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The Soldiers’ Own Journal

SEPTEMBER 15th, 1922.

THE LISTENING POST
PAGE THREE

R.S.L. and SOLDIERS’ MATTERS

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Following are Minutes of the R.S.L. Executive Meeting, held on Tuesday, the 15th September, 1922, at the Soldiers’ Institute, Perth:


Minutes.—Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

WAR SERVICE HOMES.—Mr. Unmack reported that he had been appointed one of a deputation to place certain matters before Colonel Semmens, in conjunction with Messrs. Bader and Benson. Mr. Benson had stated that he could not act on the Deputation, having been nominated without his consent, and Mr. Bader was away in the Eastern States. As no information had been supplied by the Branch responsible he was unable to go on with the Deputation.

“BAHIA CASTILLO”.—The Secretary reported that he had been in communication with Melbourne regarding a claim for lost luggage ex “Bahia Castillo,” and had received word that no responsibility would be taken by the Government in regard to this. Moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Robson, that a copy of the letter from the Secretary be forwarded to Mr. Grant, and that he be informed that nothing further could be done.

PENSIONS and TAXATION.—A letter was received from the Taxpayers’ Association, calling attention to the fact that where a pension is paid in respect of a child, the child is not wholly maintained by the taxpayer, and the allowance of £30 could not be allowed. It was pointed out that this would appear to be taxation of a War Pension. Moved by Mr. Robson, seconded by Mr. Wilson, that a letter be sent to the Taxpayers’ Association thanking them for calling attention to this matter. It was further moved by Mr. Smalpage, seconded by Messrs. Bader and Benson, that attention of the Federal Executive be drawn to the matter. Carried.

STATE CONGRESS.—The Secretary submitted a list of branches which had not submitted their intention of sending a delegate and pointed out that Boulder, Kalgoorlie, Albany and Southern Cross, and Railway Workshops, had submitted names in excess of the number allowed by the Constitution. Mr. Bader, seconded by Mr. Robson, that the attention of these branches be drawn to Rule 14 (2) which limits representation at Congress to one delegate for each 100 financial members as shown on the books of the Executive one month prior to the opening of Congress.

It was further resolved that a deputation consisting of the President (Mr. Unmack) and the Secretary, wait upon the Premier with regard to the transfer of officers at present administering the Imperial pensions, in the event of such administration being vested in the Repatriation Department.

FEDERAL CONGRESS.—The report of the Federal Congress was placed on the table, and the President stated that in view of the length of such report, he had made a tentative arrangement with the “Listening Post” that the report should be published in full, the Executive to purchase 500 copies, which would be posted to each branch, and a number be available for delegates at the State Congress.

Moved by Mr. Robson and seconded by Mr. Wilson—that these arrangements be confirmed.”—Carried.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE NOTES.

Leaves of absence have been granted to Messrs. A. G. Wright and C. Bader, during their absence in Melbourne.

It was arranged for a deputation of three to wait on the Commissioner for Repatriation and Acting Commissioner for War Service Homes as a result of representations made by the Mr. Lawley Sub-Branch.

A specimen copy of a photograph “The Landing at Gallipoli” was received from the New South Wales Branch, and the Secretary has been instructed to secure a dozen copies. The price being 7/6 each copy.

A motion was passed to support the Church Immigration Committee in (1) The immediate settlement of married couples on farms, (2) Suitable housing for married couples on farms where they are employed, (3) Supervision by periodical inspection. Three delegates were appointed to wait on the Premier on behalf of the League in a proposed deputation in this connection.

A letter was received from the Federal Executive advising that the Commonwealth could again consider the claims of persons for the Imperial Grant of £60 per annum for each year of service with the Imperial Forces, where such claims had not been previously rejected on the grounds that the applications had not been submitted within the period set down for receipt of same. All applications to be submitted to the Defence Department within two months from 11th August, 1922. It was moved that an application should be made by the League for an extension owing to the difficulty of promulgating this decision, due to the absence of newspapers owing to the strike.

The recent 16th Battalion Smoke Social was a great success and was well attended.

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DEFENCELESS AUSTRALIA

(By "Camelo")

If ever the people of Australia lived in a fool's paradise, that time is the present. Our short-sighted, time-serving rulers are betraying their trust.

After the extravagance which manifested itself during the war period, a reaction set in, and a great cry for economy rent the air, and our politicians heeding it, and being merely politicians, ignored the obvious objects demanding economy, and taking the line of least resistance, made a sacrifice of the Commonwealth Defence Policy.

We are told that Australia is safe from invasion for ten years, as the result of the deliberations at the Washington Conference, but the war proved to the world that treaties can be treated, if the occasion arises, as scraps of paper. Humanity has not altered to any appreciable extent in eight years, and history has a nasty habit of repeating itself.

I do not wish to discount the usefulness of the Washington Conference, or any other conference which has for its objective the abolition of war. They are steps in the right direction.

Old world compromises and mutual arrangements among the nations for reductions of armaments are all very fine, but because, say, for instance, Japan with her teeming millions of surplus population, signified her intention to reduce her army and navy to half its present strength, is that any reason why Australia, with her mere handful of people, should do likewise? In effect this is what is being done. This policy is obviously suicidal.

When our extremists at their numerous conferences decry the need of any defence policy, the inference being that if we are absolutely unprotected no nation would be unmanly enough to take advantage of our condition to attack us, the spokesman of the Government rises in his wrath and denounces them. What hypocrisy our time-servers are. Actions speak louder than words. Our defence to-day is practically useless, and millions of pounds are wasted in mere political pretence.

Australia to-day is the greatest and easiest won prize in the world for a victorious army. Our skeleton army and tin-pot navy are mere jokes, and would not be sufficient protection from a tenth-rate power.

For the protection of Australia we are to have an obsolete navy, two quotas of militia instead of seven, as of yore; training is to cease at 20 years; the annual camp training will be limited to six days, and the home training to four days.

Are all the bitter lessons of the war to be wasted? If so, the sacrifice of so many of our sons has been made in vain. The vital lesson learnt, and now almost forgotten, was that the best means of preventing war was to be prepared for it. Did not the very politicians who are betraying their trust to their country to-day unceasingly pronounce this doctrine?

The time is now ripe for the men who as a result of their war experiences gained a broader vision to assist Australia in solving her national problems and to tackle first and foremost the rectifying of that appalling tragedy—A Defenceless Australi-
And many knots unravelled by the road; But not the knot of Human Death and Fate.—Omar Khayyam.

Johnnie made one of a fatigue party required for renovating a cemetery.

The cemetery, which was a small one, lay in a hollow to the west of Hill 60, where the battalion was holding a portion of the Reserve line on that sector. Some fifteen or sixteen men formed the party, but it was better perhaps that you should know more of that which had occasioned the necessity for repairs to this cemetery.

The men are filling up a hole, a great, deep shell-hole; and as they work, these men laugh and joke—surely this is no fit and proper place for jesting and hilarity? No—and yet...

It was, as we have said, a large shell-hole. Two days ago a "coalbox" came along from the "other side," landing squarely in one corner of the cemetery. And resulting upon the descent of that "coalbox," the three end graves of one of the rows just disappeared; also the inner halves of three graves opposite vanished completely, and Johnnie and his pals were experiencing some little difficulty in the finding of sufficient material where with to repair that corner of the cemetery.

Johnnie paused awhile, to rest upon his shovel and relieve the muscles of his back. Thoughtfully he surveyed the shell-hole, and after a moment gave voice to the thought for the benefit of Dick Marchont, who, also, was laboring manfully alongside:

"It's a funny thing, Dick."

Dick looked up at this somewhat cryptic remark, and noting the expression upon his friend's face, slowly stood erect and asked wonderingly:

"What's a funny thing, Johnnie?"

Johnnie glanced at the other, and laughed shortly. "I was just wondering, Dick, where we'd be now, supposing you and I had been buried there!"

Dick stared, uncomprehending, then gazed vacantly around. Finally he grinned.

"I guess we wouldn't have known much about it, Johnnie—leastways," he went on, and his face wrinkled, "I don't 'spose so—but they reckon—"

"Yes?" queried Johnnie, as Dick stopped, "What do they reckon?" and bent over his shovel again.

Dick remained silent a full minute, but when he spoke his words did not reveal an answer to the theological problem which was puzzling him.

"They reckon," he replied, "that a bloke knows everything after 'e goes out."—and they worked awhile in silence.

A few minutes had gone by when Johnnie stood up and returned to the question.

"Yes,—but what about these blokes that were buried here? If it had been you and I, Dick, that part of us which goes to the hot place—I wonder if we'd have felt anything;" and he grinned as he "vipated" his shovel.

Dick carefully lobbed a shovelful of mud into the exact centre of the lessening hole, before he turned to answer.

"H'm, v're takin' a lot for granted, Johnnie—'s posin'; we'd gone the other way, and on his shovel: "they reckon there's peace after death"—which they isn't before," he added, and, having solved the puzzle to his own satisfaction, Dick returned to his shovel.

But Johnnie was still pondering; and probably would have taxed his friend with further questions if there came an abrupt interruption.

They had paused again to light cigarettes, when a sudden ripping explosion from near-by and the familiar "ping" of a bullet winging between their heads, made the two men involuntarily duck.

On the opposite side of the cemetery, a man cursed violently, and a shovel rattled down into the shell-hole. Looking across they beheld one of the men holding a limp right arm in his left. Work promptly stopped. Dick turned to the wounded man. The question came simultaneously from half-a-dozen throats:

"What is it, Ike?"

Whilst someone rummaged for his field dressing, Ike managed to answer, laughing a little querulously, "Struck a clip of cartridges with my shovel, an' a couple of 'emgot me in the arm."

While the wound was being dressed, an officer approached, and noted down the particulars of the case; for this was a self inflicted wound, and "self-infection," be it known, is a somewhat serious crime, unless the result of an accident. So the men testified to the peculiar nature of the incident, and with a reassuring word to Ike, the officer retired again. Ike set off in the direction of the nearest aid-post, and with much noisy discussion the fatigue-party returned to its duties.

Dick Marchont only stood watching Ike until he was almost beyond sight; stood still and silent, a morose expression on his face and a word unspoken.

"Lucky blighter!" and turned with a sigh of disgust.

Johnnie looked up with a smile: "Why Dick? He'll be back again in a month or so."

"Yes—but a month's spell away from this flaming place would be worth—," Dick halted for lack of a sufficiently expressive word.

"I don't know," said Johnnie quietly. It's still luck, being wounded by a buried clip of cartridges. You wouldn't think much of yourself afterwards if you got out of it as easy as that bloke."

