

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE SECTION**THE MIGHTIEST CATARACT IN THE WORLD**

Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River in Rhodesia, British Africa

THIS mightiest of all waterfalls in the world is situated in Rhodesia, British Africa, at a point where the Zambezi river passes from the central African plateau to lower levels. Its roar is like continuous thunder, and the vapor from the falling water rises in a column that can be seen for miles. The native African name (*Musi-oa-tunya*) for the falls means "thundering smoke." Dr. Livingstone was the first European to view this falls. He discovered it in 1855. We can imagine the sensation of awe and exultation with which he gazed upon this mighty spectacle.

The height of Victoria Falls is more than twice that of Niagara Falls in North America, which has been described in previous issues of *THE YOUNG CITIZEN*. It is divided by islands into four separate cataracts, of which the middle two, Main

Fall and Rainbow Fall, are the widest. Their breadth together is slightly greater than that of the Horseshoe Fall and American Fall of Niagara. (See the February, 1939, and the September, 1939, issue of *THE YOUNG CITIZEN*.) The total breadth at the edge is considerably over a mile.

The river pours perpendicularly into a deep chasm or crack in the earth, set squarely across the current, from which it issues roaring and boiling, the whole volume pent up and confined in a narrow gorge leading to a Z-shaped canyon. The railway, which enables visitors to reach the spot, crosses the canyon so close that passengers are wet with the spray.

The greatest spectacle of the kind in the world is this falls of the Zambezi river named Victoria Falls in honor of Queen Victoria of England.