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# CHIEFS' VISIT NUMBER

APRIL, 1931.

Vol. 7, No. 11.

# Matilda.



AN OFFICIAL TREASURE BAG OF GUIDERS' INFORMATION FOR

## VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

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### CONTENTS.

We mean this number of "Matilda" to be a record of that very wonderful week for Guides and Scouts when we had our Chiefs with us in our own State.

Here is the programme which they carried out:—

April 1st—

Arrival in Melbourne.

Civic reception in Melbourne Town Hall.

April 8th—

The Chief Scout addressed members of the Rotary and Legacy Clubs.

The Chief Guide visited Guides at the Austin Hospital.

April 9th—

Afternoon tea party given by Mrs. Norman Brookes (a member of the Executive Committee).

General meeting, in the evening, at the Auditorium for parents of Guides, members of Local Association, Subscribers, and general public.

April 10th—

Commissioners' Dinner at the Lyceum Club followed by a Guiders' Reception at the St. Kilda Town Hall.

April 11th—

Combined Rally of Guides and Scouts.

April 12th—

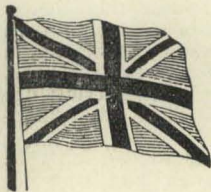
Open Air Thanksgiving Service.



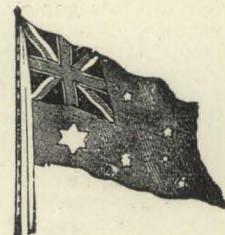


[By courtesy of "The Leader."]





## Lord and Lady Baden-Powell's Visit.



### THE CHIEFS ARRIVE.

(From "The Leader.")

Although they had been told "not to trouble about meeting Lord and Lady Baden-Powell," over a thousand cubs, scouts and guides escaped from their daily duties for a short period, in order to accord the Chief Scout and Chief Guide of the World a magnificent reception at Spencer-Street station on their arrival from Canberra. By the time the train arrived, shortly after noon, there was a veritable army of members of the movements outside the barriers. The human avenue which they formed leading to the official cars contributed an inspiring spectacle of colour, virility and radiant smiles. They were waiting to yell their hearty welcome to those two people in the world who had given to them something which was making life so much more interesting and helpful. It was significant that the police soon discovered that they had nothing to do—the scouts and guides showed strikingly that they well know the first principle of how to "play the game."

Inside the barriers, the official party gathered for the arrival of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. The Governor was represented by Captain Speir, A.D.C. Lady Chauvel, as Deputy Chief Commissioner of the guides, was the centre of a group of Guide Commissioners.

Cr. H. Luxton, M.L.A., the Lord Mayor, who is chairman of the Scout Association Council, was surrounded by Scout Commissioners, and members of the State Executive. The Federal and State Parliaments were also represented.

When the train pulled into the station the cheering commenced, till it rose to a mighty crescendo, when the Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell, garbed in Scout kit, and the Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell, in uniform, stepped from the special carriage to the platform. Someone in the crowd called for three cheers for Lord Baden-Powell, and those cheers were given again and again whilst the two distinguished leaders of the movements stood side by side, smiling and waving. Travelling with Lord and Lady Baden-Powell were Mr. G. H. Thomas, chairman of the State Executive of the Boy Scouts' Association; Mr. C. Hoadley, Chief Commissioner of Victoria, and Colonel le Breton, Travelling Commissioner to Lord Baden-Powell.

Introductions having been performed on the platform, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell then walked through a roaring avenue of Scouts and Guides, performing a sort of informal inspection. Their progress could be traced by

the waves of cheering which signalled their every step. "They're a great lot," smilingly remarked Lord Baden-Powell, as he followed his wife into the Governor's limousine. As the official party drove off to "Stonnington" the cheering was redoubled. As the car swung out of the gates, a crowd of railwaymen raised their hats, and gave a rousing cheer, which Lord and Lady Baden-Powell charmingly acknowledged.

Representatives of Church and State and public bodies thronged the Melbourne Town Hall to well over the two thousand mark, when the Lord Mayor, Cr. H. Luxton, M.L.A., extended a civic welcome to Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.

### THE CHIEF GUIDE SPEAKS ABOUT OUR GREAT GAME.

First of all, I want to thank Lady Somers very much for such a kind introduction. It makes me feel very humble, as I am a very ordinary Guide, but I may say I am a very happy one, because it is such a joy to be here at last to see for myself what the Guides of Victoria are like.

I also want to thank you all for coming in your numbers to meet me here to-night, because it is such a tremendous inspiration to me to find that such a large number of grown-ups are willing to come here to listen to me talk "shop." It shows that Guiding and Scouting have a great hold here in Victoria.

It shows that we have your sympathy already, and if I can perhaps prey on your feelings, and make you feel more sympathetic, we shall go forward with more joyousness to make Guiding in this State larger and sounder in every way.