"Wouldn't I," returned the other feeling somewhat resentful at the perusal. Dick looked longingly up the road along which the wounded man had gone. He went on, speaking slow, and quietly: "I'd give an arm or a leg, Johnnie, to be out of France and away from the lookin' of the piles like me ain't made fer fighting."

Johnnie smiled faintly, as he eased his shovel-ful of mud from a near-by patch of ooze. He had a momentary vision of Dick at Mouquet Farm, standing on the parapet of a German outpost swinging his rifle butt downwards, and swearing lustily the moment he was buried, blokes like Dick weren't made for fighting; they were born to it.

A sudden salvo of shell-fire made the men look up, and glance around for the nearest shelter. "Hold on to your head gear," yelled the commander, "We're not in this yet, shellin' that battery back there—carry on."

But in spite of the command, for the time being the shell-hole was forgotten, and the attention of the men was transferred to the clump of trees which perhaps a quarter of a mile to the rear, harboured a battery of 'heavies,' and upon which the peppy barrage was bearing concentrated. The shells, which were mostly of small calibre, whined viciously overhead—and the music of a light barrage is likened unto no other music upon earth, not even the devastating roar and rumble of an extensive bombardment. In the former the vicious note of each individual shell huns a devilsish song of death and destruction, whilst the hammering crash and rattle of the latter, the continuous rattle of the battery, the deepening, deadening detonations from a thousand guns, the prolonged roar and rush of air—all is too big and intensive for the mind to grasp.

"Pretty hot," remarked Dick absently, as he was answered. The men were absorbed. Watching someone else being shelled is an amusement at once exhilarating and soul satisfying—always providing the observer looks on from a reasonably safe remove.

From the clump of trees a swirling cloud of dust and smoke was rising, mingled with upbursts of stones. Now and then the upper half of a tree or a severed branch dropped suddenly downwards; men were running towards a line of dugouts to the left of the timber, some of whom fell, and lay still.

Suddenly, even as it had begun, the barrage ceased, and as though it was a signal, the working party returned to its task. Perhaps minutes had passed—perhaps nothing—when minutes, days, months and years are of no account.

There was little talk now, and the men worked with revived vigor. If the enemy was aware of that battery in the trees, it was quite on the cards that he knew all about the fatigue party in the cemetery—and a body of men is always worth the cost of a cemetery.—Once, Dick Marchont turned, and looked grimly at the shelled battery, the baloon, which hung grey against the sky beyond No Man's Land. Perhaps he was wondering if its occupant was even then surveying him, through a telescope; perhaps—but no, he was no coward. He could take it.

The shell-hole was nearing completion, but slowly, for earth and mud had to be carted from yards around. Shadows were lengthening along the ground, and the corporal began to hustle his men. The corporal, who did the piling of the piles. He came the task of rebuilding those mounds which were only half-graves. It was done; and they appeared even as the others uniform in length, neatly rounded at the ends.
Schoolteacher Wally Crossing has resumed duty after an enforced vacation, due to sickness. Wally left our shores with the original 11th Battalion, and collected some iron rations on Gallipoli soon after landing. When he recovered he secured a commission in the British Army and was sent on to the Russian front, where he stayed for two years. When the Bolsheviks took charge of Russia he returned to England, but later again entered Russia via Mesopotamia with the Machine Gun Corps. He had some remarkable experiences, and has been prevailed upon to give our readers the benefit of them. Wally's decorations include the D.S.O., the D.S.C., and five Russian Orders.

Arthur Sones, 50th Batt., has been missed from his usual haunts, and it is with regret that we learn of his recent indisposition, which necessitated over a month in hospital. An operation was found necessary, and as the Fates were kind and the doctor skilful, Arthur is rapidly gaining his old-time strength, and will soon embark on the pioneering career he has cherished.

Soon to be off to study the moon, sun, and stars, is Chief Petty Officer Rhodes, of the Naval Office, Fremantle; also vice-president of the South Fremantle Sub-branch. C.P.O. Rhodes is second in charge of the party responsible for the safety-keeping of the paraphernalia to be used in connection with the astronomical expedition shortly to visit Wallal.

The diggers and sailors of Fremantle wish him a successful trip, and those responsible for his appointment are to be congratulated on their wise selection.

Secretary Richards, Tarwonga sub-branch, is an enthusiast for the League, and has worked hard to serve its aims.

South Fremantle Secretary H. May is ever energetic on behalf of the soldiers' dependants, and we constantly hear of his good work. The League would be solid if all members were chips of the same block.

VERSATILE MAJOR JIM CROLY has left the Repat., and now earns a modest crust with an occasional "spot" to wash it down, selling land, etc., for the firm of F. and C. Piesse and Co.

H. Davey, also of the Repat. and ex-Lieut., is blessed with a keen sense of humor, and his popularity is very general in spite of his somewhat rigorous interpretation of the Department's regulations. He is to be admired in that he [always] strain or waive red tape if a widow or orphan is a real dinkum case required of him.

A real "brick" is the C.R.M.O., Dr. McKenzie, of the Perth Hospital. If ever a man understood the disposition of the diggers it is this M.O., and he returned men who are forced to accept treatment for war injuries in the repatriation wing of the Perth Hospital are not slow in recognising this fact. Possessed of a broad mind, a genial and breezy disposition, this popular medicus has undoubtedly won the esteem of his soldier patients, and that he may long continue to guide the Perth Hospital is an evident wish of every digger who has occasion to undergo treatment there. By his kindly and ever thoughtful consideration of the welfare of the soldier patients he has won that respect of the diggers that compels them to regard him as a man in whom they may well place their confidence, knowing that by so doing everything that is within his power will be done for their comfort during their stay under his care.

Mr. Lawley Dig: MEZ's splendid article entitled "Bowlers and Memorials," in your August issue was an eye-opener to many residents of Mt. Lawley. Some of us would like to know the signatures on the petition which was presented to the Roads Board, protesting against the building of playgrounds as a soldiers' memorial. I am the father of two brats, and live within cooe of the reserve, and I, and many others that I know of, was not consulted in the matter. We have endeavoured to obtain the desired information without success. Curiously enough, the Roads Board did not retain the petition, evidently handing it back to the deputation.
Cameló.—We had broken the Turkish line north of Jaffa and met with slight resistance until we approached the village of Tul-Keram, where we were greeted with the usual fireworks. We immediately wheeled around and gained range, and later gained our objective by encircling the village. I was sent out on a flank with a dozen men and we were galloping merrily along through the fields of growing maize, which surrounded the village, when suddenly out of the growth appeared a score of the most weird and gorgeously uniformed men I have seen. Most of them had wrapped around their bodies wonderful looking instruments of torture.

The flashest chap of the bunch snapped out a command which brought his men smartly to attention, and with a swagger that any play hero would envy he approached me, halted, saluted, unsheathed his tiny trench sword, and with an air of grace and good breeding, handed it to me. This ceremony completed the surrender of the Turkish Divisional Brass Band.

H. May.—Your correspondent and incidentally my critic “Hey,” undoubtedly should have lived in the stone age. The poor old chap considers it quite impossible to go over the old ground of past discussion and discover anything tangible to put new life into the R.S.L. Let me say right here that it is byreviewing past activities of the R.S.L. that the same body will considerably profit in the future. It will certainly need a good many “De Valera” spirits to raise the R.S.L. as a body, on a par with other organisations as regards its range of activities. When the League was first formed there were objectives to be reached by the score, and it is to its credit that the objectives in nearly every case have been attained, but with the passing of same it is very evident the interest of members is going also, as is confirmed by the ever-decreasing membership. What is actually needed at the present time to maintain that lasting interest, which at the moment is dying so rapidly, is a broadening of the policy of the League. This may be done entirely without becoming associated with politics, or being subservient to the most powerful organisation in the Commonwealth. Widening the Constitution of the League so as to interest diggers in every walk of life is the only means whereby the R.S.L. will remain the powerful factor it has been in the past. I thank “Hey” for his criticism and the compliment to myself contained therein, and although he has given me credit for possessing “De Valera’s” spirit of persistency, I note with no small measure of satisfaction that in so doing he does not endeavour to associate me in any other way with the views held by that gentleman.

Kelmooct.—The members of the recently formed Auxiliary—having elected Messrs. Piesse, Scott, Withall and Miss Buckingham President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice-President respectively, held in conjunction with the Kelmooct R.S.L. a very successful Sale of Gifts and a dance in aid of the Distressed Soldiers' Fund of that Branch—over £20 being realised. At their next meeting on the 30th August final arrangements were made for the R.S.L.'s 9th Annual Ball, to be held on September 29th.

Norm.—I notice that the joint meeting of sub-branches has taken up the matter of medical treatment and pension review of Imperial men, and it's only a fair thing that they should have better facilities than those obtaining at present. Why don't the Imperial authorities delegate the local Repat. to do the work on the same scale as the ex-A.I.F. soldier, and reimburse them after?

Hey.—A motion of the joint metropolitan sub-branches reads:—That steps be taken to have the Repatriation Act amended to include: (a) That all vocational trainees and trainee apprentices' wages be adjusted on a universal basis, (b) That inmates of Repatriation institutions shall not have any deductions made from their sustenance on account of monies derived from outside sources. (c) That the Repatriation Department makes provision for the education of children of totally incapacitated soldiers who, by reason of their incapacity, are not able to carry their education to fruition on the same basis as deceased or totally incapacitated soldiers' children.

They're a bit late with (a), aren't they? I'm with 'em in (b); and if (c) could be done, it may be yes, but I don't think it will be very easy to improve on the present system.

Violets.—In reply to ‘Townie,’ I might state I do not think a farmer would mind transportation inconveniences provided he was sure of a reasonable price for his goods. Townie forgets that traders will not deliver stuff unless an amount equal to the cost of freight is forthcoming. Townie seems to think that no help should be given to the present-day pioneers. That is required is the big hearted principles and spirit of the early pioneers to make things successful. Yes, but that is a minus quality now, and we must do certain things to stimulate the farming industry.

R.S.L.—The heads of the League are pretty generous with their certificates if they carry out the proposal to issue one to sub-branch presidents and secretaries after 12 months' service.

Spot.—A section of the R.S.L. consider that politicians and political candidates should be debarred from membership for the Executive.

Curiously enough, the same section favour the League participating in active support of the running direct League candidates for Parliament.

Jimmy Cornell's help on the Executive has been very valuable, and this has been largely due to his influence and experience as a politician. In trying to find the reasons actuating such a movement I was told that politicians must gain a certain amount of political kudos by being prominent R.S.Lites, and that the party pull might be too strong for them at the expense of the detachment of returned soldier aspirations.

