."

In the far West, the United States Forestry Service has agreed to lease national forest land to scouts who want to camp there, and instructors in the Forestry Service give talks to scouts in camps and troop meetings. The scouts in their turn, agree to practice careful fire-making and extinguishing, to help in fire-prevention campaigns and to distribute literature. The scouts are to conduct systematic plantings of seedlings and, under supervision, are to serve as patrols on fire lines, and report conditions to the forest service.

Educational opportunities in the Forest Service have been made available to boy scouts. The New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, continues to offer a four-year scholarship course. The Rock Oak Forestry Camp in the Catskills is available to 40 boy scouts of second-class rank. The State forestry department of Ohio sets aside seedlings for boy scouts to plant. The Department of Agriculture in Washington has prepared a special map of the United States for scouts, keyed to show sections where designated trees may best be planted for roadside decoration. The United States Forestry Department recently supplied instructors for the scout masters' training course in Pueblo, Colo.

During 1925 scouts took an important part in the observance of American forest week. In some sections of the country they practically handled the activities. The Boy Scout unit in the parade in Washington was one of the features.

Wild-life protection.—Protection to the wild life of the United States is a duty as well as a privilege to Boy Scouts. Game sanctuaries and bird refuges are a popular activity with many councils. Thousands of bird houses are built and set up by scouts in the spring contests that are held from the eastern coast to the far West.

Fish and game associations recognizing the importance of Boy Scout help, are actively working with scout troops. Thus, the Fish and Game Association located at East Liverpool, Ohio, accepted all registered Boy Scouts of the county as associate members.

An interesting form of service was developed in the Sunny Land Council at Manatee, Fla. First-class scouts are regularly sworn in as junior honorary deputy game commissioners, and receive certi-

ificates from the State commissioner. All scout masters and officers in the council are receiving full commission. At the ceremony of inauguration, the game commissioner said:

It is a source of great gratification that so many scouts have qualified for this work. It is a splendid demonstration of the fine work that is being done through this organization in the counties to which these scouts belong, and of the high type of citizenship here.

Here are some examples of the type of service that scouts are rendering in the cause of wild life conservation:

Wayzata, Minn., Troop 83: Doing winter wild bird feeding as usual.

Seattle, Wash., Troop 65: Distributed bird houses to the grounds of hospitals and childrens' homes.

Dowagiac, Mich., Troop 4: Fed quail for the State during the severe winter weather.

St. Louis, Mo., Troop 162: Distributed grain in country to save the birds.

Reynoldsville, Pa., Troop 4: Distributed buckwheat to wild game during winter.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Troop 45: Helped Ohio Fish and Game Protective Association at Woodland Park.

Omaha, Nebr., Troop 14: Built 50 bird houses for city parks.

Vernal, Utah, Troop 4: Two Saturdays feeding quail, which were starving due to the snow.

Detroit, Mich., Troop 65: Built and set up over 150 bird houses. Posted three farms against hunting; 60 per cent of fathers in troop wrote letters to Congressmen for the establishment of bird sanctuary near Detroit.

Cooperation with the city and State governments.—The plan of turning certain departments, or the entire direction of the city government over to scouts for a few hours or a day, continues in favor. Such an "administration" focuses public attention on the community's greatest asset, its youth. It also inspires boys with a sense of their own civic duties and the responsibilities of citizenship. As an educational feature, it is of great importance. The boys who do actually hold such offices are but a handful compared to the hundreds who find new zest for study and increased interest because of the scout elections and campaigns that accompany the administrations.

In addition to Boy Scout administrations that occurred in many large cities, a variation of interest was presented when scouts of Missoula, Mont., occupied the executive offices of the Northern Pacific Railroad on June 25. Regular officials were classed as "assistants for the day." The jobs ranged from mechanics, train masters and dispatchers to engineers, roadmasters, agents, and firemen. Those assigned to office positions were busy with telephone calls, papers, conferences and consultations. Down in the shops and yards they made the rounds with the chiefs, inspecting box cars, and investigating engines and coaches.

Service by scouts actually saves thousands of dollars to city and State administrations. For instance, at the request of the United States Bureau of Public Roads, scouts in many parts of the country have been assisting in making an accurate count of the traffic. It is estimated that the service rendered by the scouts in Ohio alone saved the Government \$75,000 in making this check. Six hundred Boy Scouts volunteered for this service in Washington, D. C. At Greenville, S. C., the time given by scouts was equal to eighteen 10-hour days.