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The New Year

The New Year is barely a month old, but already there are indications that it will be a happier one than the most optimistic of us would have dared to hope a month ago. As the old year was drawing to its sorrowful close, the Federal Government promised its long-deferred aid to the gold and wheat industries. The conference of wheat growers held in Perth, early this month, proves that the growers are organising to help themselves and to protect their own interests, and in doing so they will be helping the community as a whole. The report of the finding of a large nugget at Larkinhall has revived memories of the Roaring Nineties, and may be hailed as a happy omen. It could not have happened at a more opportune time. It has resuscitated that spirit of optimism which is never long dormant in the breast of the gold-seeker, and throughout the week-end this spirit was reflected in the city. The old-timer’s prophecy about Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie—“She’ll come again”—seems to be coming true, for, as that same breezy optimist will tell you, “You never know what’s just beneath the pick.” Perhaps the happiest augury for the future is that spirit of self-help now manifesting itself in all classes of the community. As Mr. Scullin told us, while in Perth, the millenium cannot be brought about immediately, nor by any one individual. A united effort by the whole nation must take place before we can rid ourselves of our economic ills.

It is a healthy sign that so many of our public men are concentrating their attention upon the situation, and that a saner tone is beginning to assert itself in our political discussions. Most of the hot air which spread a haze over fundamental issues during the past year has happily evaporated, while people of all parties are paying greater deference to expert advice. As usual, the good old digger is doing his bit to win the peace, even as he helped to win the war. Reports received from time to time from the various sub-branches show that the digger and his leaders are paying serious attention to the unemployment problem, and that all are endeavouring to do everything humanly possible for their less fortunate comrades. The old battle spirit of courage and comradeship is not dead. It is finding new outlets every day. In one district, when a digger farmer had the misfortune to break his leg, his neighbours formed a working bee and carted his wheat for him. One sub-branch actually took advantage of the depression to extend its hall building. Unemployed diggers worked on the job, while others supplied the sand necessary for the bricks and mortar, and arranged for the necessary transport. The plans were drawn, and all the work was executed by members of the sub-branch. Reports like this make good reading and set the blood pulsing through one’s veins even as accounts of the Landing and Pozières might.

Year in and year out the president of this branch has been, advising ex-service men to take a keener interest in public affairs, to carry over into the arena of peace those habits of organisation and leadership which they acquired on the field of battle. Right nobly has the call been answered. There is hardly a local government body in the State that does not contain its quota of diggers, while at the last general election no fewer than fourteen ex-soldiers secured seats in the State legislature. Irrespective of party or creed, the digger is giving a leavening to the public life of this State—which must be beneficial in its effects.

The past year has seen the League consolidated and wielding a greater influence than ever in public affairs. We gained a signal victory over those misguided politicians, both State and Federal, who attempted to interfere with the principle of preference to returned sailors and soldiers. This year there are indications that the attack on the diggers privileges will be made upon another sector, that of sailors’ and soldiers’ pensions. The League is prepared, and any such attack will be resisted with the utmost vigour, and will be just as signally repulsed. The support given by the West Australian Branch to the agitation for the Gold Bonus was the means of enlisting the aid of our comrades in the Eastern States, and this, despite the crude attempts of interested parties to split the League. That this support was not to be despised is borne out by the letter forwarded to the State Secretary by the Chairman of the Gold Campaign Committee. Writing on the 9th January, the Chairman states:

“The influence of your League in this State by its solid support of the request for a Gold Bonus, and the influence exerted by it with the Returned Sailors’ and Soldiers’ League in the other States of Australia has proved of the greatest assistance in the successful issue achieved, and we tender the sincere thanks of this Committee to your President, the members of the Executive of the League, and your good self and the various members all over the country who have been so solidly behind us since the inception of the campaign.”

A year ago very little contributed matter was appearing in the pages of the Listening Post. A casual glance through the pages of our recent issues will show that the digger is studying important questions and writing about them. Mr. F. A. Law, of Merredin, has initiated a very interesting discussion, which is still-continuing. We hope to
receive many more contributions upon economic and other subjects. The educational value of such discussions cannot be over-estimated. Whether we agree or disagree with the opinions expressed, they will make us brush up our reading, take a more active interest in public business, and make us more particular regarding the type of men we elect to represent us in Parliament.

Federal Presidency

The following letter has been received from Mr. G. J. C. Dyett by the State President:

"I should be glad if you would arrange for the Editor of the LISTENING POST to publish in the next issue thereof a paragraph indicating that, I did not exercise both a deliberative and casting vote on the occasion of the presidential election in Hobart last month, as stated on page 14 of the November issue of that Journal.

"You will recollect that I announced that whilst I was empowered to exercise two votes, I did not intend doing so, but that I would use a deliberative vote only."

[We understand that after the Returning Officer had stated that the voting was McCann 7, and Dyett 6, Mr. Dyett then cast one vote for himself, which made the voting equal. The Federal Secretary (Mr. J. Webster), as Returning Officer, then gave his casting vote for Dyett, and that is the method by which the Federal President was elected this year.—Editor, L.P.]

A Pension Anomaly Removed

The Federal Secretary recently forwarded the following communication to the State office:

"As you are probably aware, the Act relating to the establishment of Appeal Tribunals made provision in Section 45 (N) for any member of the Forces in receipt of a pension to appeal to the Assessment Tribunal if he so desires.

"It has been generally recognised that the intention of those concerned at the time was to make provision for a member of the Forces who was suffering from an accepted war disability to appeal against the assessment of his incapacity.

"However, after the Tribunals began to function, it was soon discovered that there were certain soldiers with accepted war disabilities (although not in receipt of pension) who were precluded from appearing before the Boards in question.

To meet this position, arrangements were made by the Federal President with the late Minister for Repatriation, Sir Neville Howse, for such cases to be dealt with by a special board consisting of two doctors selected from the panel of Appeal Tribunal doctors. Such Boards continued to operate until the matter became rather involved, particularly where the Entitlement Tribunal had accepted disabilities as being aggravated by war service. In these cases the question of assessment, of course, was left to the Commission, and where it was satisfied that a degree of incapacity arising from war service existed, a pension was granted.

