

③ Still at sea,

25-10-41.

D.

Dear Mum and Dad,

Right now I am having a little dose of tropical heat on what is really quite a cool sort of a day for this part of the world. Some of the chaps don't like it at all, but I am more or less used to it and am not complaining. I hope I have enough sense not to get too sunburnt, and on the whole it is not nearly as hot as I had expected.

All round us the sea to-day has been like glass, with a few very sluggish ripples; it is, I think, as calm as a sea could be.

We are certainly having a great trip. Yesterday the ship stopped at a wonderful little place which is, I think, prettier than anything our family has seen in N.Z. on any of its tours. Sad to say, we were not allowed shore leave, but from the decks we could see a remarkably fine view. The bush, if that's the name of it, was much lighter in colour than New Zealand's.

same time to sell us beads, wooden knives and what-nots. I have picked up one or two little souvenirs and bought some views around the place which I'll send home as opportunity offers.

I had hoped to come across Doug. Burtis somewhere around, but he was nowhere in sight and the station was too far away for me to reach. I'm sorry I missed, but it couldn't be helped.

This morning we are again out of sight of land, and I saw flying-fish playing (or working) alongside the ship. Dad has probably seen them - they are cute little critters, capable of only a short dash a little above the surface of the blue Pacific. And by the way, you really don't know how blue the sea can be until you see its colours away in the middle of the ocean as the sun plays upon it.

Under the influence of the one or two Americans to whom I have spoken I am

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beginning to develop an American twang, and can talk very learnedly about "bucks," "dimes," "nickels" and so on. Our waiter has been of considerable assistance to me in this respect, though without knowing it.

According to all reports we have been very fortunate with the weather. At our halting-place yesterday we were told that until just a couple of days before our arrival it had been raining incessantly. Right now there isn't a cloud in sight, and there is a cool breeze blowing along the deck.

Sometimes the sea seems very empty of life, but just a little time ago some huge fish was giving us a jumping performance a mile or so out to port.

Under the influence of the sea air I have developed an appetite which positively appals our waiter. He is a long-suffering man and he brings me course after course with commendable patience, but he obviously looks upon me as something out of the ordinary

in shipboard appetites. He thinks I'm going to be sick one of these days, but so far I have not had any trouble.

There are ~~three~~ ^{three} quite well-known wrestlers amongst the passengers, and this afternoon they put on a great show for us - it was 75 per cent comedy, and they wound up by dumping the ref. in the swimming pool.

I think that's all, so I'll close with love from

Donald F.