

**STATE OF
COLUMBIA, A
JUNIOR REPUBLIC**

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State of Columbia, a junior republic by James E. Rogers

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JAMES E. ROGERS

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A JUNIOR REPUBLIC



—BY—

JAMES E. ROGERS

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U. S. GENERAL

The Columbia Park Boys' Club of San Francisco, situated at 318 Seventh Street, is an educational institution, well known by its successful experiment among boys of the immediate crowded neighborhood.

The members enjoy the privilege of a large, splendid club-house, artistically decorated and furnished with all necessary material and paraphernalia essential to the carrying on of the club work. Here the boys appreciate the use of a splendid library, play-room, meeting-room, large assembly or lecture-room, gymnasium, military armory, work-rooms, where they are taught different occupations, and a printing office. Chorus, band, athletics, outings, and entertainments are a few of its many auxiliary energies. This club puts particular stress on the value of the human unit; its organization, thought, and effort are directed towards giving the fullest impetus to the faculties and powers within the boy himself. While endeavoring to supply him with healthful and elevating influences, it also makes it a main thought to draw out in a boy's growth and development, all his abilities and talents, that he may be enabled to give the fullest possible expression to his own personality.

The summer vacation schools of this club is the appellation of the country trips this organization has taken regularly during the summer months of past years. A brief general outline of the summer's work, as achieved by the club, may be of interest to the reader. A list of these

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annual outings are here enumerated and may compare with the undertakings of the famous Sierra Club of this State.

Summer 1898. Stockton to Calaveras Big Trees and return.

Summer 1899. Stockton to Yosemite Valley and return.

Summer 1900. San Francisco to Monterey and return.

Summer 1901. San Francisco via Santa Rosa Valley to Lake County, returning by Napa Valley.

Summer 1902. Stockton to Yosemite Valley and return.

The distance of these trips was generally from 150 to 250 miles, and the average number of miles covered daily by the boys twenty-two. The lads who participated in these outings ranged from the ages of ten to fifteen, and walked every foot of the way, creating quite a reputation on the route by their well-rendered club songs and acts.

Summer 1903. This summer a party of eighteen boys, ranging between the ages of ten and fifteen, under the supervision of Mr. S. S. Peixotto, tramped from San Francisco to Eureka and back to Pt. Arena, a distance of about 540 miles. A double-horse team, driven by the cook, in which was packed the necessary provisions, followed the boys, who walked on ahead. The boys made their requisite twenty miles a day, besides attending manfully to their many arduous camp duties.

In the year 1902 it was the united opinion of those persons interested in these summer outings, that the privilege of a summer's vacation should be extended to a larger proportion of the two hundred club members, the walking trips being limited to from six to twelve boys. The

only feasible alternative at that time was the proposition that the boys support the experiment themselves; therefore, it became necessary that some means be devised whereby those boys, who would otherwise be deprived of this benefit, might have the same opportunity. This question gave rise to an idea that solved the problem. Arrangements were made with a number of fruit ranchers for the employment of the boys during the fruit season. Consequently, these boys went, not as recipients of charity, but in the spirit of independent American lads, determined to fully prove their worth and loyalty to their organization. This they did, as shown, by the kind letters of appreciation received from the orchardists.

The "State of Columbia," the first Junior Republic established in California, was thus successfully organized. The experiment, composed of forty-five boys, was situated in the neighborhood of Vacaville, Yolo County, on a large fruit ranch, where the boys were employed during the day. This enabled them to pay their expenses and earn money besides. One boy made twenty-one dollars clear for two and a half weeks' work, and the average amount per boy was ten dollars, clear of expenses. The total earnings of the camp was four hundred dollars, while the expenses of the month amounted to two hundred and ten dollars. This camp differed from the majority of ordinary outings. Its unique feature was that it combined the pleasures of camp life with the beneficial instruction of a Republic. This camp stood for more than a mere outing, for it had its serious and educational atmosphere. It offered suggestions to the many institutions, that are sending away thousands of boys every year to the country. Let the month in the country mean more than a month of leisure and fun,

while you have the opportunity. Some of the most pleasant and memorable incidents of the Club in after years are the exciting and interesting stories of these vacation camping trips.