"The soldier in question, if he was not satisfied with the assessment, would then have the privilege of appealing to the Assessment Tribunals but, on the other hand, should the Commission assess such disability as 'nil incapacity,' naturally no pension would be paid, and the man had not the legal right of appeal.

"It was felt by this office that rather than have these cases dealt with by the two doctors, selected from the panel of appeal doctors, as mentioned above, it would be more satisfactory if arrangements could be made for an amendment to the Act to be obtained, enabling all soldiers with accepted disabilities to have the right to appeal to the Tribunal, irrespective of whether they were receiving pensions or not.

"Several interviews took place with the Minister for Repatriation, the Hon. F. Anstey, who ultimately expressed his agreement with the suggestion put forth and eventually took steps to prepare an amendment to the Repatriation Act on these lines. As you no doubt are aware, such amendment recently passed through both Houses of Parliament, and, as a result, an anomaly which hitherto existed has been removed; and an additional benefit obtained for many returned soldiers."

Retired Soldiers and the Forests Act

On the 6th November, 1930, the State Secretary forwarded to the Premier a copy of Resolution 37 passed by the State Congress of last year:

"That the amendment to the Forests Act, No. 8, of 1919 be made to provide for returned soldier bushmen being privileged to take out sleeper hewer's licenses to enable them to cut timber on Crown land." On 23 December, 1930, the following reply, which speaks for itself, was received from the Minister for Forests:

"Under the Forests Act, 1918, it is unlawful for any person to be employed as a sleeper hewer on State Forests unless such person followed the occupation prior to the passing of the Act. It is considered fair and reasonable that the men who have been longest in the industry should have preference in the restricted amount of work of this nature available on State Forests. This does not, however, preclude men who have followed this occupation during recent years from securing employment, as there is a very large volume of timber to be worked up by sleeper hewers on land which is in process of alienation, and as orders become available arrangements are made from time to time for the employment of experienced hewers of this class of country. The trouble at the present time is not a shortage of hewing timber available, but the difficulty of securing orders."

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State Executive Meetings

7/1/1931


Apologies were received from Messrs. Yeates, Tyler, Nye, Birtwistle, and Colonel Olden.

Reports.—(a) State Secretary: The State Secretary’s report for the month of December was received. Mr. W. H. Gregory was made in this report of the dealings which the State President and Secretary had with the Minister for Police concerning the future control of art unions. Also arising out of the report, Rabbi Freedman moved, seconded by Archdeacon Riley; That a letter of condolence be sent to the widow of the late Captain A. Stirling Isaac, who was a previous Vice-President of the League. The resolution was carried with all delegates standing.

(b) Pensions Committee.—Report received.

(c) Federal Committee.—Report received and adopted. This report contained the recommendation that a refund be made of the amount held to the credit of the Mekatharra Sub-Branch. Arising out of this report it was decided to submit to the next Executive meeting the matter of (a) relating the League’s annual contribution to the upkeep of the cot at the Children’s Hospital.

(d) Relief Fund Trustees.—Report received.

(e) Management Committee.—Colonel Collett reported on behalf of the Management Committee, and referred to the suggestion of the Subaco Sub-Branch that a monster guard of honour be organised from metropolitan sub-branches to farewell His Excellency the Governor from the wharf. The Committee recommended that the suggestion be not adopted.—Carried. The President also read extensive correspondence re the election of Federal President, including King’s Counsel opinion obtained by the South Australian branch. After general discussion it was decided to refer this matter back to the Management Committee for any necessary action.

(f) Employment Bureau.—The report showed over 500 men registered for work.—Report received.

(g) Land Committee.—Report received.

(h) Excursion Committee.—Report received in connection with the committee’s visit to Edward Millen Home, Hothamcote, and Lemnos.—Received.

(1) Visits.—Archdeacon Riley reported on visits to Carnamah and Yandanooka, Colonel Olden on the West Coast, and Mr. Farquharson on a visit to Kemscoot Sub-Branch. Mr. Panton reported on visits to No. 11 Ward.

Federal Correspondence.—The following correspondence was received from the Federal Executive.

(a) Special pensions to old aged soldiers.

(b) South Australian indebtedness to Federal Executive.

(c) Non-pensionable disabilities and the recent amendment of the Act.

(d) Record of deaths of returned soldiers.

(e) Re Federal Executive circulars.

(f) Federal Unemployment.

(g) Menin Gate picture.

(h) Re Federal Legacy Clubs’ resolutions.—This letter contained the following suggestions:

(i) That big memorial services be held throughout Australian on the 20th anniversary of the Gallipoli Landing in 1935.

(ii) Re representations to the Prime Minister with a view to the establishment of National War Councils in each State to safeguard Australian soldiers’ memorials. It was agreed on the resolution of Mr. Watt, seconded by Colonel Margolin: That both items be referred to the next State Congress. It was also agreed in order to ensure that all war memorials are receiving constant attention, and being maintained in a satisfactory state of repair, the State Secretary obtain a report from sub-branches regarding the condition of war memorials within their respective districts. In connection with the same correspondence it was agreed to supply the Federal Executive with leaflets and policy circulars issued to sub-branches prior to Anzac Day.

(i) Firm trading as returned soldiers.

(ii) Norwegian war veterans.

(iii) Anti-British propaganda.

(iv) Study of economic problems.

(v) Unfinancial Members wearing the Badge.

After discussing this problem, it was agreed on the recommendation of Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Farquharson, to refer the matter to the Management Committee.

(n) Re Hon. Medical Advisor and the necessity of appointees to tribunals using the League organisation. Both referred to the Pensions Committee.

(n) Re the reading of extensive correspondence from the Federal Executive, Mr. Panton moved, and Mr. Farquharson seconded: That all Federal correspondence be dealt with by the Management Committee, which should refer such matters as thought necessary to the Executive.—Lost.

Re Haley Case.—The State Secretary reported that the Minister had wired for sworn declarations in connection with a certain phase of this case. The declarations had been despatched.

New Appointments.—The following hon. secretaries have been appointed:—W. W. Hooper, Toodyay Sub-Branch; approved; C. W. A. Lewis, Cowaramup, approved.

‘Monster Smoke Social’ to be broadcast. It was agreed to refer to the Perth Sub-branch for consideration the suggestions made by the Balangur Sub-branch.