Anyway, why pick the politicians and leave out the bureaucrats or the others, or any other section with community interests in common? It will be a sorry day for the R.S.L. if the day ever comes when any returned soldier of good character is debarred from being an aspirant for any office the League has to offer. I think that the League would be more powerful for good if each and every member of the State Executive succeeded in maintaining the same. Anyhow, what section of the community has a better right to rule this country than the digger?
SOLDIER SETTLEMENT
Vital Issues At Stake.
Prohibitive Purchase Prices.
Interest Millstone.

The Legislative Assembly was the scene of a lengthy debate on 21/8/22, owing to the member for Collie moving for the appointment of a Royal Commission to go into all phases of the Land Settlement policy regarding the repatriated soldiers of the A.I.F. who now are struggling under adverse circumstances and must eventually relinquish their holdings owing to the heavy financial load they are at present carrying. The case of repurchased estate is given to them in the immediate future.

Speaking in support of the motion, Mr. Wilson said that the Government should do something to tide these men over their difficulties; he spoke more in regard to the men in the South-West where the cost of clearing is so high as to raise an almost insurmountable barrier in the way of success. He wanted a fair fight and no favour. Before soldiers went away, prominent citizens and responsible men in the community made promises as to what would be done for the soldiers on their return. Parliament would not fulfill such promises, and the soldier is placed in a position to earn a crust for himself and his family.

The conditions governing soldier settlement were:

1. Selections from the Crown area rent free for five years. Land acquired by transfer, no redemption; (2) All fees and stamp duty are reduced to returned soldiers, but no refund is made for amounts paid before the Act was passed; (3) Interest only payable during the first five years; (4) Total period 30 years; (5) All land held by returned soldiers under C.P. conditions is reduced 50 per cent in prices.

Dealing with the last mentioned, it meant a farmer who went away as a soldier and possessed conditional purchase land received a 50 per cent reduction in the price of his land when he returned to W.A. In many cases, however, a man got no reduction whatever, although the Government might have paid through the nose for that estate.

The returned soldier settler is burdened beyond his carrying capacity, and with the interest bill, the cost of capital and of clearing of the land, these repurchased estates made it impossible for him to cash out of the yoke. Speaking further, the member quoted Colonel Olden's remarks (which appeared earlier in this journal) to support his contentions.

Mr. Wilson referred to an account of the deputation introduced by Mr. Ewing, Mr. Wilson having dealt with the capitalisation of interest. Mr. Wilson did not approve of capitalising the interest, it was really only making the burden more difficult to carry. What was wanted was a 'wash out' in connection with some of these matters.

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Attention was drawn to some of the expenses incurred. Batches of men who knew nothing about clearing were sent by the Government to clear land at say 15/6 per day and the cost of clearing land was £236 an acre, when the same class of land was cleared for 30/- under the Scaddan Ministry. At the present time the expenditure shown that £41 an acre was ample, but that to reach this as a minimum, skilled men under careful supervision was necessary.

Several instances were quoted to show the unreasonableness of the demand for an enquiry. One case showed that a man was billed £484/10/8 for three years. The acreage was about 24, and the portion pulled was on an old cultivated field with an average of four trees to the acre—£27 per acre! In nearly all cases the South-West settlers were stuck with a task which would be required to furnish up to £3 and £4 per week to pay interest with an unproductive property on their hands. It was not as in the wheat belt where the sections had been bountiful and had placed many settlers already on their feet; these farms are not productive for some years in the heavy timbered districts.

Land had been bought and turned down at £50 an acre before the war. A similar land had been repurchased for digger settlers at 30/- an acre. Virgin land was this, and the patriotic vendors, to show their appreciation of the soldiers, offered the government the utmost.

An interesting disclosure was made by Mr. Wilson, referring to a typical case on the Harvey Haywood Estate:

This estate was repurchased in 1914 at the average price of 70/- an acre. The estate was surveyed, re-surveyed, and cut up into small blocks of from 10 to 15 acres. That position known as 'Plain Paddock' was under a valuable soldier settler named E. Chard took up an area of 30 acres in 1914 and for 10/- per acre. For 20/- per acre the price was £10 per acre, and for the remaining 40 acres the price was £2/17/6 per acre, a total of £575. Thus the soldier settler paid £25/13/7, and yet the Government only paid £32 per acre. The soldier pays interest and £53 to the Government for the privilege of being repatriated.

The Collie member's concluding remarks were well warranted and well founded. He said that the enquiry must come sooner or later. That the agitation for an inquiry had been going on for the last six months, but so far the Premier had only heard the first rumbles of the coming storm. Deputations were anxious to state their cases to the Premier before his departure to England and they were put off.

Mr. Wilson has struck the right note: trouble of a most serious nature is ahead unless the man at the helm heeds the warning and actuates rational law. Every right-thinking person must realise that it is inevitable that the Soldiers Settlers of the South-West will have a heavier task than can be borne unless timely consideration is given to their representations. Heavy administrative costs, badly supervised ventures, and red tape methods, in addition to the already formidable obstacle imposed by Nature herself, so seriously handicap the settler in that district that he is almost bound to fail were he a very Goliath of industry.

The Soldiers must, however, keep working to improve matters. The Government should see to it that the people who are newly established settle in their districts and not the big manufacturers ahead of the soldier and the settler. The soldier, it seems, is given the lot to suffer.

Do not let the Premier side track the issue; a just and fair hearing must be given to the soldiers, the like of whom (the Returned Soldiers of the A.I.F.) the world has never seen before. The League for the purpose of getting redress to soldiers' wrongs. The public should be with you, for your failure will recoil on every one of them as your success would be the country's gain.

R.S.L. ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE.

The annual Returned Soldiers Parliament will be opened at Perth on October 4th, 1922.

Sixty-six items are down on the agenda for discussion, many showing a similarity of interests for different sub-branches.

It is to be hoped that as a result of the conference's efforts, relief will be afforded soldier settlers from payment of the first five years interest. Six sub-branches have forwarded items to this effect, and a further number are included desiring amendments to the constitution, and these are of such a variable nature as to suggest lively, animated discussions.

Kalgoorlie has not forgotten to include their hardy annual desire the League to enter the political arena.

Mr. Lawley, as before, put forward a motion carrying requesting R.S.L. representation on the Workers' Home Board.

Other items down for discussion include Land Settlement, preference to returned soldiers, repatriation, Anzac Day, miniature badges, Trust Funds, Official Organ, and Certificate of Merit.

South Fremantle, Kalgoorlie and Mount Lawley give the impression of being live branches judging by the number and variety of their items.

It is to be hoped that all the country branches, judging by the number and variety, would be anxious to get delegates to represent them from the Metropolitan area.

O'Brien was killed quite suddenly whilst at work amongst the machinery of a large factory, and Paddy Murphy was sent round to break the news to Mrs. O'Brien, as they were arranging to take the body to her home.

Paddy knocked at the door and Mrs. O'Brien opened it to him.

"Good morning, Widge O'Brien," he greeted her.

"Widge, is it? I'll widge ye! I'm no a widge at all!"

"Ain't ye now? Ye wait till ye see phwats comin' round the corner!"
The Riviera of the West
AUSTRALIA'S NEWEST AND BEST SUMMER RESORT is
ROCKINGHAM
The HOTEL ROCKINGHAM is the place to spend your holiday
The most complete sea-side hotel in the State
Boating, Fishing, Sailing, Bowling, Bathing, Swimming, Dancing
Bungalows and camps on hire
AN "ELYSIUM" BY THE CITY

Write the proprietors for dates and terms

A PAGAN THEME
CREATION OF WOMAN.

Dear (at any price.)

The author of the following verse states that lines are not limited by any law.
Their story happened before laws were made.—(Ed.)

7th Day, A.M.
When God looked down
Upon the brown
Dull earth
That had its birth—
Sea, rock, and land—
From their own hands—
They saw—just Adam;
An Adam who
The day-time through
Had nothing very much to do
And did it, meantime making play
The live-long day
Until he slept,
Unwelt,
Each night away
(No tailor's bill,
Sat on his sill,
For clothes—he never had 'em)
Gades frowned.

Gods frowned.
They frowned
Then said they 'Hey!
'Twill never pay
To let this thing we made from clay
So happy pass his time away;
Not knowing care
Nor searching flare
Of grief.
We would as lief
Change place with him
And do the grim
And grubby work,
That he would shirk,
Of finding, naming, large and small
And several
Each animal
That swims or, in its folly, talks
It's day
Away!
7th Day P.M.
"A spell we'll take—
Meanwhile some steak—
And think it over,
Corn and clover,
Grist and offal human!"

8th Day—First moment.
Great Cat! That's it.
That's his fair fit,
We'll plague him with a woman!
—A. Dam.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

News of sub-branch activities is welcomed by our readers, and personal notes of diggers are extremely interesting; we are therefore desirous of receiving such parts and require only to have the sender's signature appended as proof of bona fides.

Jas. Pollard.—Many thanks.

Arthur Sonsee.—We drink to your successful group settlement venture.

H. Say.—Assistance appreciated.

F.K.D. Sydney.—Merci beaucoup; bien des choses.

P. G. Reigert.—Thanks for letters—your association should prove of benefit to the community.

W. A. Ross.—Pleased to hear from you.

W. A. Green.—Letter to hand O.K., acknowledgment elsewhere.

J. V. Brooks.—Better luck next time.

Samos Sonce.—Acknowledged herein.

E. A. Nunn.—Try again.

J. Cornell. Thanks for letter, etc., sentiments endorsed.

W. E. Inglis. The matter should go through your member.

Inquisitive.—Cotton was grown in Australia as early as 1854. On September 29, 1854 two small bales of Australian cotton were sold by auction at Sydney. They were produced in the Moreton Bay district. Yes, a British Commission is to visit Australia in connection with cotton growing. They left England on 24th August last.

Violets.—Now Yarloop has its fine memorial which Millars kindly fenced in, what about a trophy to set it off. This district has the largest population of any between Perth and Bunbury, and surely a war trophy can be found for it. The Harvey Roads Board secretary reckons a trench mortar has been allotted to Yarloop; but no one in W.A. seems able to confirm it.

DRINK ST. OSWALD WINES

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
AMALGAMATION
(By W. A. Ross.)

The time is ripe for the Executive to encourage the movement to bring about an amalgamation of small sub-branches of the R.S.L. This would brighten the League in many ways, guaranteeing by its resultant larger membership better supervision, and a more vigorous policy.

There are numerous sub-Branches that are seldom, if ever heard of; they thrive like the mushroom for a short period, and eventually die without anyone except the few directly interested being aware of their existence.

Perhaps the person who had interest and energy enough to lay the foundation has either left the district, or has become fed up with a position that brings more criticism than compensation; but the precise reason for the particular sub-branch's demise matters not.

To my knowledge, six small sub-branches were in the bloom of health on the goldfields two years ago. Today, they are more than defunct, for their names are never heard.

