

Facing Up To Today's Problems

By

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Editor's Note.—A digest of a talk by Dr. Sharp before the meeting of the New York Section of the A.C.A. on December 17, 1941.

AT no other time has the camping movement had so many important questions to consider as now. These may be summarized from two points of view; first, and most important, opportunities for the camping movement to serve and, secondly, problems that should be discussed and policies arrived at.

For the past two years at least there has been a growing awareness in this country that certain world problems would have to be faced. There were those who felt that an isolationist position would solve the situation for this country. This idea has now been definitely dissipated. The people and organizations who have been thinking that this country could not be isolated from world problems and who have been thinking in terms of world cooperation have been correct. In any event, the crisis has come and this country is at war.

The camping movement is now confronted with many questions for solution and action if the movement is to play its due part in helping in the immediate emergency and to help bring about better things to come for the education of our youth.

There is a twofold program; first, to help in every way possible now, and secondly, to extend the camping movement so that it can make a greater contribution when the war ends.

To summarize the points concerning the part that camping can play in the program of evacuation of children, it seems sensible and clear that all camps should do the following:

1. Go forward with your regular camp program for next summer with all-out enthusiasm and determination to do a bigger and better job than ever before. The public mind is now at its best to accept and understand the values of camp life for the education of their children. Make the most of this. Also, there is an emphasis now upon resourcefulness, independence, work and cooperation. If you want to reorganize your program, decentralize it and introduce more of the real camping activities—you could not have a better opportunity.

2. Examine your camp facilities, program and leadership to see what the maximum program would be that you could offer in case of evacuation in the summer time. I urge that each camp work out a program in advance of being told what is expected of you, should it ever get to that point.

3. Plan your camp program in preparation for an all-out evacuation for the seasons other than the summer and perhaps on a year-round basis. This would involve plans for winterizing quarters and the construction of other shelters consistent with facilities in your camp.

We hope that it will not be necessary to evacuate any children. There may be no need for it, but nevertheless we should not be unprepared. Therefore, there should be an immediate all-out as far as making plans is concerned. This gives everyone an immediate task. You should get in touch with the defense council in the country in which your camp is located and extend every cooperation. Also, cooperation should be extended to any other agency which produces a workable plan to help in this emergency. Perhaps the following questions will present in a concise way the problems facing the camping movement and further opportunities for service. We need to look at the immediate situation and also take a long view.

1. What has the camping movement to contribute in the way of a specific program for development and expansion after the war?

- (a) What is the specific program? Is it one by organization and private camps only?
- (b) Does it involve an expansion of municipal camps?
- (c) Does it involve school camps?

2. *Camping and education.*—We squarely face the question whether or not the camping movement believes that schools should conduct camps as an integral part of the program. I do not see how we as educators can take the position that camping is not educationally sound. Therefore, the benefits of camping should be made available to all schools. If we

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agree to this, there should be a specific plan for carrying it forward.

3. *The C.C.C. is a camp program.*—What is the position of the A.C.A. in relation to this question? If the program should be continued, what changes do you recommend? What about a similar program for women?

4. *Work Camps.*—What is your position concerning work camps? Do you believe in them? What kind of work camps? How should they be operated? By whom?

5. Do you believe municipalities, as a general policy, should operate camps? In what way can we be of assistance in helping to promote them?

6. Do you think that, in a long-view program, welfare and charity camps should be increased and expanded—or should some other effort be made so that more children can go to camp?

7. What is the specific program of the camping movement in home and civilian defense? Are we to proceed as England did? Or shall we learn by their experience and see a fine opportunity for the schools to carry on a country-life program as an integral part of the educational system?

8. Does each one of our camps have a specific program of action for the immediate emergency as well as for the future?

(a) Your usual or the normal program for this summer?

(b) The maximum accommodations for this summer in case of evacuation?

9. What changes do you contemplate in your program—

(a) Its organization.

(b) Its so-called activities program.

This is your chance to change your program, because everyone is thinking in terms of resourcefulness and work, of putting children on their own, and of the need for adventurous living.

Parents can see the logic of these arguments; now better than ever. If you believe in this type of a program as against the program of furnishing entertainment for which parents pay—it is an easy time to sell them a new program.

War is awful, but if it takes bombs, or the threat of bombs to drive people to the woods, there can be at least some value in the present emergency. Let us capitalize on it. Let us make sure that we do not drive or scare people to the woods to avoid danger, but let us present an adventurous and interesting program and have a reason for going, and not follow a program of huddling them together in the country waiting for the noise to cease.

New Bottle Cap for Safe Milk

Milk safety should be the first thought in the mind of the camp leader, as he orders the camp's milk supply. The first thing to ask for is Grade A pasteurized milk. This is the safest!

The second thing to look for is a bottle cap that keeps the milk safe. There is a bottle plug on the market that has a hole under a cardboard flap big enough to insert a straw. Pouring milk into glasses or cups, thus leaving the milk exposed to flies and wind, isn't as desirable as protecting the milk surface with the cap and straw until the camper consumes it.

Any dairy can supply this type of cap, if the manager has a week's notice and an order large enough to permit him to order the minimum of a thousand caps. This type of cap costs less than the majority of caps now being used.

For saving time and labor the milk-bottle way of serving can't be beaten. Instead of the help taking time to put glasses on the table, pouring the milk into pitchers and from pitchers into glasses, refilling glasses, clearing the pitchers and glasses from the table, washing, rinsing, drying and storing glasses and pitchers, the routine of drinking milk through straws from a bottle limits the work to placing and clearing bottles with straws, then rinsing the bottles and dropping them in a case.

If you have a glass shortage, you can readily see how drinking from a half-pint bottle saves the situation. In many camps drinking glasses aren't sterilized properly. Consequently, one cold or infection in camp multiplies rapidly. With campers sipping milk from a sterile straw, this danger is minimized.

There is a certain psychology in sipping milk through a straw that often challenges a non-milk drinker to drink his milk. Then, too, so many camp supervisors want the camping experience to be something different than the ordinary home routine. Very few girls and boys drink milk through a straw in their homes.

The milk bottle per camper is an excellent way to control milk consumption. When pitchers of milk are on the table, some of the campers take more than they should, then some get less. The half pint of milk per camper each meal, plus milk taken in foods, assures the camp nutritionist that each camper has the opportunity of drinking his quota of milk.

If you have thought of drinking milk from the bottle—drinking-glass style—be sure that the cap on the bottle covers the sterilized pouring lip. You can easily see why the rim of the milk bottle, if not protected, wouldn't necessarily be clean when the campers' lips touch it.