Appreciation.—(a) Letter from the Bruntwick Junction Branch; (b) Gold Bonus Committee.

Broome Sub-Branch.—Further correspondence re Cape Leveque lighthouse from the Broome Sub-Branch was read.

Donations.—West Perth Sub-Branch, £50 to Aged Soldiers’ Relief Fund; Hon. H. Gregory, M.H.R., £5/- for Xmas Cheer.

Tasmanian Branch.—Re A.I.P., Conference, Tasmania.—Received.

Perth Sub-Branch.—Re proposed sale of furniture. Reply left to State Secretary.

Minister for Forests.—Re Congress Resolution 27, Slepper Hewers.—Received.

Dowell Sub-Branch.—Re Imperial Grant, referred to the Land Committee.

Federal Executive Meeting.—At Colonel Collett’s suggestion it was agreed to appoint at the next meeting a waiting councillor for the next Federal Executive meeting.

Vale Dick Isaac

The R. S. L., and diggers generally, lost a true friend when Captain A. S. (“Dick”) Isaac, M.C., succumbed to pneumonia on December 30. The son of a clergyman, he was well-known in Kalgoorlie and Perth. It was in Kalgoorlie that he learned the rudiments of soldiering while serving with the famous Goldfields Infantry Regiment. During the war he held a commission in the 28th, and served with distinction, losing an arm, and gaining a well-merited M.C. His wounds might have returned him to Australia, but he elected to soldier on, and held several administrative appointments in connection with the A.I.F. depots in the United Kingdom. On his return to civil life he joined the staff of the A.I.F. Insurance Office in Perth. He retained his interest in his old comrades to the last, being from time to time a member of the State Executive, president of the Perth Sub-Branch, and president of the Maimed and Limbless Soldiers’ Association. “Dick” Isaac was a cheery personality, robust, both physically and mentally. He never feared to speak his mind when occasion demanded, yet with all his outspokenness he maintained an unflaunting geniality, and was as incapable of saying a mean word about anyone as he was of doing a mean action.

In tendering Mrs. Isaac our deepest sympathy, we can assure her that her sorrow is also our own.
The Month

The Digger in Business

Last Federal Congress passed the resolution moved by Colonel Collett and seconded by Mr. J. H. Tozer, that “Congress is of the opinion that no firm should be allowed to trade under the title of ‘Returned Soldiers’ or ‘Diggers,’ or words implying such, without first obtaining the written consent to do so from the Commonwealth Attorney-General, such authority or licence to be reviewed annually.”

The resolution is a sound one, and something like this should have been done long ago. Too often have we seen the phrase “Late-A.I.F.” on the windows of businesses whose founders, no doubt, were returned men, but which now do not employ a single ex-soldier. Unfortunately, it is too late to do anything in the matter of the flamboyant Federal Senator whose war service was so distinguished that he assumed the name “Digger” by deed poll.

League Membership

Most R.S.L. subscriptions fall due this month and members are urged to renew their membership. Many who are right up against it through continued unemployment will be unable to pay, but most sub-branches are arranging to keep these men financial by paying their capitation fee, mostly from a special fund set apart for that purpose. At the last State Congress a resolution was submitted urging an amendment to the constitution having for its object the retention of membership of those who, through unemployment, were unable to pay the fee. It was decided that it was a matter which could be best handled by the sub-branches concerned.

At this time of depression, and consequent distress, which affects many diggers, it behoves all who can to join the League and assist their comrades of the war who are in need. Membership of the R.S.L. is an honour, but it also brings with it its obligations.

Hands Off Pensions!

Just as officialdom has been induced to adopt a more liberal attitude towards pensioners and claimants, certain political organisations—beginning to cast hungry eyes on the soldier’s pension. The State Executive of the Tasmanian Branch has forwarded a communication referring to two items on the agenda paper for the Annual Conference of the Australian Labour Party (Tasmanian Section), which will be held at Hobart on the 13th February, 1931. These items are being submitted by the Franklin (Tas.) No. 1 Branch of the A.L.P. The proposals are—

1. “That Conference recommend that no military pension be paid to persons who are in receipt of wages or salaries which are in excess of the basic rate.”
2. “That this Conference recommends that returned soldiers in receipt of a full military pension now employed by either Federal or State Governments should forego same and their positions be filled by unemployed soldiers.”

This sudden interest in the welfare of unemployed soldiers is truly touching, especially in view of recent events on the wharves and elsewhere. The wording of the proposals may appeal to the unthinking, especially of the younger generation, who knew not the war, but they must be resisted with all the force the League can command. The proposals are butt the thin end of the wedge. On the face of it they seem moderate, but it must be remembered that the preference battle taught a sharp lesson to those who would whisk away the soldiers’ privileges. Had we not stood firmly on that occasion, pensions and other privileges would have been swept away long before this. Having failed ignominiously in the attack on preference, those envious of the soldiers’ privileges are reopening the attack from a different angle. However, forewarned is forearmed. We have to thank the Tasmanian Branch for the timely warning, and we shall await developments with interest.

A Cure for Depression

To ward off some of the effects of these present discontent, a digger has devised a scheme which may revive that “cheer-up” spirit which sustained the troops during the war, and which may, incidentally, benefit the Children’s Hospital. It takes the form of a society, “The Fellowship of Cheery Souls.” Adherents may join up by purchasing badges from boxes situated at Boy & Gibson’s (ground floor, near Inquiry Office); Sandover’s (near tobacco counter, Hay St. entrance), and Musgrove’s (sheet music counter). We append the rules of the Fellowship.

.Objects are to oppose the depression and despondency of to-day with positive thoughts of Confidence, Courage, and Cheer.

The 3 Cs

1. Confidence—because Man is greater than his circumstances, however adverse.
2. Courage—to combat any and every circumstance when you have realised No. 1, and to meet them with No. 3.
3. Cheer—to show everybody (including yourself) that a smile is the result of Nos. 1 and 2. Also, that you are not downhearted, nor going to be.
Meetings
are held whenever and wherever two or more Fellows meet. Introductions are not necessary, and the password is a Smile.

