

Since then it has operated within a limited radius of New York City under the name of the United States Boy Scouts.

A State organization, modelled after the American Boy Scouts, was formed in Rhode Island. This Rhode Island Boy Scout Organization still exists, having the support of many capable men of that commonwealth.

On account of the formation of these Boy Scout organizations with ideals and purposes widely different from those of the Boy Scouts of America, much confusion has resulted. Frequently the Boy Scouts of America has suffered from the deeds of these others, and has been mistaken for a military organization with a military backing. Naturally enough, such confusion retarded the organization's early growth, but it finally emerged well-tempered and more serviceable as the result of heated criticism.

GROWTH IN AMERICA

Partly because of this early confusion and partly because of mistaken views about its real purpose, though more especially because of natural apprehensions of the public toward what was new and little understood, the early development of the Boy Scouts of America was slow. Most men instinctively obey Pope's injunction:

"Be not the first by whom the new is tried,
Nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

Taken altogether, however, the subsequent extension of the movement has far exceeded the expectations of its most ardent promoters; for since its inception in America it has grown from a few scattered Boy Scouts in summer camps to approximately one hundred and fifty