

Western Scouts at Home and Abroad

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Our readers, the boys particularly, will be greatly interested in the following description of the visit of the Saskatchewan detachment of Boy Scouts to England. The Editor enjoyed a conversation with Mr. Salton so much that he asked him to write an account of the trip for the Scouts of to-day to read, and many of our young readers will in imagination follow the young Canucks as they made their way triumphantly through the time and there in the old Home Land. Here's hoping that all our other boys may someday visit the historic places and see the pleasant sights of Merry England, but even if they are not so privileged, may they keep their eyes open everywhere and so learn many helpful lessons in their own land and become wise men, even though they may never see the East. E.T.H.

JUNE the 7th, 1911, saw the Saskatchewan Contingent of Boy Scouts, under the command of the Rev. Dr. G. F. Salton, on their way from Regina to Ottawa on their specially chartered tourist car. We had a most enjoyable time on the train, with plenty of opportunity of showing our skill in the art of cooking, as an empty dining car was just ahead of us most of the way, and in it the meals were prepared. We were divided into four groups for this work, each group striving to prepare the best

The voyage over was rather rough, but we managed to get on deck most of the time, and engaged in all kinds of competitive sports, chief of which was the pillow fight.

When we arrived in Liverpool there were a hundred Scouts on the landing stage to meet us, accompanied by Deputy Chief Commissioner Colonel De Burgh. We were taken by train in private cars directly from the docks to London, and then to our camp in the grounds of Roehampton House. This estate is in the centre of the aristocratic district of London, and belongs to Captain Grenfell, who very kindly opened his grounds as a camp site for the Canadian boys. When we entered the massive gate we found the tents already pitched and furnished with everything needed for a permanent camp, including a huge dining tent, one end of which was fitted up for a store, the other end having a fine large platform for concerts. Every convenience had been provided by a special troop of Scouts from headquarters, called "The Officer's Training Corps."

After we had been in camp several days, six boys from Malta joined us. They

on we had one of the best positions obtainable on Constitution Hill, at the side of Buckingham Palace. Both days' processions surpassed in beauty and grandeur all our expectations. Our Chief Scout instead of taking a place in the procession, dressed in his Scoutmaster's uniform, and stood with the boys, but we noticed as the procession went by that most of the leading officers picked B. P. face from out the crowd, and saluted him.

We were pleased to see in one of the processions that our own North-West Mounted Police had the honor of forming a bodyguard to the King, and that many of the Londoners remarked that they were the best riders seen during the ceremonies.

Monday, the 26th of July, was one of our red-letter days. We were taken to Portsmouth, to see the great Naval Review. We arrived just in time to see the King leave the royal yacht, and depart on the royal train for London.

After spending the morning in the huge dockyards, watching them repair every size and class of fighting ship, we embarked on the H. M. S. "Seahorse," which took us up and down the long lines of



MOOSE JAW BOY SCOUTS. REV. DR. SALTON IN CENTRE, HIS SON HAROLD AT HIS LEFT.

meal. The time passed very quickly. We were followed by several more Scouts had few idle minutes, for at nearly every station there were Scouts who came down to see us pass through, and the time between stations was spent in reading, playing games, listening to our mouth-organ band, or reading the jokes in the daily paper we published, while our flute or cornet player was rendering us a selection.

We spent a delightful day in Ottawa. Captain Birdwhistle secured a car from the Ottawa Electric and took us for a three hours' ride in and around the city, calling our attention to the chief points of interest as we passed. While looking around the Parliament Building grounds we had the pleasure of meeting our Dominion Commissioner, Colonel Sherwood.

When we arrived in Montreal, the Ottawa and Quebec Contingents were at the station to meet us. We spent a pleasant day in Montreal, being taken all over the city in a body to see the sights. Just before embarking on the S.S. "Mégantic" we were inspected by the Governor-General on McGill campus.

from Gibraltar.

As it would take volumes to tell of all the features of amusement and education we enjoyed during our stay, we will try to give only a general idea of the excellent time we had, by mentioning a few characteristic incidents.

On the night of our arrival in camp, Sir Robert Baden-Powell took the trouble to drive eight or nine miles in the pouring rain from the centre of London, in order to welcome us.

During the three days we spent in London before the Coronation, we visited the Olympia Horse Show, and saw some fine hurdle jumping competitions by mounted officers from many different nations. We spent one day at the great Festival of Empire in the Crystal Palace grounds, where we were banqueted by the youthful Lord Donegal. In the evening we witnessed the great Pageant of London, which was played on a natural stage covering several acres. It was said to be the largest and most brilliant spectacle of its kind ever seen.

On the days of the Coronation, process-

men-of-war, as the King had gone a few hours previously.

The line nearest the Isle of Wight was composed entirely of the great ships of foreign navies. There were warships from France, the United States, Germany, Holland, Japan, Russia, Denmark, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Turkey, China, and a number of the smaller countries, as Greece, Chili and Argentina. The other six long rows were all grey-clad British warriors of every style, from the Dreadnought class with such as "Lord Nelson," "Superb" and "Agamemnon," to the swift destroyers. We were astonished to see such a fleet to guard the empire. But when we were told that this display did not in any way affect the British Fleets stationed in Colonial harbours, we could hardly believe it.

On getting back to Portsmouth, we marched to the City Hall, where we were banqueted by the Mayor, who showed us the historic relics of the city. On leaving again for London, the Mayor presented us all with a goblet in the porcelain of which was a portrait of the King and Queen, and also the arms of the city.