



At Sea, 5th February, 1944.

Number 5.

## EDITORIAL

As this will be the last issue before the souvenir paper, we have decided again to restrict its size to two pages, so that a flying start can be made on the paper that is to be commemorative of our crossing of the Line. The latter issue will contain six pages or more and will incorporate a certificate signed by the master of the ship to the effect that the soldier whose name appears thereon has been allowed by King Neptune to cross the Equator. It will also contain some drawings and sketches, for which blocks have to be made at our next port of call, and several printed pages. The issue will not be available, therefore, until after we have reached the port. We would be glad of further [short] contributions for the souvenir number.

In this number it was hoped to include an article descriptive of our next port of call. As these papers are being enclosed in letters home, however, we are precluded on censorship grounds from indicating which port it is. We hope that the following notes on India generally will be informative. In addition there will be issued to Groups an instructive three page pamphlet which deals in detail with our next port of call.

## WHITE PRESTIGE

Pukka sahibs, memsahibs and British Tommies in India were scandalised some months ago to see a white man between the shafts of a rickshaw. Applauded by several others he cavorted through the streets, while in the seat of honour sat the rickshaw-man himself.

The Kiwis concerned laughed and forgot about it. But it was not forgotten in India. In the native areas there were whispers, winks and grins. Another blow at white prestige! And in the sitting rooms of Simla it was discussed over shocked tea-cups and agitated whiskeys. The jest became a scandal, the stunt an Incident. And Incidents don't improve Indian social relations or the Indian war effort.

We will be warned about India's peculiarities before we arrive there, and one piece of advice will be "Don't fraternise with the lower classes." Now such advice is apt to embarrass democratic Kiwis, who prefer to associate race prejudice and class snobbery with Fascism. We are apt to resent a ban on mixing with any class or colour.

But there are good reasons for the ban. Some are: (1) Health: an Indian can swallow a cholera and typhus cocktail that would slay a regiment of us. (2) We don't understand their ways, nor they ours. (3) It is more than ever desirable now to preserve good relations with the Indians.

H.W.G.

## INDIAN CURRENCY

The Rupee, a silver coin about the size of a florin, is worth approx. 1/11 N.Z. or 1/6 sterling. There are 16 annas to a rupee. The anna is about equal to a penny half-penny N.Z. DON'T accept a rupee coin with Queen Victoria's or King Edward's face on it and always test your rupees by ringing them on a hard surface.

Beer is 5 rupees a bottle if you can get it and the ship's crew say that it is not worth buying.

It is usually cheaper to hire a taxi if there are a group of you than to use a gharry.