

FIRST ABORIGINES TO GO TO SEA

KINCHELA BOYS DO WELL

Two aboriginal boys on board the "Iron Knight", berthed at Port Kembla said it felt "all right" to be the first people of their race to go to sea as members of the Seamen's Union.

The boys are Gordon Edwards, 16, and Henry McGrady, 17, from Kempsey.

They are the first aborigines to be given the opportunity to become members of the Seaman's Union.

They are employed as deck boys aboard the 4,000-tons B.H.P. freighter.

Chairman of the Aborigines' Welfare Board, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, said in Sydney recently the boys had come under the notice of a welfare officer in Kempsey.

The boys told the officer they were anxious to go to sea and, after arrangements were made with the Seamen's Union, they were employed on the "Iron Knight".

Mr. Kingsmill said arrangements had also been made for a welfare officer to see the boys at every port they visited.

Mr. Kingsmill said their employment was in keeping with the policy of assimilation adopted by the Aborigines' Welfare Board.

Mr. Kingsmill said that any other aboriginal boys desiring to go to sea would be assisted by the Board in any practical way.

The boys originally came from a special school at Kimcheli, near Kempsey.

The boys are now under the care of the ship's bosun, Mr. A. Campbell, a native of Scotland, who has been at sea since 1925.

"I have to teach the boys their job and direct them along the right channels," Mr. Campbell said.

Mr. Campbell said: "They're two nice boys and well worthy of the opportunity of learning the trade. They must teach themselves from books as far as education goes, but every practical assistance will also be given them."

Mr. Campbell said their training programme consisted of one year as deck boys and two years as ordinary seamen.

"After that period, they will be able seamen," Mr. Campbell said.

"There is no limit to what the boys can do if they have the incentive to study. They can even rise to the position of master."

Henry and Gordon started work on the "Iron Knight" in April.

"Henry's first job in the morning is to put the flags up," the Bosun said. "Gordon works with the able seamen and it's his special task to clean the signal whistle on the funnel."

The boys receive the same amount of training in all phases of seamanship. They exchange duties every week.

When asked how it felt to be the first aborigines to be given the opportunity to go to sea as members of the Seamen's Union, the boys said they liked it.

Mr. Campbell said the boys did not necessarily have to work on the B.H.P. shipping line. They were not restricted to any particular ship.

Mr. Campbell said Henry wanted to go overseas and visit all the countries of the world. The Bosun said it would be to Henry's advantage if he remained with the same ship for the three years of his basic training.

Mr. Campbell said that the crew members were all trying to help the boys as much as possible.

Mr. Campbell said: "They're well worth their keep."



BUYING YOUR HOME

THINGS TO WATCH

As a guide to intending purchasers of homes, it is pointed out that they will get a considerable number of accounts in respect of fees and charges in connection with their mortgage, etc. Therefore, if they do not have the ready cash as these become payable, and they sometimes come altogether, it would be advisable to have the loan or mortgage increased so that they can be prepared for these.

In the case of arrears of rates which arise during the transfer of land for example, these would probably have to be met long before the loan is granted. Such fees as stamp duties, and solicitors fees, etc., whilst not any single one being large, can, when added together, amount to a large sum of money to pay out. It could mean that fees in the case of the Crown Solicitor might have to be deducted from the amount to be loaned. Therefore when making your application for a loan you would be wise to state what extra money you wish to borrow to cover these incidentals, which may run from £50 to £100. A final word of advise, consult a solicitor, especially with regard to the signing of the deeds. Legal documents are difficult for the average person to understand, and it is important to have someone explain what you are signing.