Honorary secretaries have proved failures to keep alive an organisation that has so many jealous rivals and enemies, and part-time secretaries are little better, their payment not being sufficient to keep them independent of following other avenues of employment. The remedy lies in amalgamating into one representative sub-branches, and getting united secretaries and paying them above starvation wage. Sub-Branches will then become forces to be reckoned with.

Instead of district councils, as in the past, let there be strong district sub-branches.

Propaganda is also essential for the life of the League. The diggers have numberless supporters, and to make their organisation strong and more powerful, their ideals and accomplishments must have unlimited publicity.

New South Wales R.S.L.
Membership Difficulties.

"Good Morning, Mr. Listening Post," were the cheery words uttered by Mr. Lipcombe, the busy secretary of N.S.W. Branch, R.S.L., to our representative as he entered the office in Pitt Street.

"I am just straightening things out after the conference," he continued, "but will be pleased to give you a few minutes.

On being questioned as to the work of the Congress, Mr. Lipcombe remarked that it was highly successful, the ground covered being of a national, as well as digger aspect. Several important solutions were passed which, if directed in the right quarter, should bear good fruit.

"Our great trouble here," he said, "is apparent apathy of the soldier in connection with finances; membership of the League, which is gradually dwindling. Of course unemployment and bad seasons in the country are large contributing factors, and until things are brighter we cannot expect much change."

Questioned as to his views on the reduction of membership subscription, Mr. Lipcombe said that he did not consider such a course would be of any benefit as the office charges and so on would be as great and the membership would not increase in proportion. He was of the opinion the matter should be seriously considered by Congress in order that some solution to the question should be arrived at, and whatever the solution is, he said smiling, "our Sub-branch secretaries won't be happy till they get it.

Girls and the Unemployment Problem
(By "Amy.")

W. C. Angwin, M.L.A., placed his finger on the correct spot, when, at the annual social gathering of the East Frementle sub-branch of the R.S.L., during the course of his remarks, he drew attention to the action of employers who still retained the services of girls rather than reinstate their male employees who enlisted for active service.

There is no doubt that, were it not for the preference shown to female employees, the question of finding suitable occupations for the maimed and limbless would not be nearly so acute. This fact is amply substantiated, when the period that has now passed since the cessation of hostilities is taken into consideration, together with the number of returned men who are still without permanent employment.

Whilst admitting a large percentage of the girls employed in the city are forced, through circumstances, to do so, how many are holding positions to which they are not beholden for an existence? Surely sufficient patriotism is still possessed by those coming within the category of the latter to band themselves together and make their motto, "That wherever it is possible for a returned man to be employed he shall not be barred from so doing at the instance of the employer engaging the services of a girl at a curtailed wage." Undoubtedly this should be a far more congenial duty than it was for these same girls to enthusiasm over sending the men away to fight. Perhaps if the men who went away now decided to adopt similar tactics in regard to securing employment, as the girls did in connection with recruiting, it might bring the position more forcibly home to them.

Further, it should not be regarded as a matter of impossibility for the Returned Soldiers' League to formulate a proposal whereby these loud-voiced (supposedly) patriots would be forced to employ so many male staff in proportion to the number of female employees, on exactly the same principle as carried out by trade unions in connection with journeymen and apprentices.
Federal Congress

Report of the proceedings of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia, for the information of State Branches and for the members.

The Seventh Annual Congress of the R.S.S.I.A. was commenced in Sydney on the 4th August and continued until the 8th August.

The following were the delegates from the respective States:


There were also in attendance: - F. N. Lipscomb, Esq., New South Wales; A. M. David, Esq., Victoria; E. H. Ward, Esq., New South Wales.

On the opening day, His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales—Sir Walter Davidson—attended, and in welcoming the delegates wished the Congress every success. His Excellency then proceeded as follows:

"The League was an association the name of which would go down in history for the great work it had done in watching the interests of the men who, through the fortune of age, were in the position to fight for their country's honour and they had just returned from a ceremony poignant in its sorrow but proud in its significance, at which they had had the honour of distributing plaques to the relatives of the fallen. They had been impressed with the appearance of the recipients, who were of the same stock which was the backbone of the Empire the world over. Though they lived away from the country of their origin, they had the same - the same spirit,- and when they were all bound together by their own consciousness and sense of right."

An official reception was also extended to the delegates by the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Mr. W. P. McElhone. The Lord Mayor, in extending the welcome on behalf of the Aldermen in Sydney, gave voice to the assurance that the welfare of the League and the Soldiers (the care of whom was one of the objects of the League) had the good wishes and support of the best elements amongst the population of Sydney. In reply to the toast of his health, the Lord Mayor expressed the opinion that the Returned Soldiers, organised as a League, had the greatest potential power for good of any organisation in the Commonwealth, and further pointed out that if an appreciable portion of the returned men were outside the League, the opportunity of financial development would be lost.

The Federal President on several separate occasions during the Congress gave expression to the conception of the ideals and objects which are actuating the League in its work throughout the Commonwealth. The occasion for such remarks arose under the following circumstances:

1. Welcoming His Excellency the Governor (Sir Walter Davidson.)
2. Acknowledging the Civic Welcome by the Lord Mayor of Sydney.
3. Presidential Address in opening Congress.
4. Reply to the toast of the League at the dinner extended by the Metropolitan and Suburban Sub-Branches of the League in Sydney.

On these various occasions the Federal President made a point of stressing the fact that the object of the Returned men and the dependants of deceased soldiers, also had a great ideal before it, by taking such part in the development of the Australian Nation as the achievements of the A.I.F. had indicated could be expected from the Returned Soldiers of Australia. As instances he was the work of the returned soldiers and dependants, he read a long list of the most important achievements.

Mr. Dyett explained at some length that although the activities of the League had been carried on in the interest of the returned men and its work on behalf of the returned men themselves, yet from now onwards it may be expected that an appreciable portion of the activities of the League would be directed towards assisting and building up the Australian Nation and developing amongst the rising generation the highest national ideals. He pointed out especially the object and status that the League held in the whole of the Commonwealth, the recognition of which was assessed by the visit of His Excellency and the Civic Reception by the Lord Mayor.

Further it was pointed out that the delegates of the Congress, the State Executives of the various States and the Committees of Sub-Branches, were composed of men who gave up their time and effort voluntarily, not for personal advantage, to effect the objects of the League. This was done at personal sacrifice in very many cases, and it showed a determinations not to let the ideals of the A.I.F. die, but to have them carried on and given full effect to by means of that great organisation of all the returned soldiers of the Commonwealth 'The Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia.'

The work accomplished during Congress embraced matters not only affecting the immediate interests of the returned men themselves, but also matters of great national importance.

In the following summary of the matters discussed the scope of the discussions and the decisions arrived at were in the order in which they were discussed at Congress.

During the Congress the following visitors attended and were in each case extended a cordial welcome by the President:

General Brand, General McKay, Mr. A. H. Teece, Repatriation Department; Mr. C. W. Cox, Representative Repatriation State Board, New South Wales; Mr. E. J. Fairnie, Secretary Returned Soldiers' Woollen Mills, Geelong.

PRESS REPORTS OF PROCEEDINGS.

It was decided to admit the press in preference to the proposal submitted by Queensland of having a press committee and subsequently issued for publication.

It was also decided not to have a verbatim report of the proceedings as in former years from the point of view of economy.

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY TO RELATIVES OF DECEASED SOLDIERS.

The opening day of the Congress having coincided with the presentation of Memorial Plaques in Sydney, the following resolutions were carried for transmission to that ceremony:

"That having in view that this day, being the anniversary of the declaration of war the following message of sympathy be submitted to the relatives of those who paid the supreme sacrifice during the great war:"

"That this Congress offers its deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of our comrades who during the great war in the interests of our common freedom and ultimate triumph of arms."

REPRESENTATION AT THE AMERICAN LEGION CONGRESS.

A letter was read from the President of the American Legion, urging the representation of the R.S.S.I.A., at the Annual Congress of the American Legion to be held in October next. It was pointed out that representatives from all parts of the United States and from several foreign countries would be present on that occasion.

It was unanimously decided that a fraternal delegate attend that convention in view of the good it would do to the cause of the returned soldier and also in view of the rising generation, the status of Australia which representation at such Congress would secure.

It was left to the Federal Executive to arrange for the personnel of the delegation and a special meeting of the Federal Executive held and was unanimously decided to request the Federal President (Mr. G. C. Dyett) to visit America as the League delegate, but he suggested the advisability of another selection being made as he thought he would be unable to make the requisite arrangements with his principals. However, the Executive unanimously urged him to consent from finally declining its request until he had after returning to Melbourne, conferred with his principals, which he agreed to do.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT.

On the motion of South Australia, it was unanimously decided that Miss Marrryatt and Mr. R. W. Bennett be granted the League's Certificate of Merit.

UNIFICATION OF RAILWAYS.

The following motion was moved by Mr. E. J. Fairnie (Vic.) and seconded by Mr. C. P. Hackett (South Australia):

"That the desirability of the unification of the Australian Railway Systems be urged upon the Commonwealth and State Governments in view of its great national..."
import, and that such work be undertaken as speedily as possible.

This motion gave rise to some considerable discussion, the purpose of which was to show a unanimity of opinion that the unification of the Australian Railway Systems was essential to national safety and development. The motion was moved by Mr. E. Turnbull (Victoria) and carried unanimously:

"That the State Branches by deputation put forward the matter of Unification of Railway gauges to each of the State Governments to proceed immediately with the scheme as recommended by the experts who recently reported upon it. In order to give effect to this decision of the Congress, the following motion was moved by Rev. R. W. Dobson (N.S.W.) seconded by Mr. E. Turnbull (Victoria) and carried unanimously:

"Believing that a stimulated consumption of locally produced articles will minimise or abolish unemployment and that the position of immigration is impossible, we urge the inauguration of a national-wide campaign to encourage Australian produced articles where such articles are the equivalent in value to the products of other countries."

EMBARGO ON GERMAN GOODS

This subject was discussed by Congress at great length. Early in this discussion there existed an appreciable difference of opinion as to whether there should or should not be an embargo on German goods, and also as to whether such embargo should be reimposed at the present time.

Ultimately a unanimous opinion was formed on the matter and the following motion was resolved, moved by Mr. C. P. Butler (South Australia) and seconded by Hon. J. T., the following was carried unanimously:

"That in view of the altered economic position of Germany by reason of the declared mark this Congress urges the Federal Government to insure such legislation will absolutely protect the Australian and British manufacturers against the dumping of German goods."

FUNERAL EXPENSES OF DECEASED WINNERS OF VICTORIA CROSS

On the motion of Mr. C. P. Butler (South Australia) seconded by the Rev. T. P. Wood (South Australia), the following was agreed.