Badge
is magic. To test this you have but to touch it and think of the three C's and your troubles will dissolve in a Smile. Every penny of the 2s you pay for this hand-carved magic badge goes to the Children's Hospital.

Remarks
In this Fellowship there is neither president, secretary, treasurer, committee, or any other official whatever. And, apart from the initial 2s, there are no other subscriptions.

Every Fellow is equal to every other Fellow, with an equal right to Smile.

A good Fellow will neither talk nor look depressed.

Should the fact of being a Cheery Soul impel you to help a fellow human being there is no law against it.

Fellows should not optimistically blind themselves to the fact that the world of to-day is full of suffering, or, on seeing this, become pessimistic about it.

Touch the badge, think of the 3 C's—and Smile.

Captain Longstaff's Famous Paintings

Whilst we are in the midst of the general depression, it is pleasant for us to announce that the Australian War Memorial Board has launched a movement in Western Australia with regard to the distribution of reproductions of Captain W. Longstaff's famous paintings, "Menin Gate at Midnight" and "The Immortal Shrine."

In an interview with the Assistant-Director, Mr. A. G. Esmouf, we learn that the production of this work is given almost exclusively to returned soldiers. The despatch and selling staff consist entirely of ex-service men.

The framings of these wonderful pictures are of jarrah and teak, the teak being the timber taken from the deck of the H.M.A.S. Sydney when she was dismantled.

The proceeds from this movement are being divided between the National War Memorial Fund and the R.S.S.I.L.A. Fund for the relief of distressed and disabled men, and already over $3,000 has been given to the League from this source.

Conjointly, with this movement, the Australian War Memorial are distributing the first volume of the official history of the Australian Medical Service in the war; volume two to follow later.

The Point of View in War Books

(By C. R. Collins)

In his interesting and amusing article on war books, published in our December number, "Bindy Boo" has much to say about the points of view expressed by various writers. Here, I think, "Bindy Boo" gets to the core of the matter, for authors—and reviewers, too—even with the best of intentions, find it well-nigh impossible to prevent their personal predilections from colouring the text. This is true even of the cold, impartial historian; and this is why one should read widely in order to reconstruct a composite picture of a period or an event. "The point of view," as the phrase is understood in a tactical appreciation of a situation—the position of the writer and the limitations imposed upon him by time, space, and opportunity—cannot be eliminated from war books. To do so would deprive the future historian of much valuable raw material. If, on the other hand, the point of view is to be regarded as synonymous with the author's individual likes and dislikes, his chronic grouch, the particular axe he has to grind, or the propaganda he desires to broadcast, it should find its outlet in the newspaper article rather than in a serious work of literature. It cannot be denied that the writer of "the book with a purpose" occasionally reaches the high-water mark of literary excellence. Dickens did; so did Charles Reade; so, too, did the gifted, but extremely one-eyed, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin"; but when the writer who is not a genius presents propaganda in the guise of history or fiction, the result is distortion, and what the French call the "success of scandal." Human nature being what it is, the success of scandal has piled up royalties for writers like Remarque and others cited by "Bindy Boo," while others still who are equally outspoken, and who present a truer and more complete picture of the war are being neglected by an indiscriminating public. Fortunately, popularity is not the sole test of literary merit. Were that so, we should have to consider Ella Wheeler Wilcox a greater poet than Milton, and Robert Graves a greater war historian than Napier or Kinglake.

Royalties before truth is the motto of the sensational writer. To find truth one must go to the writers of official histories, the writers of memoirs of personal narratives, and the conscientious novelists; and in the presentation of truth the official historians have had decided advantages over the rest. They, both

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Our Economic Problems

WAGES

(By F. A. Law)

The essays in this column by "Sniper" and "Bayard" must have proved interesting reading to all diggers, and I must thank them for backing my humble effort up by their contributions. They were both rather at variance with what I had to say on unemployment, but, nevertheless, I appreciate the views expressed by them.

If our Editor will permit me to have another go, I should like to say a few words about "Wages" as an article contemporary to the subject of unemployment.

Both "Sniper" and "Bayard" were insistent that wages must come down in order to restore general employment, although "Bayard" veiled his meaning by asking for a return to "real" wages.

A few days ago an interesting statement appeared regarding wages, made by our Chief Secretary, and published in the West Australian. He said that there existed a "wages fund", which limited the amount of money available for the payment of wages. It is not a new idea at all. Ricardo advanced the theory in the 18th century, when he told the world that "at any time there is only a fixed amount available for wages; the fund could only be raised by reducing the amount paid in interest and rent, and if one class of workmen obtained higher wages there would be less for other classes." This theory is known in economics as "Ricardo's Iron Law of

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Office Boy (tensely, on the Test Match morning): "I want the afternoon off, sir, if it's convenient. It's my poor old grandfather."

Manager: "But I gave you a day off last year to go to his funeral."

Office Boy: "Yes, but I'm going to try to get in touch with him at a spiritualist seance this afternoon."
Wages," and it was blown to atoms several decades later by the logic of Fawcett, Professor of Political Economy at Cambridge. Fawcett demonstrated that wages could be increased without disturbing economy to the slightest degree except to improve the economic standard. Increased wages, he claimed, gave better distribution of wealth, but decreased wages had the effect of increasing maximum wealth and decreasing minimum wealth. When he said that it decreased minimum wealth I suspect him of being facetious. (I hope, in passing, that if any friend of the Chief Secretary sees this he will be good enough to tell Mr. Keenan, so as to guard him against trying out any more stale and exploded economic theories on us.)

Opposite to Ricardo's Law we have Hobson's famous "Underconsumption Theory," which is as follows: Labour receives so small an amount of the wealth it helps to create that it is unable to purchase any considerable proportion of the goods it produces. Capital receives as its share more than it can spend; it invests the surplus and so increases the amount of goods produced without increasing in the same ratio the spending power of labour. Hence, eventually markets become glutted with goods for which there is no consuming power, and men are thrown out of work until the equilibrium of the markets is restored by the consequent curtailment of production. Hobson asserts that bigger wages and smaller profits would at once increase the spending power of the bulk of the population, and so reduce over-investment, which is, incidentally, one of the prime causes of recurrent depressions) and over-production.