The second annual Junior Republic, composed of fifty boys, under the direction of the writer, was successfully established during the past summer, at Glenwood, Santa Cruz County. The idea of the boys supporting, by their own effort, the expenses of the Republic was no doubt original and interesting, but experience had proven, that a month of hard work could not be, in reality, a pleasant outing. Therefore, this year's project was conducted on a different basis. For a month previous, the anticipation of the coming trips caused a sudden spread of infinite delights and beautiful dreams among the boys. Deeply appreciative of my responsibilities, I planned most carefully the details of the camp, endeavoring in every way to improve upon my previous year's experience.

Preparation and a common understanding being essential, the first step therefore was to assemble and organize the youths selected, as the members of the camp-to-be. A number of meetings were held with the boys, weekly and daily, in which all matters and details of the camp were discussed and arranged. Elections were held, laws enacted, instructions in government given, and announcements made. Thus, all the preliminary work of organization was accomplished at the club-house months in advance. By this method an intelligent and definite idea of the trip, its purposes and needs, was grasped by the boys, who were thereby prepared to cope with the various and perplexing conditions and problems of camp life.

A month was devoted to equipping this project with all necessary paraphernalia and material.

The question of equipment and financial support demanded constant activity and thought. Through the kindness and financial assistance of Messrs. Dr. O. N. Orlov and J. P. Chamberlain all anxieties of the future were removed. With sufficient funds at command, it was possible to fully realize all plans, as designed. With a set plan in view, a careful study of the problem found expression in many typewritten sheets of valuable data and matters of policy. Under the different headings, as for instance, list of outfit, of implements, of utensils, of medicines, of food, etc., a vast number of indispensable necessities were remembered and utilized. As, for example:

LIST OF OUTFIT.

1. Kaki hat.
2. Overalls.
3. 2 Black sateen shirts.
4. Shoes (oiled and hobbed nailed).
5. 3 Pairs of socks.
6. 2 Suits of underwear.
7. Knife, fork, spoon, cup, and 3 plates.
8. Toothbrush and comb.
9. 3 Towels and soap.
10. Sleeping bag; 2 or 3 blankets.
11. Writing material.
12. Sewing outfit.
13. Outfit bag.
14. Handkerchiefs.
15. Looking glass.
16. Club sweater.
17. Pocket knife.

LIST OF IMPLEMENTS.

1. Shovels.
2. Hammers.
3. Rakes.
4. Hoes.

5. Axes (large and small).
6. Picks.
7. Wheelbarrow.
8. Nails (all sizes).
9. Hooks.
10. Trowels.
11. Hose.
12. Rope (various sizes).
13. Scythe.
14. Saws.
15. Planes.
16. Squares.
17. Incidentals.

By the aid of these memorandums, we were prepared to meet the ordinary exigencies of the camp. Arrangements were made with wholesale business firms, for purchasing the groceries, tools, tents, and other necessary articles. Thus being organized, the questions of state were being transacted weeks previous, as demonstrated in the records of the Republic.

Strange to remark, the parent to this idea, namely the George Junior Republic was unknown to the younger generation, until an article appeared in a morning paper about the camp at Vacaville, comparing the two experiments. Many people know or have heard of the George Junior Republic, therefore it is unnecessary to go into details. A short review of its aims is, however, of interest. The George Junior Republic, founded by William Reuben George, in the year 1890, was situated near his home at Freeville, in the very heart of the State of New York. It was while working among the poor, that Mr. George was deeply impressed with the absolute need of sending the children of the dirty and squalid streets of the slums, into the healthful and invigorating country. The country has been recognized as a promoter of good