"That this Congress requests the Minister for Defence to authorise the Base Commandant of all States, to spend up to £25 to provide a suitable military funeral to deceased members of the A.I.F. who may have won the Victoria Cross."

It was pointed out that the necessity for such a step as this had been demonstrated in South Australia in the case of the death of Corporal Jensen, V.C., and the refusal of the State Commandant to contribute anything towards expenses of the funeral. The opinion of Congress was that it was a duty devolving upon the State to see that the winners of the Victoria Cross were awarded a military funeral on their death and that no expense should not be allowed to be unnoticed.

1914-15 STAR

The motion brought forward by South Australia that the 1914-15 Star be granted to the 54th and 55th Siege Batteries on the grounds that they fought through the War Zone on the Suez Canal, although they did not land there, was not agreed to. In view of these batteries not being eligible under the regulations for the 1914-15 Star. It was thought that an attempt to make an alteration would give rise to danger of an indefinite number of units and individuals.

It was the opinion of Congress that a proper balance in regard to the type of immigration which the Australian Railway Systems was essential to national safety and development. The motion was moved by Mr. E. Turnbull (Victoria) and seconded by Mr. A. Glass (Tasmania) and carried:

"That the amount to be advanced by the Commonwealth to States for Soldier Settlers be increased to £1,000 and £500, regardless of the present advance of £625 is inadequate. It was shown by Messrs S. H. Richardson and T. J. Ford (Queensland) that the £525 was quite inadequate to properly equip a soldier settler. The following case was quoted by Mr. T. J. Ford (Queensland) as representing the minimum amount at present required to settle a soldier on a 40 acre block:

- 4-room Cottage - £250
- Boundary Fencing - £200
- Clearing 20 acres - £150
- Fencing land cleared - £50
- 2 horses, £25
- Plow-2 horses - £75
- Cart and dray and harness - £20
- Harrow-2 horses - £10
- Sculler and harrows - £15
- Hoe, spade, bar, axe, mattocks, etc. - £10
- Cows 5-£10
- Furniture - £75
- 20 fowls - £4
- Separator - £15
- Sundry - £20

£680 0 0

It was further demonstrated that the above case involved a lesser expenditure than the average, and that £1,000 was the amount which could reasonably provide the requirements of the average soldier settler.

ANZAC DAY

A lengthy discussion took place in regard to the manner in which Anzac Day should be celebrated. It was the unanimous opinion of Congress that the R.S.S.-I.A. was the organisation most concerned with the manner in which Anzac Day should be observed. The recent action of Chambers of Commerce in Victoria and South Australia in declaring that they would not observe Anzac Day as a holiday was strongly resisted, but the opinion was expressed that a possible explanation of this action lay in the absence of the appreciation by the Chamber of Commerce of the attitude of the Returned Soldiers' League on the question. Congress thereupon decided to determine the exact manner in which Anzac Day should be observed in order that the people of Australia should know definitely what the wishes of the League were in the matter.

At the outset the main divergency of desire between the various States was in regard to whether the whole name should be observed as a day of solemnity wholly, or as a day devoted to rejoicing. Ultimately a unanimous decision was arrived at. Anzac Day was a day which should be celebrated as the birthday of the Australian Nation. This view would make the day one of dignified rejoicing. At the same time, however,
it was realised that on that day Australia's death roll began and that part of that day should be devoted to a tribute to the Australians who laid down their lives in attaining the final end. The discussion culminated in the passing of the following resolutions:

Moved by Mr. Loftus Hills (Tasmania), seconded by Mr. E. Turnbull (Victoria):

"That Anzac Day be known as Australia's Nation Day and be observed only on April 25th, and that it be gazetted by Commonwealth and State Governments as a National Holiday."

Moved by Mr. Loftus Hills (Tasmania), seconded by Mr. A. Classay (Tasmania):

"That the Day be observed in such a manner as to combine the memory of the Fallen with rejoicing at the birth of Australia as a nation."

"That the morning be observed in strictly solemn manner and the afternoon be devoted to performances and activities such as a national character designed to inculcate into the rising generation the highest national ideals."

Moved by Mr. Loftus Hills (Tasmania), seconded by Hon. J. C. Cornell (Western Australia):

"That the leaders in all proceedings on Anzac Day should be as far as possible Returned Sailors and Soldiers."

Moved by Mr. J. C. Cornell (Western Australia) seconded by Mr. C. P. Butler (South Australia):

"That with a view to giving the fullest consumption to the resolution just carried, the President be deputed to approach the Prime Minister and the Premiers' Conference and urge that the same conditions as apply on Sundays within the several States to trading and industrial enterprises be made to apply on Anzac Day between the hours of 6 a.m. to 1 p.m."

Moved by Mr. H. E. Bolton (Western Australia) seconded by Mr. S. H. Richardson (Queensland):

"That the arrangement for flying the Flank on Anzac Day, 1922, be promulgated to all States and be the official observance."

It was the unanimous opinion of Congress that Anzac Day should be made the occasion of a celebration of effort to inculcate to the rising generation the highest national ideals and a true spirit of patriotism. The design of all sports, carnivals and memorial services on that day should tend to be towards the attainment of that end.

NEW GUINEA.

In regard to several requests from New Guinea re adjustments of difficulties of returned soldiers, it was decided that, in view of the meagre information available, the Federal President continue negotiations and take such steps as to bring about an adjustment.

PATRIOTIC FUNDS.

The fact that very large sums collected throughout the Commonwealth for Patriotic purposes during the war are at present lying idle, and in some cases likely to be expended other than for the purposes for which they were originally subscribed, it was desired by Congress that steps should be taken to have this money available for purposes other than under present control. The following motion moved by Mr. E. Turnbull (Victoria) seconded by Mr. C. P. Butler (South Australia) summarised the desires of Congress in this connection:

"That it be a recommendation to each State Branch to take the necessary steps to approach the various State Governments and members of the Senate with a view to the consolidation of all funds raised by the public during and since the war for the benefit and relief of returned sailors, soldiers and nurses of the A.I.F. and their dependants, and that whatever active body is set up to control the consolidated funds in each of the various States shall consist of a preponderating number of ex-service men nominated and elected by the respective State Councils of the R.S.I.L.A., and further that such body be empowered to permit the retention of any particular fund by the existing Trustees."

PURCHASE OF COMMONWEALTH WOOLLEN MILLS.

Considerable discussion took place on this subject, and it was realised that the matter was of very great importance. Messrs. R. Smith and E. J. Fairnie of the Geelong Woollen Mills were present during the discussion and supplied valuations on the question. It was realised early in the discussion that considerable difficulty stood in the way of arranging for the purchase of these Woollen Mills from the Commonwealth. These difficulties were:

(1) Whether the ultimate success of the Scheme would be better served by the development of the existing Returned Soldiers' Co-operative Woollen Mills or by the establishment of a larger Company to purchase the Commonwealth Mills or the initiation of a completely new Company to purchase the Commonwealth Mills and subsequently absorb the existing Co-operative. Comrades Vernon, Butler, Turnbull and Bolton deemed the latter course desirable, and some cases as many as from 10 to 11 doctors reported on the one case. Mr. Teece was then asked as to whether any medical Appeal Board or Special Committee of the previous medical examiners or Boards. The answer Mr. Teece gave to this question was that such comments are always attached to the medical history sheets. It then transpired that the unanimous opinion of Congress was that this very passing on of comments of one medical officer to another was the cause of a great deal of dissatisfaction, and that no appeal for pension adjustments. The following motion was then moved by Mr. R. W. Dobbinson, seconded by Mr. A. Glassian, and was carried unanimously:

"That in the case of appeals the medical history of the applicant shall be put before Appeal Board without the report or reports of the previous medical officers who have previously examined the case."

As a further development of this important subject of pensions it was shown that in many cases the effects of war service in many varieties of complaints and diseases could be belied up to seven years after discharge. A definite medical evidence had been obtained in regard to this and the opinion of Congress that discharged sol-
MOTTO FOR LEAGUE.

A suggestion that the League should adopt some definite motto was made forward by South Australia. As no good proposal was forthcoming, it was decided to refer the matter to the Federal Executive to get suggestions from the State Branches.

FATHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The motion brought forward by Victoria that the Fathers' Association should co-operate with the League on all matters of a Federation nature was agreed to. An amendment, however, moved by Mr. H. E. Bolton (W.A.), seconded by Rev. T. P. Wood (S.A.), was carried to the effect that official recognition of the Fathers' Association by the Federal Executive should be deferred until the former association becomes federated.

EXCHANGE DOMINION BADGES.

It was resolved that samples of all badges of Returned Soldier Organisations throughout the British Empire and Allied countries should be obtained and exhibited in the League. This will serve a useful purpose in enabling members of the League to recognise members of corresponding organisations visiting the Commonwealth. It will also be useful for the purpose of the League sending samples of badges to be distributed similarly to other countries.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION, 1923.

Satisfaction was expressed that Australia was to be represented in the British Empire Exhibition in 1923, and it was resolved to urge that action should be taken to be distributed similarly to other countries.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

On the motion of Mr. H. E. Bolton, seconded by Mr. T. P. Wood, it was resolved to urge upon the Federal Government the desirability of setting aside a fund of skill training. Mr. Wood pointed out that the scarcity of skilled artisans in the Commonwealth was pointed out and the desirability of converting a great number of unskilled partly disabled soldiers into skilled artisans. This procedure would be good both to the Commonwealth and the Returned Soldiers.

PREFERENCE TO RETURNED SOLDIERS.

The failure of many Government Departments to administer the policy of preference to returned soldiers in many cases was drawn to the attention of the League. The motion brought forward by Victoria, which opposed the appointment of a returned soldier to supervise appointments of promotions in all Public Departments, was not agreed to, as it was thought that such arrangement would not result in efficiency or equitable treatment of those concerned. The following motion, moved by Mr. A. M. Davie, seconded by Mr. W. W. Marriott, was carried:

"That this Congress express its determination to pursue the equitable policy of preference to capable returned soldiers in all positions within the power of the Commonwealth, and that the Federal Executive be directed to promulgate this principle."

This action was considered necessary in view of the tendency of certain public bodies to forget their original undertaking to returned soldiers. To further adjust difficulties that had occurred in Victoria, especially in regard to employment of returned soldiers, the following resolutions were agreed to:

Moved by Mr. A. M. Davie (Vic.), seconded by Mr. H. Wood (Q.):

"That all temporary returned soldier employees of the Federal Public Service be allowed leave of one and half days for each month of their service."

Moved by Mr. A. M. Davie (Vic.), seconded by Mr. W. W. Marriott (Vic.):

"That the matter of the non-recognition of the principle of preference to returned soldiers at Glenties Naval Base be referred to the Federal President for action."