I contend that it is very hard to punch a hole in Hobson's theory. One requires very little knowledge of economics to see that "profits" are infinitely superior to "wages," yet most of the people who enjoy large profits produce no more—often much less—wealth than those who receive wages. This is not justice, and you cannot have a good and sound economic system unless it is one founded upon the simplest form of justice.

Speaking of wages and justice reminds me of something very potent which Professor Murdoch once had to say upon the subject. It was something like this: "As far as I can see the economists have only one piece of advice to give, and that is 'to reduce the cost of production,' or more candidly 'reduce wages,' but what do they mean by 'wages?' Do they mean the share in the world's wealth which is paid to the millionaire or to the stoker on a tramp steamer? I think not. They mean cut down the wages of the factory hand, the shearer, and the agricultural labourer. But perhaps even that is all well and good if their wage has been more than a fair wage, exceeding the amount of wealth they have produced. It may be that we have forgotten what is justice, and on that question of justice you or I, or anybody, may be expected to know as much as the economists."

So I ask in the cause of justice if those who consider that wages should come down are prepared to admit that profits, rent, and interest should fall in proportion? If they are not prepared to admit that, then I say without hesitation that they are not sincere in their expressed desire to better our economic position, and that they are attempting, through the power of wealth interests, to load the whole burden of the depression upon the producers of wealth.

Before closing I should like to add a few words upon the distribution of wealth. A country counts its wealth, not in its millionaires, but in the masses of its people, and, therefore, the distribution of wealth is always a deciding factor in economy. The last Australian wealth census proved that of the 2,229,000 people who furnished returns, one-tenth of them received 40 per cent. of the net annual income, and owned 78 per cent. of the total private wealth. Figures for Germany and the United States show similar conditions, while in England 24 per cent. of the population owns 88 per cent. of the country's wealth. World statistics, so far as they are available, show that the poor comprise 90 per cent. of the world's population, and the remaining 10 per cent. owns just a little over half of the world's total wealth. With such a desperately bad distribution of wealth, it is not amazing that we have to face recurrent periods of depression in English-speaking countries, and frequent revolutions and riots in countries held by more passionate races! Indeed, in the circumstances it would be most amazing if such phenomena did not occur. So my reason for urging that wages be not decreased, but increased, is that wealth producers may secure for themselves a greater proportion of the wealth they create; the benefit of this would be felt by all the peoples of the world, for to quote that saucy Professor Murdoch once again, "It is plain that we are confronted not by an economic question, but by a moral one. We have to seek justice in a better distribution of wealth."

The Curse of Party Politics—and a Remedy

By "ROUGH BUT HONEST"

I have read with great interest the letters of your several correspondents on the subject of the great depression, and whilst agreeing with many of their contentions, find in some of them the solution of our national problems.

It must be admitted, of course, that our difficulties have been largely brought about by the terribly low prices obtained for our primary products. But we may say, too, that the position is intensely aggravated by the fact that a large proportion of the wealth of our country, which should be made available for use

(Continued on Page 11)
Messené Ridge, France, after the capture by Australians, June 1917

From the W.A. Digger Book, a few copies of which are still available from Sub-Branch Secretaries or the State Secretary
in industry and business, is grabbed by the various governments in a vain endeavour to square accounts:
I largely blame the party political system for the condition of affairs existing to-day in Australia.
The fight between Labour and Capital as carried on by the Labour Party and National and Country Parties has cost Australia very dearly. Since the end of the war, at least, the political parties have led the way in extravagance of all kinds, and they have vied with each other in making promises to electors, irrespective of whether such promised benefits were feasible or not. Party politics have created a class consciousness, and have set one section of the community against the other.
During our good years Labour has received wages in excess of its earnings, Capital a greater return than justified, and our party politicians have gone on promising still better things for their respective sides.
We know at least that our politicians (who seem to be all aged; many in years, all in ideas) have taught us nothing of national sentiment or patriotism.
One could fill many pages on the defects of our “Party Political System,” but surely most of our readers must be seized with the fact that party politics have failed miserably. Australia can never firmly regain prosperity or financial stability under our present system, for directly good prices were obtained for our primary products, or any temporary prosperity should come to us, the same policy of “borrow and promise” would come into being again.
Then some other political system must be found to replace “Party Politics,” and I venture to suggest that a parliament composed of returned soldiers, no member of which is tied to Labour, National, or Country Parties would govern in the best interests of the whole of our people, pandering to no one section.
The R.S.L. is a non-party-political organisation. It think it is time it entered politics, but not the politics of today.
For example: If a well-respected and able returned man were to nominate for each electorate, backed by the R.S.L. organisations, proclaiming himself an independent free to vote as he though fit on every question arising in the House, I feel sure that the vast majority of seats would be captured by the returned men.

The electorate ministry idea appeals to me, I would suggest that if a Parliament of returned soldiers, their leaders (the Premier and his ministers) could then be chosen from their ranks.

This idea may appear novel and strange, even fantastic, to some whose minds are chained to the old idea of party politics, but I think the following might be pointed out to them:
1. I believe that no body of men exists to-day in Australia which has at its heart the love of its country so strongly as the returned men.
2. The returned men are to be found everywhere in executive positions —they are rising to the top in every avenue of business, in every profession, and also as primary producers. This proves their ability.
3. They have learned to suffer and to sacrifice for the good of others, and have been disciplined. The general public has not had these experiences.
4. Individually, they are keen fighters for what they believe to be right; yet broad enough to learn and acknowledge themselves wrong when evidence is forthcoming to that effect.
5. In short, who is better fitted and has more right than the returned man to govern his country.
I would like to hear the views of others.

since. This Aussie girl still loves to do her bit for returned men, and on Armistice Day she, with three other West Australian girls (Mary Angwin, Jean Loton and Molly Cobham) had a stand of their own, selling poppies in the Strand, Savoy House side. "The British Legion’s celebration in the Albert Hall," writes Elsie, "was just beautiful. Poppy leaves were showered from the roof 'In Remembrance' of the fallen."

"When the press was printing so much about Australia’s financial crisis," she writes, "we felt troubled. Then The Times and Daily Express wrote articles pointing out how Australia had righted herself before, and would always rise to the occasion, and it eased our minds. Many English people are saying that Australia is too young a country to have the experience necessary to cope with such a crisis. I tell them that thousands of Australians were inexperienced when a much more serious crisis occurred in 1914, and as they showed the sort of stuff they were made of then, so they will do again."

