

EXTRACT FROM SOLDIER'S DIARY.

# " the nickle works proved well worth the long walk round the bay. the treatment of the crude ore is done by a small proportion of modern machinery, augmented by a large number of native labourers. the ore is lifted out of the boats which bring it down the coast, by big cranes and is dumped into hoppers from where it is taken to the works by an over-head rope bucket system. the buckets deposit the ore into heaps under large tin roofs where it is loaded into hand trucks by natives and taken to the smelter as required. \* \* \* the first process the ore goes through is the crusher, in fact, it is crushed two or three times, and is conveyed from one crusher to another by a endless belts. following the crushing it is mixed with a certain amount of coke and passed over jets of flame, which appears to clinker the whole mass. it is then conveyed by hand truck in this red hot condition to the main furnaces. what happens here i wouldn't be very certain, but i did see the refuse now in a molten state being run off above from where the nickel is located. \* \* \* this being the first time i had seen a molten mass, it<sup>was</sup> with difficulty i left it. it was a great sight and looked like running flame, spreading itself in all directions, until caught in the trough where it was subjected to a jet of water in which it immediately crystallised into a fine granulated substance like crushed coke. the nickel itself is only run off once a day, and unfortunately we did not strike the right time. \* \* \* we left the nickle works thumping a ride back to town with an american officer just in time to buy a good supply of beer at the beer garden. now this place is only a high bloused-in area where one can buy beer--- two cans which must be consumed therein. as there were three of us, we got a good supply by one of us watching our first issue while the others doubled back for more. this of course meant waiting in the eternal queue. nothing is procured without waiting in a queue in the army. well, we consumed our beer, feeling a lot better and more eager to get to places; but the way the others were behaving, i could see someone would be soon getting into trouble, so i managed after much persuasion to coax them back to camp for tea, after which they soon calmed down and soon went to bed. \* \* \* it was the best day i have had. noumea, itself, is disappointing. the best place in the town is the american red cross which provides a writing room, big reading room, a games room and a buffet where one can buy most things. \* \* \* i tried to find something at a reasonable price in the civilian shops to send home the wife and Middles, but it was a hopeless task. the prices were ridiculously high. †

\*\*\*\*\*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.BY THE WAY.

SIR,

# it has been noticed that major Aucker has taken up wrestling. are his interviewers proving too tough for him? it would look like it. i cant think of anything else he would want to learn the back loop slam for. may i warn his future victims that they beware of him. \* \* \* you might tell us, mr. editor, what the o.b.o stands for. how he got it and what it represents. we know he has a bad breath, but we hardly think he would get it for that.

EYE WITNESS.

# professional etiquette does not permit us to reveal personal affairs, shady or otherwise, of members of our staff. we leave the major to answer himself. editor.

SIR,

# the other day the editor of DOZERDUST was noticed having trouble with a piece of wood and a saw. he asked a sapper how to keep the saw running straight. the unsuspecting sapper took the saw and cut the piece of wood, and exclaimed " that is how it is done " well done, mr. editor, but dont say it on some of the old hands.

EYE WITNESS.

# the answer is that the " milkman " got the editor up so early his eye was out, ED.

# draughtin room motto now is: rubbing it out : putting it in.

# water carrier ian poars undertakes to supply h.q. lines with fresh water. three baskets carried per hour. dont rush him.

# carpenter alan wagner had surveyor len boot on toast one night this week. alan went civil servants, len came in hot with pawds. on defence. honours even half time. len had most of his argument still to trot out.

# o'reilly of singing fame now collecting candle grease for section. all donations thankfully received. purpose of collection : security.

# who was the sapper who sawed a stool through in mistake for a plank ?

# DOZERDUST'S thanks to jimmy ellery and jim fleeming for their job in the " office " the tables and shelves are splendid. likewise the " meatsafe "!

# bill charleton backs j.a.lee., but he cant scare the " black tracker "!

# tommy atkins plans to marry ten years hence. ask him all about it.