In regard to the Departments of Repatriation and War Service Homes, the following motion, moved by Colonel H. V. Mitchell (S.W.), was agreed to by resolution of Mr. R. W. Dobinson (N.S.W.):

"That further representation be made in the matter of the removal of Mr. Morrell from the position of Acting Deputy Commissioner for War Service Homes in New South Wales." The matter of the existing employment of employees of the Returned Soldier's War Service Homes Department and the Repatriation Department who are not returned soldiers was mentioned, and the following motion was carried:

"That the Prime Minister be approached for the purpose of requesting the immediate removal of all non-soldiers employed in the Departments of Repatriation and War Service Homes and their places filled by qualified returned soldiers."

The failure of the Commonwealth Public Service Commissioner to appoint fully qualified returned soldiers in temporary capacity to the corresponding vacancies on the permanent staff was drawn to the attention of the Victorian delegates and it was decided to further urge that all vacancies on the permanent staff should be immediately filled by permanently employed qualified returned soldiers.

WAR SERVICE HOMES.

Questions under this heading vitally affecting the welfare of returned soldiers occupied a considerable time of the Congress. It was abundantly clear that very great dissatisfaction exists, and this was brought forward by many propositions to overcome some at least of the disabilities in which the returned soldier is placed at present in regard to provision of homes. In regard to the motion moved by Mr. S. H. Richardson, seconded by Mr. J. Ford, it was carried:

"That the building programme in each State be expedited."

Queensland delegates also drew attention to the fact that much of the dissatisfaction in the case of those States in which the War Service Homes Department was operated by the Commonwealth was due to the limited power given to the Deputy Commissioner. It was pointed out that the financial responsibility of the Commonwealth was the reason for setting up the Department. (Continued on page 19)

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
Humorosities

HOW IT WAS DONE.

"Yus," said Bill the coster, "it were superstition as made me marry my misus."

"How's that?" inquired his friend.

"Why, it were a toss up 'tween her and Mary Jane. One day I was a-thinking which of 'em to have—Mary Jane or Anna—when I saw a cigar lying on the ground. So I picked it up, and bowed if it didn't say on it 'Ave Anna.' So I 'ad her!"

THE SAME THING.

About the time when Newgate Prison was being pulled down, a little girl was taken to London by her parents. On her return she was describing all the places she had seen to some young friends. One of them, of a somewhat morbid disposition asked:

"Did you see the Old Bailey, where they hang the murderers?"

"No," replied the girl. "I don't think so; but I saw the Royal Academy, where they hang the artist.

IMMEDIATE REPRISALS.

They had had their usual altercation over the breakfast table, and the angry husband exclaimed:

"What would you do if I were one of those husbands who get up cross in the morning, bang the things about, and kick because the coffee is cold?"

"Why," replied his wife, "I should make it hot for you!"

Archie Bore (at 11.30 p.m.). — "When I was a boy I used to ring doorbells and run away." Elsie Smart. — "And now you ring them and stay."

Sam. — A girl must be interested in a fellow when she begins to pick threads off his coat. Hugh. — "Nothing to when she begins to pick hair off."

"So your brother has got a job as an artist on a newspaper?" "Yes, he draws the crosses on the picture to show where the crimes were committed."

Mistress. — "Maggie, I think I'll take one of the children to church this morning." Maggie. — "Yes Ma'am," Mistress. — "Which one do you think would go best with this dress?"

"You said he died from a single blow administered by himself." "Certainly, "But it isn't possible?" "Yes, it is."

Drink St. Oswald Wines

It is easy to accomplish some things. Otherwise the average man wouldn't have a look in.

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
“Cotton is King”

Western Australia is the future Cotton-growing country of the World

In order to encourage cotton-growing, Mr. F. W. TEESDALE, M.L.A. for Roebourne, has imported two tons of Cotton Seed. Sample seed packets may be obtained at 9d. per lb. (including postage) from Mr. F. W. Teesdale, M.L.A,
Knapp’s Chambers,
Barrack Street, Perth

NEVER HEARD OF IT
WHAT HAPPENED AT ANZAC.
LATEST WAR NOVEL.

After all, were there any Australians at Gallipoli? Was there any place called Anzac? Also, did we help in any way to win the war?

These questions need answering; for already a serious doubt has been cast by an English novelist upon our presence at the war.

It is in a successful war novel, “Tell England” (Cassell, from Dymock’s), by Ernest Raymond, that these aspirations are cast upon the Diggers. No aspersion could be more damaging than a doubt of the Diggers’ existence.

The first part of the novel deals with English public school life, and makes the Australian reader rejoice that our greater public schools are not like the English ones. In the concluding portion of this novel the hero and his school friend arrive at Gallipoli, but only after the Suvla bungle. And not once does this British officer who tells the story mention that, besides the English troops on the Peninsula, there were soldiers called Anzacs.

“29th Division Day.”

Naturally, he does not call April 25 Anzac Day.

“On April 25, 1915, as all the world knows, the men of the 29th Division came up like a sea breeze out of the sea, and driving the Turks and Germans from their coastal defences, swept clear for themselves a small tract of breathing room across that extremity of Turkey.

That’s all. No mention of Anzac. Helles, and Suvla are the only places that are allowed mention in this English novel. Of the Suvla phase—which our Diggers who did their part remember too well, all that the novelist knows is that “The miracle of Helles was to be repeated at Suvla.” It wasn’t. It is true that in Mudros the author noticed “Australians, remarkable for their physique,” but that is all. When the storm came it was the jetties of Suvla and Helles that he is concerned about; he is worried over the plight of “the Suvla army and the Helles army”—not a word about Anzac.

It is remarkable how the author managed to miss Anzac Beach. For his hero makes a trip from Suvla to Helles in open day. “Suvla,” he says, “was a great word, but Helles was a greater.”

And all the way in the trailer down the Peninsula it is Helles that he yearns to see. The whole panorama was spread before him.

Didn’t Notice It.

“My sensations were those of one who awaits the rise of a curtain upon a famous drama. I sprang my imagination to the alert position, that I might not miss one thrill, when we should enter the bay whose waters played on——”

You guess wrong—it was not Anzac that he wanted to see—it was W. Beach.

In straining to see W. Beach, the hero must have missed Anzac. Probably it was not on the English public schoolboy’s map.

Nobody in Australia believes that the Diggers did the thing on their own; and the Diggers themselves are proud to praise the splendid 29th Division of Britshers; but that an English novelist should thus so deliberately go out of his way to ignore the mention of Anzac in a war novel dealing with Gallipoli, makes one wonder whether we are liked as much in post-war England as we think we are.

—Sydney “Sun.”

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY “I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST.”
BEVERLEY TO PERTH

116 Miles

The Cycling Derby of W.A.

Saturday, October 7

Finishing on W.A.C.A. Grounds, Hay St. East, at about 3 p.m.

Monster Gymkhana

will be held while waiting for race to finish

Proceeds in aid of Children's Hospital
JUST IN PASSING

(The Editor discourses on current digger topics)

An ingenious move was made by the Editorial staff of the Hobart "Mercury," on Wednesday, 30th August. A trouble similar to the W.A. linotype operators' dispute occurred, and in order to continue the process of publication, sheets were type-written and photographed. Blocks were then made, and consequently the reading public was not disappointed.

Our out-back friends will welcome such a change in railway tactics as this:—

"A special concession to women travelling 50 miles or over to hospitals for lying in purposes. The ordinary fare will be charged on the outward journey; but the return trip, if taken within two months of the date of confinement, will be free. Do we have to thank the present administration or the Royal Commission?"

Motorists' troubles are to be slightly lessened, it appears, as Mr. T. Channing, of Sydney, has invented an improvement to the ordinary pneumatic tyre. It is claimed to be one of the most important inventions in the history of motoring. The place of the usual inflated tube inside the tire casing is taken by about 30 rubber balls, each air filled and of great resilience. Almost any old cover will sever with no fear of a blow out. Thus a far greater mileage is assured. Immunity from puncture is one of the salient features, as if one ball is punctured, no difference is made to the running; but if two adjacent are punctured, then spares can be inserted in 30 seconds! The balls cost $7, to $9 each and the comfort of travelling is improved by the use of this invention. One point not referred to by the inventor is, that if engine trouble is developed, a few balls might be removed to entertain the travellers in play while the chauffeur sets things in order.

The recent trouble at Fremantle Gaol, in which the prisoners were out of hand and demanded a special Commission of

Enquiry, recalls the example of the State of Illinois. There it has been decided to build a new prison. Its shape will be round and every prisoner's cell will be on the outside so that the light and air will enter. In most prisons, the cells get little of either. Not only will the physical health of the inmates be looked after, but also their characters will be trained. Good behaviour will win privileges, one after another, until at last he or she will have passed through all grades, to be promoted to the "Honor Farm." Here there will be no restrictions in the matter of walls or fences; the occupants will be placed on their honor not to escape.

It's taking a long time to fix up the question of preference to returned men in the State Civil Service, and the last move seems to be an agreement for the appointment of a returned soldier (outside the Government) to the Board of Three Returned Soldiers in the service to investigate this matter. What a splendid chance for ventilation! Will we know all their investigations reveal to us? We think not.

The chairman of the Federal Joint Committee of Public Accounts investigating the sugar question, desired information as to whether any person could procure supplies direct from the Colonial Sugar Refining CoY. He asked: "If I went with a horse and a few pounds in my hand, could I get sugar to-day?" Witness: "I am sure you could." Did the witness convey a mental picture of Mr. Fowler struggling to take a horse, cart, and a few pounds in his hand? If so, it is still doubtful whether the supply of sugar could be obtained!

Drink St. Oswald Wines

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
out that if greater power were given to such an officer or a special Commissioner of the Board, greater progress would be made. The following motion, consequent upon this discussion was carried:

That where State Governments do not take over the War Service Homes greater power be extended to a special Commissioner in each of such States, and if it appears to be unreasonable to ask the officer to accept the greater responsibility, that a Board of, say, three persons, one of whom would be the Deputy Commissioner, be appointed.

It was therefore resolved in order to ensure preference to returned soldiers in those cases in which the State Governments took over the War Service Homes administration from the Commonwealth to take action in regard to the following resolution:

That in the event of a transfer being made of the activities from the Federal Government to the State Governments, or the administrative duties, in respect of War Service Homes, to a Board, or any other method of protecting the employment of Returned Soldiers should be inserted in any agreement made.