I have known the Guide work of Victoria by name for a very long time, because I have had something to do with it, as it is a part of my job to deal with Guide work in the different parts of the Empire, in the larger dominions as well as the tiny colonies.

Thus I have heard quite a lot during the last ten years or so of the gradual start and progress of our beloved game in this State, as well as in all the other States in Australia. It is a tremendous inspiration to travel from the other end of the world, and to find our game being played with just the same keenness, in just the same way, and having just the same splendid effect upon girls who come flocking to our ranks.

I would like to pay a very warm tribute to those splendid self-sacrificing pioneers who



took up this game of Guiding when the world was not quite so sympathetic. I also want to pay a tribute to those who are carrying on this game and doing this most worth-while work for the children of Australia. I see in this country the same plucky spirit pushing forward to lend a hand and use this tool which has been put into their hands for the good of their young sisters.

Let us speak for a moment about the early days, because quite a number of people who have been in the movement for some time hardly realise how the start of this thing came about. It came about because the world needed it.

The Chief Scout, as you know, invented Scouting, and, of course, it was entirely his fault that we came along later. At the same time, as he says himself, it is not a one-man show at all. He merely gave the idea, and the suggestions which brought the thing into being. It was the children themselves who wanted it—they started it, and it has grown naturally.

It has been interesting to find here in Australia one of the six women who caused the Guide movement to exist. She is living in a neighbouring State. The first people who played the game of Guiding were six girls in 1909, who borrowed their brothers' shirts and hats, and paraded at the Crystal Palace Rally, and when the Chief Scout saw them he asked "What are you?" and when they replied "We are the Girl Scouts," it nearly took his breath away. So he decided that if they wanted to have a game like that, they must have something in the nature of a complementary movement run for the girls by women. From this beginning it has grown until our members number nearly one million.

Of course, the Chief Scout is always very grand when we start talking about numbers, because he runs into over two millions, but we are not going to lag behind for long, because in Great Britain and New Zealand there are more Guides than there are Scouts.

But it is not merely the number of children that matters, but the proportion of girls and boys of the race who want and need this training.

The Chief Scout is always the person we go to for advice, and he also is asked to put in a nutshell what he considers the reason for Scouting. His version of scouting and guiding is that it is to make happy, healthy and helpful citizens.

May I touch for a moment on happiness, and the need for it anywhere. I think we are apt, when we grow up, to be rather gloomy. There are a great many heavy burdens on our shoulders, and we are apt to dwell on the sad and rather seamy side of life.

Yet we are put into this lovely world for only a certain number of years, and I think perhaps a good many of us can help to train and encourage a new generation to go on and enjoy the beauties and loveliness of the world, to put a grin on, and face the world with a more optimistic and cheery attitude.

You have heard it said one of our laws is to smile and sing under all difficulties. Most of the people who like to have a laugh at our

expense think this one of the most ridiculous laws ever made, but there is a method in our madness, and the fact of even a Brownie or a Guide having to put on a smile, especially in difficulties, is going to develop in her the habit of facing her own problem and exerting her self control, which must assist in strengthening the character.

Thus we can do something to develop that happy outlook in children when they grow up, and we have done something to plant happiness for them, and there is nothing more infectious than a happy smile.

The second point is health. I think the health of the race is especially a job for women. It is the woman's job to look after the children and health generally. It is always the women who cook the food and do the nursing, but apart from actual illness, I think we ought to take every care we can, and do everything in our power to promote a healthy race to come after us. It is almost unfair to say illness is a disgrace, but preventable illness is a disgrace, and surely we can set our minds to try to develop a healthy mind and a healthy body in the growing child. That is what we can do so largely in our guiding and scouting, because all our guiding is based on healthy minds and bodies.

The work is so useful because we urge the Guides to look after themselves. The idea is that they have been given a clean, wholesome body, and it is their business to keep it so, not merely to cure illness, but to grow up with the idea of only eating healthy food, reading healthy books, and looking at healthy things, with an almost passionate desire to be well themselves, and to make other people well too.

Many people think we are rather odd, and one of the criticisms I hear very often is why children have to go to camp. Besides the tremendous appeal that camping has for the children, there is the training in character. Any fool can camp in fine weather, but it takes a really good Guide to camp in bad weather. We know you sometimes have bad weather in Australia. Taking the Guides and Scouts to camp teaches them to take the rough with the smooth, and makes them capable, handy women and men, playing the game together for the good of the whole community, learning the communal spirit, pulling together and learning to be handy, and fend for themselves and to find greater joy and interest in life. Through camping they get a greater and more glorious insight into the wonders of the Creator. I think that although camping may be criticised by those who do not understand it, there is a great scheme behind it, and it is really good guide work. It is the most joyous, healthy, active thing we can have for our children.