Elsie sends to her many digger pals, especially those of the old 11th, her sincere wishes for a brighter year in 1931.
Sir John Monash in Perth

General Sir John Monash, who has been selected by the Commonwealth Government to represent Australia at the inauguration of the new City of Delhi, passed through Perth en route for Bombay. When the Malaya reached Fremantle, the General was met by Lieutenant-General Sir Talbot Hobbs, the District Commandant (Brigadier-General C. H. Jess), Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Wieck and Mr. C. P. Smith, of the West Australian, all of whom were associated with Sir John in various capacities during the war.

At noon, on 19th January, the General was tendered a civic reception, at which many distinguished soldiers and citizens were present. These included four West Australian generals—Generals Sir Talbot Hobbs, Jess, Bessell-Brown, and White—the Deputy Premier (Mr. C. G. Latham), many members of Parliament, the President (Colonel Collett), and Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson) of the R.S.L., City Councillors, clergymen, and others prominent in the public life of the State.

Welcoming the guest, the Lord Mayor (Sir Wm. Latham) said that Sir John’s civic life had set a great example to others, and his arduous duties as Chairman of the Electricity Commission of Victoria had, by the presentation of immense problems, exactly suited his genius for organisation, and the conquering of great difficulties. In other spheres, such as University life and the multifarious activities of the Returned Soldiers’ League, he had taken a part which singled him out as a great and unselfish citizen. In May, 1918, Sir John had succeeded another great soldier, General Birdwood, in command of the Australian Forces, and that historic counter-offensive had followed which would go down in history as supremely creditable to the Australian Forces—and those of the allied nations. It was also a privilege to welcome Sir John as a distinguished Rotarian.

The Deputy Premier apologised for the absence of Sir James Mitchell, and said that the Australian people would be confident that anything done by Sir John in India on behalf of the Commonwealth would be as well done as his war work.

Lieutenant-General Sir Talbot Hobbs said that he had had the privilege of serving under General Monash in the most difficult period of the war, and had perhaps enjoyed his confidence and appreciated the tremendous burden of his responsibilities more than anyone else had done. He felt that Sir John had never received the appreciation of Australia, and of the Empire, to anything like the extent which he deserved. If Australians would read some of the good war histories—and there were some—they might appreciate better all that they owed to that distinguished soldier. It was a pity that soldiers of the right type were loth to talk of themselves, their associates, and their commanders. He hoped that the same spirit of devotion to duty, courage, and unswerving integrity, would be found to steer Australia through its present difficulties as had animated its forces and such leaders as the City’s guest during the stress of the war period. Such courage, ability, and organising capacity would be invaluable to the nation at present. He was quite sure that India would welcome cordially this distinguished soldier, and that his visit would be profitable to him and to India itself.

In a brief speech Colonel Collett said that while he spoke on behalf of the ex-service men of the State, all worthy citizens were now “service men” on behalf of State and Commonwealth, and the great need was for quick and ready men of the stamp of their guest, and of the men whom he had led. (Applause.)

Rabbi Freedman recalled that he had served under Sir John on many fronts, and expressed pride that this great soldier and great citizen had been a member of his congregation, and was a member of his faith.

General Jess, who was one of Sir John’s staff officers during the war, spoke of his ability—the ability of a big man—to conceive an idea and then trust his staff to carry it out.

Councillor Harold Boas also spoke.

Sir John Monash said: “I suppose few people in this room have been subjected to the same ordeal as I have experienced in the last 20 minutes, listening to eulogies of myself. On my return to Australia from the war, I was accorded a warm reception in Fremantle and Perth, and four years ago, as President of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, your cities honoured me again. Further, I spent a considerable time in this State during the period of its earlier development, so that I am no stranger. Reference has been made to my standing with soldiers; and I want to say that it is no small thing for a commander in the field, carrying the responsibility which I had, to feel that he has succeeded in winning and retaining the confidence and esteem of those who worked with him. To hold and enjoy the confidence of the private soldier—that is a great pride—and when my services were recognised by His Majesty, and by the kings and presidents of foreign powers, I still esteemed more highly the regard and confidence of our men and fellow citizens, which mean far more than honours of any other description. I regard this company less as representative of the City of Perth than as a gathering of old friends.”

Speaking of his mission, Sir John Monash reminded his hearers that it had been resolved, about 15 years ago, to re-establish a new city of Delhi on the site of the ancient capital of India. British

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architects, headed by Sir Edward Lutzen, had supervised the great work, and the occasion of the new City's inauguration had given opportunity for a great series of ceremonies. Honour had been done Australia by the extension of an invitation to send a representative, and Australia had done him greater honour in appointing him to that high office. Already he had received a cordial cablegram of welcome from the Viceroy, conveying greetings, and acquainting him with the fact that he would be the guest of the Viceroy and the Government of India. It would be his pleasant task to unveil a column, the gift of Australia, which would stand in an avenue between the legislative and administrative buildings. It would be his endeavour to embody those feelings of Imperial loyalty, sympathy with the aspirations of India to Dominion Government, and that spirit of Empire which were dear to the hearts of all citizens of Australia.

"We must all pull together to pull ourselves round again to prosperity," Sir John concluded. "I am an optimist, believing in the resources of the country and the character of the people, and I know that we can do it provided that we stop fighting among ourselves and keep to those great traditions of the A.I.F.—loyalty, comradeship, and keen work." (Applause.)

R.S.L. Luncheon to Sir John Monash

After the civic reception, Sir John Monash was entertained at a luncheon by the State Executive of the R.S.L. Welcoming him, Colonel Collett alluded to Sir John's appointment, and said "No other choice could have been made. Our interest in India is supreme, for if the wisest councils do not prevail, it must be a serious matter for the whole Empire. Every rank is represented in this room—even colonels and padres, who provide means of communication between generals and their troops (laughter). Returned soldiers have set a high standard of citizenship, and their faith in Australia, its integrity, honour, and constitution can be depended upon, and will be maintained. It is a matter of great regret that so many returned men are still outside the League in many States. All the disabilities of the League would disappear, and the League would become a real power if it included all returned men." Sir John, who was received with musical honours, said that for ten years since

the war he had been directing a great State enterprise, involving between 20 and 30 millions sterling; he had made it pay, and would continue to do so. It had been his fortunate experience throughout life to have had the assistance and loyalty of a fine lot of men. His experience in Victoria had been full of fighting with Legislatures and Parliaments, and, he looked forward keenly to an experience novel, colourful and responsible, and hoped to bring back much information which was being sought by the Prime Minister's Department.

