

New Horizons

By CST. C. T. CRIPPS

“NEW Horizons”—a name well befitting the eighth World Scout Jamboree, held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, August 18-28, 1955. During those ten days, Canadian Scouts played host to Scouts from more than 60 countries.

This Jamboree added yet another important page to the history of Scouting, particularly to the movement in Canada. It afforded an ideal opportunity of advertising a really worth-while youth organization to Canadian parents. And, to the many members of the Force actively participating in Scouting and particularly those who were fortunate enough to attend, of whom there were several, it gave an enormous feeling of satisfaction that Scouting as a part of the Youth and Police activities of the Force had contributed to such a successful project. It was a milestone in Canadian Scouting also in that the Eskimo and Arctic Indian population of Canada were represented for the first time at any Jamboree. The boys, three Eskimos and five Indians were from the 1st and 2nd Aklavik Troops.

Scouts of almost every race, creed and nationality were encamped on the very soil which saw so much bloodshed during the war of 1812—an area of Canada which played such an extremely important part in the shaping of her destiny, and which was in fact, once the seat of her first legislature. Under the shadows of historic Fort St. George these Scouts were unsurpassing friendliness and brotherhood; here where once was strife and hate, were the representatives of the six-and-one-quarter million Scouts throughout the world, united in the same cause and the same ideals.

The Jamboree of New Horizons was unique in that it was the first time that

a World Jamboree has been held outside Europe. The first World Jamboree was held at Olympia, London in 1920. Since then they have been held at Ermelunden, Denmark in 1924; Arrowe Park, England in 1929; Godollo, Hungary in 1933; Vogelensang-Bloemendaal, Holland in 1937; Moisson, France in 1947 and Bad Ischi, Austria in 1951. Plans are already under way for the ninth Jamboree which is to be held in Australia in 1959. However, a special Jamboree commemorating the 50th anniversary of Scouting is to be held at Gilwell Park, England in 1957.

Many people who have little or nothing to do with Scouting might ask: What is a Jamboree and where did the idea originate? The first Jamboree was held—as previously mentioned—in 1920, the idea being to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Scouting. Plans for it were made in 1916 but owing to World War I they did not materialize for four years. The man who originated the idea was of course the founder of the movement, the late Lord Baden-Powell. During a sermon by the Archbishop of York, delivered at the first Jamboree he said in part: “I am almost awed by the huge power of the boys assembled here. How is such a solemn trust as is implied in this movement to be used. There is only one answer—to make a new and better world. You are not out to claim rights but to do your duty, not to care for yourselves but others, not to work for the class but for the commonwealth, not to suspect and fight other nations but to make comrades and brothers”. That might well have been said also of all subsequent World Jamborees and could very well be termed as the definition of a Jamboree.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is, under normal conditions a quiet, unassuming residential