We are all living in a machine age, when things are made for us, where we buy instead of make. We are living in a selfish age, when everyone fends for himself, and does not care much about the other fellow. So, in our aim of developing helpfulness in our children, we are urging them to think for others rather than for themselves.

We start at the age of eight, with the small Brownie. She is expected to lah, lah,



TELEGRAMS, WAREWOOD.  
TELEPHONE, WAREWOOD 2

Warewood House  
Leeds

I am very glad to have this opportunity of sending, through the Chief Guide, my greetings and best wishes to the Guides and Brownies of Australia.

We are always interested to hear news of the Guide movement in all parts of the Dominion, and I am so glad to know that the work is going on happily and well among you.

It is a very great pleasure to meet Guide people from Australia when they come to England, and I hope that we shall have the pleasure of welcoming many more in the years to come.

With best wishes for your success and happiness.

Mary  
1931



which means lends a hand, help others, especially those at home, and there, in a very small person aged eight, you are sowing the seeds that will lead her to put thinking of other people before thinking of herself, and in that way, learn to be the same self-sacrificing person later on.

They are learning to do good turns every day by becoming capable of doing them—in other words, by learning handcrafts, and hobbies, which are going to be useful to them and to others.

The badge system has been found extremely valuable, because it encourages the lagger, who finds that she can do some things after all. The badge system does appeal tremendously to children. Children want badges to wear on their arms to show their proficiency in different subjects. There is a value in these things. If we wear ribbons, it shows we have money to buy them. If Guides wear badges, it means she has had the pluck, energy and determination to work for them, and earn them.

We do not set ourselves up as being perfect in every way, and also realise very fully we are only there to fill up the spare time and the chinks which are left in the training of children by parents, teachers and pastors. We are there to help those who care about children. We cater for all sorts and conditions, and all ages—Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

The present times are a challenge to go forward with greater keenness and determination to use such tools as Guiding and Scouting for the oncoming race, because we are not going to be here much longer, and we do care about what is going to happen in the future, and it is the children to-day who count.

Several thousand years ago Socrates said: "No man goeth about more godly work than he who careth for the right upbringing of his own, or other men's children."

We deal with other men's children. I ask you to see for yourselves the good there is in this week, and to back it for all you are worth. There is room for everybody to play this great game with us.

### THE CHIEF GUIDE.

#### Special Interview for "Matilda."

By Patricia Allan (of "The Argus.")

The attractive personality and keen friendliness of the Chief Guide have won for her during her brief visit to Victoria the admiration of all with whom she has come in contact. And, since her energy and enthusiasm are unflagging, the number of people whom she has met personally is amazing. In the midst of the very full round of activities planned so that she could see as much of the Girl Guide work in Victoria as was possible in a short time, she yet found time to give a special interview for "Matilda." She expressed regret that the time for the interview must necessarily be very short since as well as all her own activities she undertook most of the secretarial work for the Chief Scout.

Her pleasure at the success of the Girl Guide work here as well as elsewhere, and her pride in the ideals of the Movement, are evident in the happy way she speaks of it, and the bright

smile which never seems quite to disappear from her face. "You may tell them," she said, "that I am very thrilled to see how well Guides are playing the game here. I am very anxious that they should realise how they help to carry the good name of the whole Movement, since they have come to a big Sisterhood, and since people are looking more and more to Australia as a growing country. The Guides have started on the right lines here. The only thing they have to do is to go ahead on those lines and prove their worth to the public."

Speaking of the various Guide activities, she emphasised the fact that they were all of value since each had its own purpose in helping girls to realise the importance "not really of making a living, but of learning how to live." Signalling, for instance, was included to develop certain definite powers and qualities. An enquiry was made by Egyptian Guides as to whether they might be allowed to omit this from their programme, as they felt that for themselves it did not serve any practical purpose. Headquarters granted permission on the condition that some other activity was included which would develop the same qualities of memory, alertness, quickness of vision and action, and concentration. As no other activity could be found to serve the same purpose Egyptian Guides still retain signalling as a part of their programme. And the same kind of underlying purpose gives reason to all Guide and Brownie activities.

"I am especially enthusiastic about arts and crafts work," she said. "In this machine age we are apt to lose our capacity and ingenuity and creative instincts, in spite of the fact that we take pride in the things we do ourselves. The trend of public life to-day is to have everything made easy." She told an amusing incident to illustrate this point. "I recently visited an aviary," she said, "where the owner had a big New Guinea crested pigeon, which he had imported. The bird wanted a nest, so he provided it with a basket. And it was quite content with that basket for a nest, although it was big enough to have built a fine nest for itself. We Guides won't be like that bird," she added. "We will do things for ourselves."

"I am also very much interested in the extension work, among sick and blind and deaf Guides," she said, "because it gives them opportunities of development from which they might otherwise be debarred owing to their handicaps.