Adverting to League matters, Sir John said that he had been flattered by the pressing invitation which had emanated from this State to accept the Federal presidency, but it had come too late. Years earlier it might have been possible, but one task after another had been thrust upon his shoulders as the years went by, and his time was now filled with responsible work.—As Vice-Chancellor of the Melbourne University, president of the Naval and Military Club, deputy-chairman of the National War Memorial Committee, and chairman of the Anzac Day Committee, his hands were quite full. The Federal presidency of the League required time and application greater than he was able to give without sacrificing other things. He had always refused any office which he had not the time or the capacity to fill, "pulling all his weight." The responsibility and onerous nature of such a task would be too much for his advancing years, but he would continue in an unofficial way to further the interests of the League. The Anzac Day ceremonies had been brought to a really high pitch, self-organised and self-disciplined, a worthy observance of the day. He paid a warm tribute to Sir Talbot Hobbs for the really fine State war memorial, "a work great in sentiment, significance, and architecture."

Amid loud applause, Sir John Monash sat down, after saying that he would represent India, not only Australia, but the A.I.F.

The South Central Wheat Belt District Committee

A meeting was held at the Wickepin Hotel, on January 11th, 1931.

Present—Messrs. Russell, Kirby (Wickepin); Dick, Davies (Kulin); Luff, Murfitt (Popperinyning); Chipper (Corrigin); and Sloane (Noongalling).

Affiliation Fees.—Moved by Mr. Davies, seconded by Mr. Chipper: That the constituent sub-

branches of the S.C. Wheat Belt District Committee be notified that the affiliation fee has been fixed at £1/-. per annum.—Carried.

Meeting Centre.—Moved by Mr. Luff, seconded by Mr. Davies: That all meetings be held at Wickepin.—Carried.

Next Meeting.—Moved by Mr. Murfitt, seconded by Mr. Chipper: That the next meeting be held on Sunday, February 22nd, 1931.—Carried.

Super Supplies.—Moved by Mr. Davies, seconded by Mr. Chipper: That the Executive be asked to inquire of the Soldier Settlement Trustees what steps are being taken with regard to the supplying of superphosphate to soldier settlers, and also to point out the inevitable railway congestion which will occur unless immediate action is taken.—Carried.

Consideration of Cases.—Moved by Mr. Dick, seconded by Mr. Murfitt: That in all cases submitted to this District Committee for consideration, the sub-branch of the person concerned must furnish the necessary information, and that the President and Secretary of the sub-branch concerned attend to present the case.—Carried.

Returned Soldiers Property.—Moved by Mr. Chipper, seconded by Mr. Luff: That in all cases where a forced sale of a returned soldier's property occurs, all returned soldiers be requested to refrain from bidding or purchasing commodities.—Carried.

Concert Party Tour.—Moved by Mr. Dick, seconded by Mr. Chipper: That particulars be obtained from the South Perth Sub-Branch Concert Party with a view to a tour of the South-Central Wheat Belt being arranged to replenish Amelioration Funds.—Carried.

Deputation to Minister.—Moved by Mr. Chipper, seconded by Mr. Murfitt: That a deputation be appointed to interview the Minister for Lands re super supplies when he visits Wickepin on Saturday, January 17th.—Carried.

Messrs. Russell and Kirby were appointed delegates to interview the Minister.

Those interested please note that a cricket match, Mr. Hawthorn-North Looendale Sub-Branch versus Press Sub-Branch, will take place at Wellington Square, on Sunday, February 15th, at 2 p.m.

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NOTE.—Arrangements can be made for Inter-Sub-Branch Cricket and Football Matches and Picnic Parties
**Personal**

Sapper Jim Shaw, of Carilla, smiled into town for a brief hour during the holidays. He has done an amazing amount of work, single-handed, on his selection. His quick and easy method of clearing would be a revelation to those people whose big idea in subduing the forest results in fortunes for the companies dealing in explosives. Jim is a bit of a wizard, also, in the matter of water supply. Having run a line from the source (a running stream) to his house, he started to dig the channel from the top of the hill. The uninitiated felt very sorry for him, trying to make water run up hill, and they stood by to see him safely off to Claremont. But his home-made theodolite had made no mistake. The fall was there alright—over ten feet of it.

There were a number of diggers present at the recent conference held in Perth of the Wheat Growers' Union, which met in an endeavour to protect their interests as primary producers in these hard times. The foundation president of this organisation is our old friend, Honest John Mulqueeny, of Lake Brown, who has been a personality at League congresses for years. Another well-known digger who was prominent was Big Ted Randolph, of Meredith, also E. Smallpage, who has been a worker in the League for many years.

League Vice-President Alf. Yeates has been returned unopposed for a further term as the W.A. representative on the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Board. His electors evidently know that they have a good fellow. This will be Alf.'s fourth term.

A pleasing personality in the person of Chris. Cheesbrough, of Denmark, called at our office during the month and gave us a couple of good war-time parodies towards our collection, which we intend to publish in book form. Chris. served with the Royal Garrison Artillery and has been in W.A. for ten years. He said that "this country will always, do me," and he is the right sort for this country. According to him, ex-service men are holding their own at Denmark. "Apart from the failure to get a price for potatoes," said Chris., "and the rotten apple crop, they have little to trouble them, and are not feeling unduly depressed."

One of this State's best known diggers in the person of Cliff. Gillett is at present in a private hospital in Perth, where he underwent a major operation. At time of writing he was progressing as well as could be expected, but is not permitted visitors. Cliff. has been president of the Bunbury sub-branch for many years and was the mainspring of the wonderful State-wide reunion held at Bunbury a couple of years ago. His host of digger pals wish Cliff. a speedy recovery to health.

