



OSLO

SWE

STOCKHOLM

HELSINKI

TALLINN

ESTONIA

RIGA

LATVIA

KLAIPEDA

LITHUANIA

GERMANY

DENMARK

KIEL CANAL
HOLSTENAU

GINZIA
ZUPPOT
RANZIG

BALTIC SEA

VII

RIGA

WE HAD been joined at Klaipeda by M. Zarrins, the International Commissioner of the Latvian Boy Scouts, and by Miss Schulmann, of the Latvian Guides. They came with us to the Rally at Palanga, and on our return to the ship they were ready to talk over with us the plans for the coming day.

The programme had to be modified. We were an hour late in leaving Klaipeda and should therefore be correspondingly late in reaching Riga, so the proposed sight-seeing in the town had to be left out.

The Latvian Scout and Guide authorities had taken immense trouble in preparing for our reception. A large envelope was sent to the cabin of each passenger in the *Calgaric*, addressed by name, and containing two little handbooks on Latvia, an outline of the programme to be followed, and personal invitations from the Mayor of Riga to a luncheon at the Officers' Club and from the Mayor of Riga-Jurmala (Riga-on-Sea) to a garden party at the Café Lido.

In addition to this, special instructions were issued in writing to each member of the large staff which was invited to accompany the Chief Scout and Chief Guide on this occasion.

We anchored soon after 10 a.m. off the mouth of the Daugava river: this used to be called the Dvina when the country belonged to Russia.

The Chief Scout, General Goppers, came on board to greet the Chiefs, with his daughter, who wore her charming national dress. The delegation also included Mr. Dombrovskis and Mr. Eduard Lapins, who both had a large share in founding Scouting in Latvia. The Guides were represented by their President, Madame Sviders, who brought with her, to interpret, an English lady, Mrs. Alksnis—she married a Latvian and loves the country so much that she has made it her home, even after the death of her husband.

The Chiefs and their staff embarked on board a ship of the Latvian Navy, a minelayer called *Imanta*, and the rest of the British were transported in tenders. The thoughtfulness of the Latvians for our every want was shown by the fact that they had provided on board the tenders facilities for changing money and for buying stamps, and there were "travelling letter boxes" (Scouts with post-bags on them).

The journey up the river took nearly an hour and a half. The Daugava is a fine wide river, between low-lying wooded banks. Several rowing boats, manned by Sea Scouts, came out to meet us and saluted by tossing their oars.

The approach to Riga by water is a very fine one and the traveller gets a wonderful view of the Old City, the three most prominent landmarks being the spires of St. James's, of the Cathedral, and of St. Peter's: this last is the highest wooden spire in Europe. In the foreground, on the river front, is the round tower of the Castle.

At the landing-stage, the Scouts and Guides were drawn up, in splendid array, on three sides of a square. As the Chiefs landed they were greeted by the sudden waving of hundreds of little Latvian flags (two crimson stripes with a white one in the middle) while the children all shouted at the tops of their voices: it was a very effective welcome. A very small Wolf Cub and a Brownie then advanced to meet the Chiefs. Lord Baden-Powell at once spotted the life-saving medal which the boy was wearing and asked what he had done to deserve this. He was told that it was for rescuing someone in an ice accident. The Chief Scout and Chief Guide then spoke to the assembled Scouts and Guides. The Scouts looked as Scouts do all the world over, but the Guides wear dark green, with pleated skirts. Miss Elizabet Rozenberg, the Chief Commissioner, was there to welcome us.

The Chiefs got into a motor car and went to the Castle, where they were received by the President of the Republic, who decorated Lord Baden-Powell with the highest grade of the Order of the Three Stars of Latvia. (The stars symbolize the three ancient duchies, Courland, Livonia and Latgale, which have united to form the present country.)

The rest of the visitors embarked in buses and drove slowly through the town, which is a very fine one, with beautiful squares and gardens and imposing public buildings. Finally we all arrived at "The Brethrens' Cemetery," which is Latvia's memorial to those of her sons who fell in the years when she was fighting for her independence—1917-1920. It is the work of the sculptor, K. Zale, and is one of the most beautiful modern war memorials in existence. First comes a very simple massive gateway of white stone: on either side are sculptured reliefs of huge warriors on horseback, with bowed heads. From the gateway there stretches a long avenue, which on this occasion was lined with Latvian Scouts and Guides with their standards. The British Scouters and Guiders lined up in front of them, while the Chiefs walked up the path, preceded by Scouts carrying a large wreath of roses, gladioli and violets, which the Chief Scout then laid on the altar at the end. This is on a sort of terrace, and below is a sunk garden planted with all kinds of shrubs and flowers: in among them are hundreds of crosses and stone blocks bearing the names of the fallen.

Beyond the garden, on a very high pedestal, stands a colossal stone figure, "Latvia the Mother," mourning for her children, and holding a wreath over two dying



Photo]

THE GREETING OF THE LATVIAN SCOUTS AND GUIDES

[J. Ozols



Photo]

THE RECEPTION AT RIGA

[M. Crossly

General Burt

Madame Sviders
General Goppers

Mlle. Goppers

M. Zarrins



Photo]

LINING THE AVENUE, RIGA

[D. Archer Thomson



Photo]

DIPPING THE COLOURS

[M. Crowley



Photo

THE BRETHRENS' CEMETERY, RIGA

M. Crowley



Photo

THE CHIEF LAYING A WREATH AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

M. Crowley