"We are most glad to have come to Australia at this particular juncture, because it is a wonderful country with wonderful possibilities, and so much lies in the hands of the young people to-day."

### THE RALLY.

More than 16,000 Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies took part in the Rally, which was the really great occasion at which we welcomed our Chiefs.

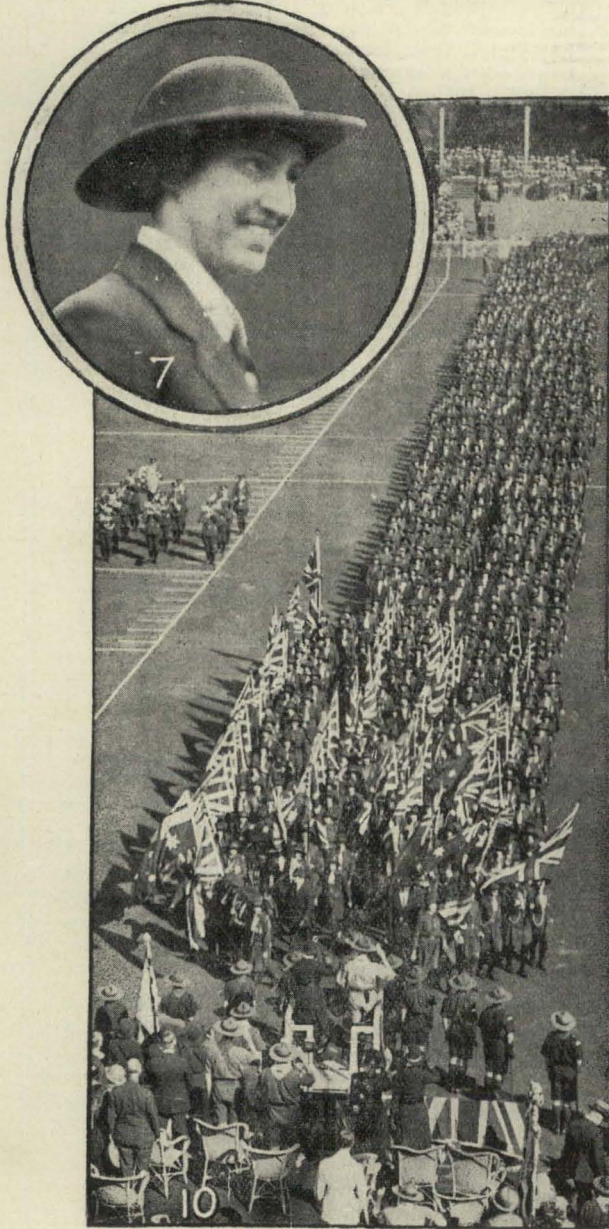
The programme opened with the March Past, led by the Guides. We came up the length of the ground to the saluting base, marching ten abreast, and dividing in front of



the dais to take our places on the ground. Then came the Cubs and the Scouts.

A pageant representing 49 nations in national costume concluded the March Past, the gay costumes making a brilliant splash of colour in the mass formation which waited to hear the messages from our Chiefs.

The Brownies played singing games and the



[By courtesy of "The Leader".]

Cubs gave displays. An Australian Colonisation Pageant was acted by the Guides and Scouts depicting amusing struggles between explorer, aborigines and fearsome prehistoric creatures.

The Scouts' Rush Rally made a fitting climax to the programme, which was witnessed by about 50,000 people.

A "NOW" (DESCRIPTIVE OF THE RALLY).

(With apologies to Leigh Hunt, who first thought of the idea.)

Now 7000 Guides, Brownies and Guiders wake with joyful hearts to find the sun shining in such a way that it is impossible to believe that it will cease to shine until April 11th, the day to which we have looked forward for so long—is amongst our yesterdays.

Now the Commissioners look fondly at their cords laid out with care. The Captains and Brown Owls inspect their ties, to make sure that they are without blemish or crease. The Loots and Tawnies gaze sadly at their spotless lanyards which they have washed—just in case—and they think that it seems a pity. . .

Now the Rangers, the P.L's and the Guides and Brownies look with satisfaction on their creaseless uniforms. Now the newest recruit grasps her shining badge which she has pinned in her pyjamas in case of fire, and sighs with relief to find it still safe.

Now shoes, belts and badges receive yet another final polish, and clothes brushes seek an imaginary speck of dust on an impeccable uniform.

Now 7000 families are required to assure 7000 enthusiasts that it certainly looks as if it will remain fine. Now those important people who are to lead their groups begin to arrive at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, where barriers and notices are being erected. Now we are most entertained by the gentleman who is experimenting with the amplifiers.