It was explained that some of the States already operates the War Service Homes Department themselves, and in the case of Western Australia, administration is carried out by the Workers Homes Board. The delegates from Western Australia pointed out that it was desirable to have more representatives of returned soldiers' organisations on the Board than at present existing. The following motion moved by Mr. J. Cornell, and seconded by Mr. H. E. Bolton, was agreed to:

“That representation be made to the Federal Authorities with a view to having adequate representation on Workers' Homes Boards of Western Australia in the interests of Returned Soldier applicants for War Service Homes.”

It was pointed out on Tasmania that the Commonwealth had taken advantage of the War Service Homes Act were not fully protected in cases where they were compelled to transfer their homes by removal to another district. Mr. J. C. Vernon, Mr. Loftus Hills, seconded by Mr. A. Glassey, was agreed to in order to adjust matters in this regard:

“That the Federal Executives be asked to investigate the whole question of War Service Homes in Western Australia and to consider the possibility of securing an amendment necessary to protect fully transferer and transferred.”

A further difficulty in regard to War Service Homes was pointed out by the Tasmanian delegates in regard to the paying capacity of applicants and possessors of War Service Homes: It was pointed out that the rate of repayments agreed upon and confirmed from faulty design or construction were very clearly the responsibility of the Commission, and should be paid by them and not by the returned soldier. It was agreed that it was in the interest of the Commission to have a case of the responsibility of the employer for the mistakes and omissions of his employee. To deal with this matter the following motion was moved by Mr. Loftus Hills, seconded by Mr. H. V. Vernon:

“That the Commonwealth Government be approached with a view to including in the Regulations under the War Service Homes Commission clauses requiring:—

(a) Maintenance and remedy of defective work by the Commission as Builders during the usual 20 weeks period; and

(b) That any owner may obtain a technical Architectural report at the cost of repairs if the work is found to be faulty design or construction, and

(c) That if defects are serious the building be revalued.”

The following motion was not agreed to, it being the opinion of Congress that it would shut out from the Women's Auxiliary Corps many women who had done most excellent work for the soldiers and the League, and whom it was the very last thing desired by returned soldiers to hurt by such exclusion after having accepted their good services:

“That the Sailors, Soldiers and Nurses’ Relatives Association be granted affiliation with the Women's Auxiliary Corps with the title, badge and constitution and that they be reorganised as the South Australian Branch, W.A.C.”

FINANCIAL CLIPS.

It was resolved that the financial clip for 1923 be a black base with white or silver figures.

INTEREST ON LOANS TO SETTLERS.

The following motion, moved by Mr. J. Cornell (W.A.), seconded by Mr. H. E. Bolton (W.A.), was carried:

“That this Congress is of the opinion that the first five years interest on Loans under the R.S.S.I.R. Settlement Schemes should be capitalised and the payment thereof be so distributed as to ensure its repayment by equal annual instalments within the unexpired period, if any, of repayment of the amount involved as principal.”

RENAME TASNAM SEA.

The attention of Congress was drawn by the Rev. Dobbinson of the proposal to rename the Tasman Sea, by giving it the title of Anzac Sea. It was shown how appropriate the name was in view of the fact that this sea washes the shores of both Australia and New Zealand, and the proposed name would serve to commemorate for ever the association of Australian and New Zealand troops at Anzac. The following motion, moved by Rev. Dobbinson, seconded by Mr. C. P. Butler, was carried:

“That this Congress is of opinion that the glory of Australia and New Zealand on April 25th, 1915, will be immortalised by renaming the Tasman Sea which washes both shores, Anzac, and that Congress seek the co-operation of the New Zealand Soldiers’ Association to that effect.”

POPPY DAY.

It was decided to continue the practice initiated last year of observing November 11th as a Memorial Day and to make a special effort in regard to the sale of poppies. It was decided to purchase the poppies from France as they were required. The following motion, moved by Mr. E. H. Ward, seconded by Colonel C. P. Butler, was carried to indicate the opinion of Congress on this subject:

“That the R.S.S.I.R. co-operate with the rest of the allied world in an annual Poppy Day Appeal, 3d. of the proceeds from each poppy sold to be remitted to the Federal Executive and administered in terms of the League's agreement with the French Children's League.”

HOSPITAL STOPPAGES.

The matter of the Hospital stoppages in regard to V.D. was brought forward by Mr. Loftus Hills (Tasmania), in view of the strong case put forward by some of those so penalised. It was found impossible to...
They sat at a table bare,
In a room full of ghosts.
A room full of ghosts.
There were four of them there,
And Michael and Gabriel,
And Michael's and Gabriel's hosts.
Four men who had fought,
Because they thought
To fight it was right.
To fight for a Symbol that had no Soul.
To play in a Game—
To play in a Game that had no Goal.
All they knew,
There was fighting to do.
A bloody ball
To pass—and pass.
In classic lore
They call it War.
With sweat of blood,
And sweat of brain;
With sweat of soul,
And sweat of pain—
So they fought . . .
So they played.
While Pilate dreamed of a Man betrayed,
And Christ on Calvary prayed—and prayed.
O, brave and blind,
What did ye hope in Hell to find?
I wondered—and wondered—
Ye wondered too, and wondered—
And never knew.
Was it Caesar—or Nero led?
Was it Herod—or Jesus bled?
Far—far—the nearest star,
Unfrontiered the shore,
Uncarpeted the sea,
The ultimate touch of eternity.
How shall we measure the gain and loss
Or Humanity’s pitiful pitch and toss?
A Shadow falls . . . It is only a Cross!
A Cross—
That reaches yearning arms
Above the white of that table bare,
Where four men sit—
Just four of them there.
The lungs of one are bleached with gas.
But what does it matter?
He caught the ball—
It did not pass.
So the game went on—
That was all!
And one holds his neck as though in a mould,
It was broken . . . and mered.
That story’s told!
And one has half of a hand—
No legs
Just a couple of wooden pegs.

It happened the Car of Jugernaut
Need not a pin for a broken wheel;
And flesh and blood
Are as good as steel.
And one—
The last of the grim quartet—
He came back,
So the world thinks—whole.
What does it matter,
A shell-shocked Soul?
So they sit in session.
And one makes moan—
“We’re rather like dogs
That snarl for a bone!
We’re only four
God!—the thousands more,
Who only ask for a chance to live.
For warmth and food—
A little good
Of all we were promised the world would give
When we came back.
If we came back?
Is there no prophet—
No priest—
Nor king—
To bruise the head of this Shameful Thing?
This naked Spectre,
Whose latent bones,
Rattle and rattle over the stones.
How shall the weak become the strong?
Who will right us the bitter wrong?
Is there no music left—
No song?
Silent—his comrades listen.
What can they say?
They’re there to try and find a way
To solve the problem of workless men—
Whom Disability has not lent
The blessed relief of—
Fifty—sixty—eighty—
One hundred per cent—
These have paid for the price of meat:
But what of the men who have nothing to eat?
Nerves that are blasted to agony,
That is something men cannot see—
A matter of mere psychology.
Rather a nuisance—on the whole;
What does it matter—
A shell-shocked soul?
A million ghosts go marching by
So many from Gallipoli,
And some from Mons and Courcellet,
And some from places I forget.

Some from the Maire and the Mesole:
And one that looks like Wellington,
And one that looks like Lafayette.
And one has come from Marathon—
And ONE has come from Olivet.
So many ghosts!
Such valiant hosts!
So silent—yet
They all salute
That strange quartet.

Is that the smoke of a cigarette
That curls and vapers through all the room?
Is that an altar standing there
Or only a table white and bare?
Just for a moment,
I know not whence—
I breathed the fragrance of frankincense.
The air was divinely lavendered—
Misted and muffled—
With something for which I have no word.
I have no word.
If I had—who would heed?
Stupidity sits in the counsels of Greed.
And a soldier’s service—
What is it worth
When balanced in votes,
Or paid in toil?
What is it worth—
A shell-shocked soul?

Out in the street the lucksters cry,
Junk to sell—
And junk to buy!
And one small room
Holds a Council of Four
With a grisly wraith—
And the Shades of Sleepers
Who cannot sleep . . .

“If—ye—break—faith—
If—ye—break—faith—
With—who—who—die!”
The challenge still rings from Calvary!

The Ark of the Covenant
Comes again
To Shiloh’s plain.
And the Sleepers muster upon the hills
Of the Swine—
And the Cross—
And the Daffodils.

OF COURSE NOT:
A negro, boarded a tram car. After
a word with the conductor he shuffled to
towards the door again.
An inspector, who happened to be in
the car, said to him, “Surely you don’t
want to get off so soon—and you haven’t
paid.”

“Oh want ter go ter Whopple-street.”

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY “I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST.”
Thirtieth years ago (the good old days), when rum ran was 6/- per gallon, and flour 40/- per sack, a Flandian pioneer took up land 40 miles from a town and railway, and commenced cutting out a home in the heavy timber. When supplies were needed and produce to be sold, it meant an 80 mile trip to the nearest thinly populated bush road. In the course of years, the dray began to show signs of heavy toll, but managed to hang together somehow.

One trip in for supplies, old Steve and George managed to work it so they could attend the animal race meeting. They must have had a good time, for when they started back for home, they were suffering a recovery (a natural result) and packed nice and handy on top of the load were two gallons of rum.

Steve was driving and George was lying on top of the load, looking back, both of them within reach of the rum. Some miles from town George noticed a goanna dart across the road. It happened several times so he grabbed the Winchester and when he had a good chance, fired at it. Steve was at the time thinking hard, far happening to glance at his horses some time before, noticed he had too many, and on counting them all again found three over; he counted them many times and always 12. He had been driving a 10 dray and always there were too many. He was in the middle of another count when the rifle went off.

He gave an awful jump and growled
"What a hell is up?"

"Had a shot at a dam Goanna," said George. "been follelin' us nearly a mile."

"Aw, steady yourself man, and don't be seeing things proper; have a nap and go to sleep," said Steve. He advised, turning to count his horses again.

George took the tip and was just dozing off when he thought of the goanna he'd had a shot at, so he had a look and saw several following quite close to the dray. He sat bolt upright, grabbed the rifle again, and fired four quick shots at them and yelled to Steve.

The latter worthy got such a start that he bit his pipestem off and scrambled up to wooden George when his eye lit on the goanna. "Hell," he said, "thought you said there was only one." George said nothing—he couldn't, his eyes were sticking out like shoe buttons. So were Steve's.

In the next half mile, the goannas crept in strength to about a hundred. They were following all in a bunch, darting this way and that, and seemed to be picking up something from the ground, looked like odd grains of rice.

Steve could stand it no longer. Giving an awful yell, he snatched the rifle from George, emptied it at the Goannas, then threw it at them. Hearing Steve's yell, the horses reckoned it meant, "get into the collars," which they did and broke into a trot. The pace proved too much for the travel weary old wheels and they suddenly collapsed. The body hit the ground with a thump and was dragged along about fifty yards, when the shafts pulled out, the horses disappeared at a gallop, leaving George still on the load; a position only maintained by the most astonishing aerobatic feats imaginable.

