

May Days Bring Visions of Camp To Thousands of Montreal Children

By OLIVE DICKASON

May's warm sun brings visions of camping days for thousands of young Montrealers.

This means a rush of business for camp registration offices, most of which opened May 1. This year, as usual, the demand for camping will probably outstrip the facilities available. Some camps report that they are already filled up for the whole season; others, however, take applicants on into the summer.

There are about 39 camps serving the Montreal area. Of these 23 are known as "organizational" camps — run by the Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., University Settlement, Junior League, etc. — and 16 are private camps.

Small Percentage

Miss Nan Vail, director of Iverley Community Centre and of Camp Chapleau, estimates that only about five per cent of Montreal youngsters will have the advantage of camping this summer.

"Not only is there a serious shortage of camping facilities available, particularly for the middle-income groups," Miss Vail said, "but there is also a lack of knowledge among city dwellers as to the value of camping."

There is a certain percentage of children who do not benefit from camping, Miss Vail said. But for the majority of youngsters it is an experience that adds richness to their lives and helps to develop them into all-around citizens.

A properly run camp, she continued, is one of the few places left in this modern world where the individual has a voice in group activities and helps to plan the program. It is a particularly good experience for children from small families, as they learn how to work and play with others.

Camping Assets

In this respect, one of camping's most valuable assets is that it brings children into contact with other national groups which make up the Canadian mosaic. Miss Vail felt that this was important, as in the course of ordinary living national groups tend to keep to themselves. The beauties of the Canadian scene are often encountered by children for the first time in camp. The youngsters learn swimming and boating and how to build an out-

side fire, and in so doing they learn to appreciate the value of our country's natural resources.

"It helps them to learn how to live with nature without despoiling it," Miss Vail said. "Camping is the greatest educational opportunity for children to find out how to live wisely in our country."

On the other hand, a too-vigorous program can lead to over-stimulation of young campers, so that

they return home worn out from the effort of it all.

Value Not Understood

Both Miss Vail and Roy Locke, past president of the Quebec Camping Association, felt that many city parents do not understand the value of summer camps. They should not be regarded as a place to get rid of the children for the warm months. Also, programs and methods vary, and parents should be careful to study the facilities of any given camp before sending their children there.

Organized camping, as a whole, is not well developed in Canada, Miss Vail said. While there is a good supply of private camps for those who can afford them, and there is some provision made for the underprivileged, the middle-income groups who could pay a little are completely overlooked.

Said Miss Vail: "This is too valuable a means for education and the proper development of children to be ignored or overlooked."

New Fabrics Designed For Coronation

London, May 11 — The coronation robes are coming in a brilliant new design.

"All shades of green, from mignonette to olive." The Queen wore many pretty shades of green on the royal tour of Canada.

Another prophecy on popular coronation colors is: "Everything from the glinting gold of dry champagne to burnished bronze."