Now the Guiders who have forgotten to bring a clean shirt say to each other: "My dear, do you think the Chiefs will notice that spot on my collar as I go past?" Now the Guiders have a luncheon meeting "down by the railroad track," discussions have to cease as trains pass, and the Guiders are soon thankful that it is the peak period—otherwise one Guider might not have had that "unhurried meal" mentioned on our notices!

Now the Companies begin to arrive. None of us have ever seen so many Guides together. Now one hears remarks like this:—

"Captain, why aren't our ties that color?"

"Can we get a drink, Captain?"

"Where will Mary find that country Guide that's going to stay with her? What color tie will she have on?"

"Why have some of the Guides got cords round their arms—are their mothers' Commissioners?"

"How many more badges will I have to get to have a cord, Captain? Can I wear it round my hat like some of the Captains?"

"After I get my second-class, Captain, can I win a red cord round my hat?"

"Captain, which side of my ground sheet did you say . . . ."

Now the last Company of seventeen has been successfully arranged in fives. Now we hear the note on the Chief's horn, the band begins to play, and we move off. Now we are swinging up to the saluting base, and we are



all so thrilled that we cannot help smiling. Now the big moment has arrived, and the newest recruit is smiling at her Chiefs and feeling that she gets a smile back "all for herself."

Now we sit watching the International Pageant file up the centre of the ground. Now the Chief Guide is speaking to us and giving us our own special message from our Royal President, and our cheers ring out as Lady Baden-Powell announces that she is presenting the Silver Fish to our State Commissioner, Lady Somers.

Now the Brownies take the ground and charm everyone with their singing games. Now the Guides are making the outline of Australia, and the pageants follow, depicting the landmarks in the history of the continent. Now we flock to the grandstand and become spectators for the Scout item and their final rush rally.

Now we are collecting our belongings, and finding our companies. The early settlers set off with their sheep, and the gold diggers with their nuggets. Soon the last stragglers are on their homeward way.

Now The Rally is over—a memory of glad smiles and perfect weather.

and the work began.

Last year the broad scheme was planned, and tableaux were allotted to districts. This year parts were chosen and costumes were designed.

The sorting! The details! The reading! The sewing!

Ransacking spread from the Public Library to the family to rag-bag and back again, and the Historical Society of New South Wales contributed their learning.

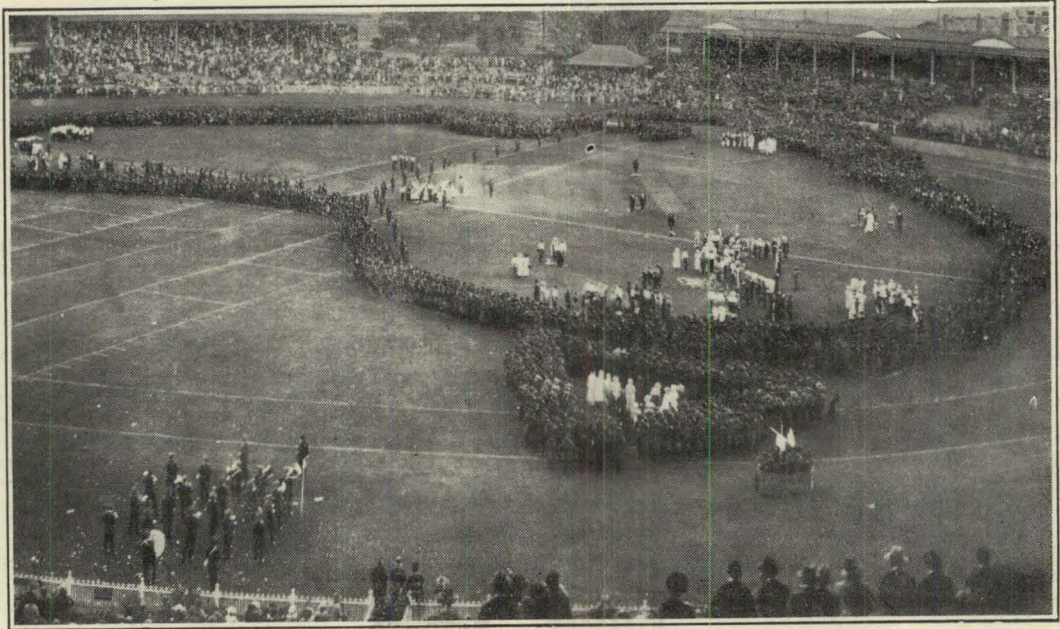
How can a commander raise his hat when he has attached his wig to it? How can a mountain be made from the turf of the cricket ground? How can a nugget be hid up a sleeve and appear from a hole in the ground?

How can we cook without a fire, and what will the police say if we carry guns?

How can we make Australia's wheatfields when the harvest is over, and the grain is flour?

The Rangers and Guides answered them ALL. They thought, they worked, they rehearsed, they were determined it should all come right!