They both turned and looked for the "Goons," which had halted, seemingly in consultation about something. Suddenly they made a determined swoop forward. Steve and George dived suddenly under the covering tarpaulin, frightened speechless, each thinking what a terrible death it would be to be eaten alive by "goons." Steve thought about all the "Goons" he had killed stealing eggs and wished he hadn't.

Rum soaked from the pores of their skins, they were shaking nearly to pieces.

Hell!! what a death, would their bones ever be found?

Ten minutes passed and they were still untouched. Another ten, and they poked their heads cautiously out from under the tarpaulin, and looked back.

(One solitary goanna was noshing about the place, and in a half a mile, the result of George's first shot.)

The fright Steve and George had, had completely sobered them; they sneaked off the load, grabbed a stick each, stalked the lone, wounded "Goose," and Steve, with one swipe, killed and burst it, and out flopped a mass of hastily swallowed white ants.

It appears that the wheels had been shedding them in preparation for a general collapse and the "Goos" had got on the trail.

Whether there were a hundred "Goons" or only one following that day, remains an unsolved mystery to the heroes of that never to be forgotten race meeting delayed trip home.

LIBERAL HELP

Government Aid to Soldier Settlers.

A returned soldier writes to the R.S.L.S. with a view to obtaining a Government grant for the purpose of improving conditions in his district. Advice was received from the Public Works Department that assistance would be rendered wherever practicable, if funds were allocated for any work to be carried out, but that the authority must be furnished by the Returned Soldiers' Land Settlement Scheme.

Some three months after opening up the question the R.S.L.S. intimated that steps would be taken to place the matter before the Minister for Repatriation.

After exhausting the stock of remaining patience the local Digger Settlers wrote several times to the powers that be, but still without any profitable result. The satisfaction of the steers and George lessened when they learned that the community received an interest notice, showing a thirty per cent. margin above the amount he was entitled to be charged. Other instances of unbusinesslike methods obtaining at the Lands Office were quoted by our correspondent, and so provoked are the settlers that an Association has been formed to give weight to the representation of their requirements in future.

The Association under discussion is called the "Yarloop District Coastal Development Association," and at its inception a committee was elected comprised of five returned men and two others. The first meeting was a very lively affair, and matters of importance were discussed, one of which determined that the Red Tape Johnnies should be forced to do their jobs properly in future.

**Drink St. Oswald Wines**

Patriotic Funds

A Million and a Quarter Collected

Question of Pooling Debated.

The proposal by Lieut.-Colonel Denton (member for Moore) to cause an enquiry as to the best method of appropriating money raised by the various bodies for the purpose of assisting soldiers and their dependants, and into the disposal of the surplus, if any, has been made with the object of consolidating all sums amounting to one common fund, under the control of three trustees. The trustees to be appointed, one from the R.S.L., one from the combined Association, and one appointed by the Government. This matter was first brought up in December 1921, and although the Premier was good enough to say that he would give the matter due consideration, the position is unaltered. In the course of his remarks, the member for Moore stated that various bodies and associations in this State collected £1,148-126-8 ½d. He did not wish to state that this money had not been spent wisely and well; but it was generally known that some of the money was still available. At the close of his remarks, the member regretted that in the State quite a number of returned soldiers were in need of help. This distress should not exist, because they went away to fulfill a certain obligation, whilst our (the public) obligations to them have gradually been lost sight of. At the recent meeting of the Returned Soldiers held in Sydney they was brought up at the instance of a delegate from W.A. We were first in the field and ought to put our house in order. Western Australians did her share during the war and bore her burden. Lt-Col. Denton referred to the fact that a number of Stumpies—80 in all—were walking about looking for work. Surely out of the enormous sum collected there was something available to hire these men. They were not sent away to come back maimed and destitute.

An instance of one of the lesser funds and its administration was given:—The Bunbury children put their pennies towards a Soldiers' Home and the total was £5. He was informed that there is at present 7½ in that fund. For the soldiers not one son was spent. The fund was built up and was then absorbed by bank fees.
sible to finalise the matter without more notice for the various States, although the President explained that several attempts to obtain other concessions in this connection had failed. In consequence of this, the following motion, moved by Mr. Loftus Hills (Tasmania), and seconded by Mr. A. Glassy (Tasmania), was carried:

"That it be an instruction from this Congress to each State Executive define before the next Congress its attitude on the question of Hospital stoppages for V.D."

This question will therefore be dealt with fully at next Congress.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

Mr. G. J. C. Dyett was unanimously elected Federal President for the ensuing year, and it was unanimously resolved as follows:—:

"That the delegates assembled in Congress on behalf of their respective States congratulate the President on his unanimous re-election, and appreciate the services he has rendered to the League during his occupancy of the position of President." In speaking to this motion, the delegates from every State, without exception, spoke in the highest terms of their appreciation of the work carried out by Mr. Dyett, and the manner in which he had occupied the position of President of the League. The confidence of every State was expressed in the President, and the unanimous congratulations were extended to him on his unanimous re-election to the office. The unanimous opinion of Congress was that we were very fortunate in having a man of Mr. Dyett's calibre as our President.

"O. Come All Ye Faithful"

A faithful man is a rara avis,
A faithful chemist is rarer still.

S. J. FAITHFUL
of WEST GUILDFORD
IS YOUR FAITHFUL FRIEND

Ring up M116 and get him

TRESSIDER
is the ONLY Chemist
at Nedlands

He is the life-saver of the crew

Drink St. Oswald Wines

THE LISTENING POST.  SEPTEMBER 15th, 1922.

"Peron," the explorer who discovered Rockingham

WAR PENSIONS REVIEWS
(By Nor'-West.

"Baal hudgeree that one Lord pfla mine thinkit. All-a-time him ben gibit-bakit. Bineby finishem-up longa nothink. longanobody."

The foregoing is a paraphrase by "Yarraman Billy" of a Biblical sentence of resignation attributed to Job, and handed on for unctuous use by various Christian clergymen on a variety of occasions. It may be extended so far as to permit of pension grievances being tucked beneath its spread—barring resignation. Lack of resignation must be responsible for the comments under above heading in your issue of August 18th, 1922. The noticed comments show, moreover, a woeful want of sympathy with endeavor—an endeavor that may marry success and have as issue many children. The children to be all named Relief, and to bring great joy to their Godfather—the harassed Commonwealth treasurer. Should these thoughts fail to console our Sou'-Western friends, it may afford them solace to learn that they are not alone in being asked to make this further, patriotic sacrifice—the war being practically forgotten. They can have evidence of this from our district:—that is from cases still aboveground; the underground ones have solved the difficulty, if not voluntarily, at least, we may hope, without compulsion. The aboveground case remains for the authorities a problem and a gamble. For, to the occupant of a decent position in the Pensions Department, it must be patent that a recurring reduction of 10 per cent. of pension rates at stated periods must, sooner or later, bring him up against the hollow end of nothing. Within a measurable time, pensions will have been reduced to a shambled end comprising those diggers outed beyond hope. And there is a gamble too. The fragments of this remnant may have vanished, for the shrouded skeleton carrying an hourglass and a sickle is as good a gambler as, say, the average medicocrand— and he generally wins.

Let us not forget, however, that there are the costs of the old ambassadorial jaunts of Hughes, Cook, Millen, Pearce, Watt and Pearce again, the world about, to be paid, and further like possibilities to be provided for—not against, mind you, To whom then should the community look for greatest readiness to pay and provide if not to those who actually went to the war and suffered physical injury by it?

But next war it may be well to remember what may happen to some of those who survive— injured—when the truth later keys are held by a man whose ancient namesake drew inspiration from the methods of a spider.

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BLESSED IS HE THAT EXPECTETH—

(By Noeivalad.)

Alick, reclining at full length on the ground outside our "Bivvy" in the Alollandville Wood, was idly shining a couple of Australian pennies. It was always a sure sign that a pay was looming in the offing when he did that.

Both he and Bill were inveterate gamblers and close disciples of the glorious pastime of "two-up."

Close by on an upturned petrol tin Bill was thoughtfully regarding the seams of his shirt. I was engaged in my usual letter homewards, much to the disgust of Bill, who reckoned one page a month was enough "for any flamin' skirt." I could never get him to understand that my "skirt" was a bit different from the usual run and writing was consequently a pleasure.

Overhead the bright spring sun shine down on us, making the world seem a good place to live in. The occasional drone of a far off plane and the solitary boom of a big gun served to remind us that the war was still going strong somewhere.

An extra emphatic adjective of a blasphemous type drew my attention to Bill. I watched the play of the muscles on his arms and back. He was a splendid specimen of outback Australian manhood, with the kindly nature and clean philosophy entirely absent in the majority of City bred men. Dick, his life long friend, was the typical Australian of the long lean and wiry type. The hot sun and wind of the North-West had tanned his skin almost to the colour of the keen, brown eyes, that had often blazed with the clash and excitement of a stunt.

The figure of the orderly Corporal approaching, caused the three of us some trepidation.

"Private Ellis, report to the Sar-Major at the toot," he said.

Bill's language was sulphurous, and Alick and I roared with glee over Bill's "crash." However, in a few minutes, he came back at the double and commenced arranging his equipment hurriedly.

"Sly, yonse blokes," he said, "wouldja like a cushy job back at Abbeville? Pay once a week and seven francs a day ration allowance—?"

"Too right," said Alick and I together.

"Decent billets an' y' scan served in a mess hut—?"

"Lead us to it," roared the delighted Alick.

"Me too!" I cried excitedly.

"Nice Mademoiselles and bunkoo beer an'?"

"My flaming oath!" yelled Alick, while I got up and threw my tin hat into the air.

"Y'would, wouldja?" he asked us anxiously.

Alick and I groaned our happy acquiescence.

"So would I," said Bill sadly, as he set off for the orderly room. "I'm on guard duty."

ANG ON BE'IND.

There's home as can the berries beat,

The busses, trains and trams—a treat,

But blokes as don't jist wanter find

No vehicle but their own feet,

'ad better grab (and eat the dust),

At anythin' that runs by jist,

An' wip be'ind.

Grab 'ard an' 'ang like fly to meat,

An', may be, work on to a seat,

Ter sit an' see the flyin' show

Uv life a spreadin' out below

The iron rhind

Uv wheels that grind

An' powder blokes as is too slow

Te' wip be'ind.

If Gawd for you a seat won't find

Don't sky the tow'l: 'ang on be'ind.

—DO. P. DUSTER.

Mr. L. G. Norant (to dealer in antiques)—"Two thousand years old! You can't kid me. Why, it's only 1921 now."

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