

C 204376

Our Great Commonwealth

by 'Overseas Airman'



City of Wellington and harbour, N.Z.

NEW ZEALAND

What is believed to be the first Civil Air Navigation School in the Dominion has been established by Tasman Empire Airways at Mechanic Bay to prepare pilots for the first class civil air navigators' licence. Corresponding to the extra masters' certificate in marine navigation, the licence is held by only a few persons in New Zealand other than 6 Tasman Airway pilots. The wide syllabus of the exam set by the Department of Civil Aviation, conforms to international requirements. The average pilot needs to spend 6 months full time study to fit himself for the examination.

Many questions have been asked whether or not the universal family benefit of 10/- a week for each child under 16, will be taxable. The answer is no. The scheme comes into operation next April.

INDIA

Operating for the Government of India and the armed forces, Indian National Airways Ltd., flew 850,000 miles up to the year ending June 1944. The planes were manned entirely by Indian pilots and crews, and the majority of the ground staff were also Indians. The company intend to re-equip with a fleet of large and more up-to-date air liners as soon as aircraft are available.

CANADA

The Advisory Committee on Housing and Community Planning have set a target of 50,000 dwelling units to be completed a year from V-E Day. By the end of September licences had been issued to private builders for the construction of nearly 40,000 houses. So the housing shortage should be eased somewhat.

The last of the air crews to be trained in Canada under the Air Training Scheme recently graduated. Over 131,000 airmen have been given flying instruction under the plan. This is an example of the splendid co-operation between the U.K. and her Empire, long may it continue.

14 de Haviland Tiger Moths and 3 Cessna Cranes have been brought by the Toronto Flying Club, one of the largest private clubs in the Dominion. It is not surprising that Canadians are so air-minded when you think of the vast distances between their cities.

AUSTRALIA

Rail services in N.S.W. are likely to be electrified as far as Nowra and Goulburn. The preliminary work on these projects will be included in the Government's first peace-time programme. The Newcastle and Lithgow lines will also be electrified.

Exchange of artists, and even complete shows, between the Minerva Theatre, Sydney, and the Duke of

York's, London, will begin as soon as transport could be arranged, said Mr. R. Walton, director of Whitehall Productions, Sydney. Mr. Walton recently returned from a tour of England, America and France, and he thinks that Australia is no exception in the increased interest in art, literature, and music which he has seen everywhere.

SOUTH AFRICA

A daily service between the Union and Britain is likely in the not too distant future, according to Colonel C. S. Leverton, Assistant Manager of the South African Airways. The recently started weekly Springbok Air Service hopes to replace Yorks with Tudors in 1946. The Government has been approached by the United States with the suggestion of an agreement for an air service between New York and Johannesburg. If a licence is granted to Pan American Airways the fare will be between £92 and £95 one way. Another service that has been started is between Johannesburg and Cape Town. The 44-seater planes which are on order will do the trip in 3½ hours. Everything possible is being done by the Government to aid private flying.

The Johannesburg Union Castle line expect to have a reduced mail service between the Union and Britain within a few months, but it will be at least a year before the normal service is resumed, as mail-ships are still held by War Transport.