Company rehearsals, District rehearsals, Big rehearsal, and District ones again. Many



[By courtesy of "The Weekly Times."]

### THE AUSTRALIAN PAGEANT.

The Australian Pageant was interesting to the people who watched it from the stands, but to those who worked with it the happiness of a great effort together will remain a lifetime.

The subject was chosen at a meeting held last June, after several ingenious suggestions had been discussed and discarded. The sub-committee was appointed, and then the fun

busy people helping us, working for us, advising us.

### The Rally.

Speed in the dressing "rooms," assembling at "9"—for one frantic moment an essential part is lost, but it was so much up to time that it had gone before us to the post. Mr. Russell on the box. The band on the ground. The Pageant was on! Everyone knew her job, and did it with all her might.

Some incidents were unexpected, and some



were different from the plan, but steadiness, enthusiasm, concentration in every Guider, Ranger and Guide carried it to success.

Our State Commissioner sent a special message. The Chief Guide has said she enjoyed it, and thought it good.

G. H. SWINBURNE.

#### OPEN-AIR SERVICE.

The Guides assembled in one of the pavilions, and the Scouts took up their position on the ground. At 3 o'clock a procession led by the bearers of more than 100 Scout flags and national flags entered the oval. After the long lines of standard-bearers marched ranks of Scout and Guide leaders, followed by Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, His Excellency the Governor and Lady Somers, and clergy of several denominations.

After the opening prayers, hymns and the reading of lessons, a prayer was offered by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (Dr. Borland). The Scouts and Guides stood as the State Chief Commissioner (Mr. C. A. Hoadley) read the Scout law, and the Chief Scout of Victoria (Lord Somers), led the ceremony of renewal of the Scout promise, "to do my duty to God and the King; to help other people at all times; to obey the Scout law."

"I am thinking as I look at you how much depends on your lives in the next 10, 20 or 30 years," said Archbishop Head, addressing the Scouts and Guides. "If you are true to what you are learning as Scouts and Guides, what a tremendous difference it will make to Australia." He would take as his text, he said, the words in the story of the rich young man, "Come, take up the cross and follow Me." If they heard Christ say to them, "Follow Me," they would have found the inspiration of a life. The fishermen who had heard that call turned the world upside down. The rich young man went away, "for he had great possessions." They, too, could turn away, but if they did so they would be choosing the second best in life. If they heard the call that afternoon and answered it, they would find what life really was, what scouting was meant to teach them, and what it meant to live a life of service to their fellow-men.

#### Lord Baden-Powell's Farewell.

After the benediction Lord Baden-Powell said good-bye to the Scouts and Guides who had assembled from all corners of Victoria in his honour.

"I am mighty glad to have seen you all," he concluded. "God bless you all."

#### LETTER FROM THE CHIEF GUIDE.

". . . . I want to congratulate you most warmly on the way you organised and staged that charming display of Australia's history. It was absolutely first rate, and the best thing of its kind that I have ever seen. It is such a difficult thing to get a display where you can have literally thousands of performers (without rehearsals!) and have it really well carried out and effectively spectacular for an audience, and this was accomplished most splendidly. . ."

(Signed) OLAVE BADEN-POWELL.

#### SEVEN HUNDRED GUIDERS.

(Being an Account of the Guiders' Reception for the World Chief Guide, St. Kilda Town Hall, April 10th, 1931.)

Generally Commissioners and Captains are very calm and stolid beings; Lieutenants and Tawnies, of course, are always in an adjectival state. . . ("Marvellous, my dear! Simply too perfect!") But at the Great Occasion in St. Kilda Town Hall on April 10th, when seven hundred Guiders gathered to meet the World Chief Guide, Commissioners, Captains—yes, even Headquarters Executive—everyone, in fact, was One Wide Grin. Everyone, from the State Commissioner to the most insignificant and newest Lieutenant, was simply bubbling. The excitement started as the streams of Guiders converged upon the Town Hall; it grew as people recognised others and dashed towards them joyously. ("Isn't this a thrill, my dear? Simply too. . .") It increased as the chattering crowds hurried into the blaze of light and colour that transformed the hall, and renewed again as the amazing masses of flowers met our gaze.

For an hour we sat (or rather wriggled) and talked excitedly; far too excited, indeed, to heed the really well-done interludes of the New Conservatorium trio; too excited even to be coherent. The Committee rushed to and fro out in the hall, waiting to welcome the Chief, and incidentally for the Commissioners to arrive from the dinner at the Lyceum Club. There were two or three false alarms, and once we even started to sing when there was nobody to sing at; but at last they arrived. A whistle signal, and we rose to our feet and burst into "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow." And when at last Lady Baden-Powell and Lady Somers mounted the platform to increased cheering, our ambition was realised; we were with the Chief Guide!

She really is a marvellous woman. Every single Guider in that hall—seven hundred of us, remember—had a firm handshake and special word from her. And her speech! Here is what she said:—

"I am tremendously thrilled to be with you all to-night. It is such a joy running round the world—thousands of miles—to have a look at you all. It seems too wonderful to come to this end of the world to see just the same cheery, keen Guiders you meet in the Old Country, and to meet you all face to face.

"It is such a joy to see this wonderful keenness, the love and energy that is all going towards making the splendid women we want in the world. I can assure you it is a wonderful thing for the Chief Scout to see how you have grown in Australia, and he congratulates you on the work you are doing; your reward comes when you see how the children are following the example you are setting. You are the background of the movement, and it is splendid to see how hundreds and thousands of children turn to you for leadership.

"Guiders and Guides in the Old Country are tremendously interested in hearing what you are doing over here, and assure you all of a great welcome if you ever find it possible to visit them. It is a thrill for Guides who, day af-



ter day, week after week, see the same faces, to meet a Guide from the other end of the world."

"I hope many of you will come, not only to see your sister Guides, but the wonderful new Imperial Headquarters. I do want to congratulate you on the big effort that has been made in Australia to help the fund, and I am very proud to say I've just had a cable from the Queen, who said: 'Just opened your beautiful building.'

"Have you heard the story of the bricks? No! Well, do let me tell you. This story has been told all over the world. Four Victorian Guides—nobody knows their names, but they have become world-famous by showing their jolly, sporting and loyal spirit—who heard about the building and the fund that was being raised by the State of Victoria, and sent home four half-crowns to pay for four special bricks which had to be placed in the wall of the new building facing Buckingham Palace because they said: 'They themselves could not go to see the King, but the King could see their bricks.' I assure you this story conjures up such a beautiful picture of your people here who are thinking how the King would admire them. What a spirit those children had!

"The movement is growing and growing in leaps and bounds. Last year there was an increase of 95,000, which is not bad going at all, and it continues to grow all the time. It is self-supporting, and the whole spirit is sturdy and strong. What a wonderful game we are playing! I do want to urge you to go on in the splendid way you have begun; you surely must realise the value of it all to the children. I am sure the parents of the children value it.

"The Chief Scout is tremendously impressed by what he has seen in Australia, of the thousands who have shown interest by looking on at the Scout and Guide Rallies, and says how really worth while it is to put all our energy into the training of children, and thus show a picture of the coming generation.

"I just want to read you a little quotation written by an Australian: 'What is your debt for the privilege of being born on this earth and possessing the glories of health and strength? Some people would say: "To make money"; some people would answer: "To get as much pleasure as possible", and those that are religiously inclined would say: "to prepare for the world to come," but few would give the correct answer, which should be: "To do the best I can whilst I am here for the new generation who will dwell on this earth".'

"This is the message I want to leave you—to go on with the game of Guiding, it is so worth while. Your reward is to see the children in their activities. Always have fresh courage and energy and strength to carry on with the game. Tell your aunts, sisters, mothers, grand-mothers and everyone to carry on with you in the splendid game. Make a noise about it. Show your cheery smiles, because Guiding is the joy of your lives, and we are all working for the love of it all. It is worth while, isn't it?"

It was a very real joy to hear the Chief Guide of All the World speaking to us as one

Guide to another—Guides who together are playing the Great Game. . .

At the conclusion of her speech Lady Baden-Powell presented Miss M. E. Bush with the Medal of Merit—and then we cheered as though we didn't care at all whether the authorities could spare the roof of the building. We never dreamed that we could want to make so much noise.

Before supper we inspected the Chief Guide's standard—an exquisite piece of work. And after imbibing coffee and cakes, which we were all too dazed to appreciate, we burst into song once more. "The More We Have of Guiding," and "Oh, World Chief Guide, we'll sing-a-ling-a-ling," resounded through the room, surprising even the reporters. But we were past caring; and then the Chief told us firmly that it was bed-time.

"To think that it's all actually over, my dear!" gabbled the Tawnies and Loots going home. She is splendid," enthused the recorded Commissioners. . . .

Seven hundred people wended their way bed-wards; seven hundred resolutions were made to play the Game of Guiding as never before; and more extensive than ever were seven hundred Wide Grins.

#### AWARDS.

##### Lady Somers.

One of the pleasant recollections that Guides will have of the Rally will be the presentation of the Silver Fish to our State Commissioner, Lady Somers, by the Chief Guide.

When Lady Somers first came to Victoria, and we found that she had been a County Commissioner in England, and had had active experience of Guiding, we felt that we were fortunate; since then, seeing how from week to week she has directed our Guide affairs, and has constantly worked for and helped us, we have realised that we were even more fortunate than we thought, and I think we would all like to thank Lady Baden-Powell for giving us as much pleasure as she did on the afternoon of the Rally, when she gave Lady Somers the highest reward for service that can be given to a Guide.

SIBYL CHAUVEL.

##### Miss Hamilton—Pioneer.

The conferring of the Silver Fish Award on Miss Beanie Hamilton, at the General Meeting on 9th April, by the Chief Guide, was a momentous event indeed. The first Silver Fish awarded to a Victorian Guider, by Imperial Headquarters, it marked an epoch in the history of our Guiding, and it was indeed an inspiration of the Chief Guide that she should confer the Award just as Miss Hamilton had finished her interesting talk on the early days of Guiding in Victoria.

Not so very long ago the Executive Committee expressed their appreciation of Miss Hamilton's services to the Association by co-opting her a permanent member of the Victorian Headquarters Executive; but only those of us who have, like Miss Hamilton and with her, seen the Movement grow from its original three Companies to the multitude that assem-



bled to welcome the Chief Guide and Chief Scout, can fully appreciate the fact that it is mainly to her far-sighted vision of what Guiding could and would do for girls that Guiding owes its progress and development in this State. When Miss Hamilton introduced Guiding into her School over ten years ago, there were already two Guide Companies in the State, but the spread of Guiding here dates from the starting of those School Companies. Many who are Guiders now gained their first impression of Guiding either as members of or as visitors to 1st and 2nd Malvern (1st and 2nd Toorak College) Companies.

Miss Hamilton was Captain of these Companies, and also Honorary State Secretary, and even in those far-off times this position was no sinecure. Our earliest Commissioners gleaned their knowledge from her experience, and always she was willing to help to establish Guiding, or confirm it, both in the metropolitan area and in various country districts.

Miss Hamilton's Guide career has been a wide and interesting one, and we know she herself would wish for no reward beyond the happiness that comes from work well done; but we count it a privilege to offer her our sincere congratulations on receiving the highest recognition possible in the Guide movement, "for good service for the whole Movement."

#### Miss M. E. Bush.

Guiders in Victoria and in other States will congratulate Miss M. E. Bush, to whom the Chief Guide awarded the Medal of Merit. Miss Bush joined up with the movement in its early days, and was one of the first Guiders in Victoria to gain the Blue Cord Diploma.

She has held the positions of Head of Brownies, Head of Camping, and for some years has been Head of Training. We all know that Miss Bush has worked for each of these branches with unflagging energy, and there are few Guiders in the State who do not owe much to her inspiration and training.

As the first Guider in Australia to hold a Red Cord Diploma, Miss Bush has often had the privilege of assisting with training in other States, so we feel that our sister States will be almost as delighted as we are that Miss Bush should have received the Medal of Merit in recognition of her splendid work.

It was a particularly happy idea that the award should have been made at the Guiders' Reception, when we had an opportunity of offering our personal congratulations. It was a great satisfaction to have been present when Miss Bush received this award, which she so richly deserved.

#### FLAGS AT THE RALLY.

At the Rally on 11th April, most Victorian Guides saw for the first time the Chief Guide's Standard, a really lovely piece of work, and which was made for her by English and Overseas County Commissioners. A description of the Standard was in the March issue of "Matilda."

The Colour Parties at the Rally were composed of representatives of the first six Guide Companies formed in Victoria, and still extant. They were 1st Heidelberg, 1st Skipton, 1st Malvern (Toorak College), 1st Geelong, 3rd Malvern, and 3rd Camberwell.

At the service on Sunday, the following Guiders formed the Colour Parties:—Miss Bush, Miss Thewlis, Miss Sinclair, Miss Moran, Miss Urquhart and Miss Purnell.

The Cenotaph Flag, a Blue Ensign, was carried at the Rally by representatives from the first three Ranger Companies formed in Victoria, and still in existence—1st St. Arnaud, 1st Melbourne, and 1st Victorian Cadets (University of Melbourne).

This Flag has been given by H.M. Government to the Guides of Australia, and is one of the six flags which has been for a year on the Cenotaph in Whitehall. The flag will be carried at each State Rally, and will be kept for the year in the State which is providing the Active Vice-President and Secretary of the Federal Council. The flag will be taken to each meeting of the Federal Council, and presented to the new Active Vice-President to keep in her State during the year.

After the Chief Guide leaves Australia, the Cenotaph Flag will be held until 1932 by Victorian Guide Headquarters.

S.H.I.

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#### IMPORTANT.

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#### COURTESY TO HOSTESSES.

The Billeting Committee wish to remind Guiders that every Guider, Ranger and Guide who was billeted in Melbourne for the Rally should write individually to thank her hostess. Captains are responsible for telling their Guides of this duty, and helping them to feel pleasure in courtesy to their hostesses. If in ignorance, weeks have been allowed to pass, there is most urgent reason for the letters to be sent at once.