Mr. A. G. Enouf (pronounced A-nof), the Assistant Director Australian War Memorial, at present in this State organising the sale of the reproductions of Captain Longstaff's famous paintings, "Menin Gate" and "The Immortal Shrine," served abroad with the 6th Brigade Field Artillery. He is a live wire and in his job never fails to give preference to ex-service men.

Mr. Teddy Matthews, of the Victoria Park R.S.L., is at present located at Rockingham, whither he journeyed with his wife and family, during the children's school vacation. He will be again welcomed at the next monthly meeting by his old comrades.

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY**

Country members of the Women's Auxiliary are reminded that Rural Science Classes will commence at the University, Perth, on 24th February and continue to 6th March. The course will be on similar lines to those of previous years.

The State Executive Auxiliary are organising a United Auxiliary Social (ladies only) at the Soldiers' Institute, St. George's Terrace, Perth, at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 24th February. Country members visiting Perth are cordially invited to attend.

**28th BATTALION ASSOCIATION**

Members and friends of the 28th Battalion Association are reminded that the annual Rescue Excursion will be held on the evening of Wednesday, 4th February, when the s.s. Zephyr, which has been specially chartered for the occasion will leave Barrack Street Jetty at 7.45 p.m. Fares have been reduced to one shilling for adults and sixpence for children. Tickets are now on sale, and supplies thereof may be obtained from the honorary secretary. It is hoped that members will do their utmost to promote the sale of tickets and that, in view of the very modest charges, the Zephyr will be loaded to the Plimsoll.

The adjourned annual general meeting will be held in the Soldiers' Institute on Wednesday, 11th February, and it is hoped that a good muster of members will be present. It is felt that new blood is essential to the committee, and members are asked to make a special effort to attend this meeting at which the elections will be held.

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VARIA

The New Political Pantomime—"Malice in Blanderland."

A digger pal reviewed a war book in a single sentence. Seeing General Crozier’s masterpiece on the office table, he exclaimed: "‘A Brass Hat in No man’s Land!’ Who souvenired it?"

Camelo.—I notice that the West Australian State Executive has sent a big variety of delegates to the Federal meetings of the League. This is as it should be, giving a number of delegates a chance to absorb the Federal atmosphere, with a consequent broadening of outlook, and gaining of knowledge, and also it tends to prevent cliquism, which invariably becomes evident when the same people continually meet.

It is a pity that Eastern branches don’t follow our lead in this regard,—for one notices that the same names appear time after time in Congress and Federal Executive reports.

When Bill heard of the proposal to admit the sons of soldiers to the League so that the good work might be carried on, his optimism withstood the shock. “Despite the low cost of dying,” he declared, “we are not a vanishing army. A digger is like Tennyson’s brook—or a Scotsman’s ideal watch.”

“Mule Puncher”: As the Big Stoush was a war to end war, I though that every digger who embarked on the other big adventure was happily married. Until I met Mike.

We were celebrating the depression, Christmas—and all that—and after the one before the next, the talk drifted to the subject of animals in captivity. This encouraged me to put a strain on their credulity by telling them the dithkum one about how I tamed a wild cat in the sandalwood belt.

“You tamed a wild cat?” enquired Mike.

“Too right, Mike!”

“Then you've got no excuse for being single!”

Digger market gardeners on Pieise’s Brook have lately been hoeing some hard rows. Shop prices for vegetables do not give a fair indication—one has to go to the markets to see what these growers are up against. Their quality stuff has been practically given away. Less than £2 a ton for potatoes, and eighteen pence for a bag of cabbage. Other lines have been at equally ruinous prices. For ten dozen duck eggs one digger got a return of four shillings and sevenpence. But the hoe hasn’t been put on one side, nor have the shutters been put up. Neither has the red flag been unfurled. These trials will surely come into their own.

How a V.C. was missed

“Mug Gunner”: Larry put a good one over me the other day.

“Look ‘ere, Mug,” he said. “Member that night I brought in the wounded ‘loot’ at Devil’s Wood? Fritz was very busy with his typewriters that night, ’n’ it was suicide to go out there, even to rescue a private. But we got through alright, where a mosquito would’ve bit blown to ribbons. ‘E got a M.C. out of it, ’n’ got a D.C.M. Now there was a clear case for a V.C. Think!”

“Yes, I do!” I answered sincerely.

“Rotten Luck; you ought to have got it, Larry, old man.”

“Wrong again, boy!” said Larry.

“The ‘loot’ oughta got it f’r unconvivial bravery in the face of the enemy. ‘Member what a big fat bloke ’e was. I got ’im by the ankles, like this, see. One over each shoulder. There ’e was, hangin’ down, be’ind me, facin’ th’ foe. Any machine gun bullets comin’ our way, I ’ad a fair chance. But what chance did ’e ’ave? ’E screened me from sudden death, ’n’ they give ’im a lousy M.C.”

“But that’s not what ’urts me most—I’ve never ’ad a chance to thank ’im.”

Those of us who take our wives and kids to “the pickers” know full well that the Americans won that great big war which did not break out until 1917. We also know that the Yanks broke the Hindenberg line. General Hobbs has told us about a monument in France which bears an inscription to that effect. The cream of the joke, however, is the Dover patrol memorial, which is being erected at Fort Hamilton, opposite to the narrows at the entrance to New York harbour. According to London “Truth” (1/10/30), it will be a replica of the corresponding memorial at Dover, and Cap Blanc Nez and will be paid for by funds “presented by the people of Great Britain through the English Speaking Union,” as a “tribute to the services of the American Navy in the World War.” What those services were are unspecified, for if ever there was a silent service it was the American Navy. Even American troopships were escorted across the Atlantic by British warships. Beyond the (Continued on page 18)
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<td>Excellent Accommodation Moderate Tariff A Home from Home</td>
<td>F.S.M.C., F.I.O.O., D.B.O.A., LONDON (Late 28th Batt., A.I.F.) Optician</td>
<td>(Late 32nd Batt.) Sells Quality Fruit at Cheapest Prices of his</td>
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<td>7, 8, and 9 MACLAREN’S CHBRS. 144 William St.</td>
<td>Fruit Barrow WILLIAM ST., PERTH (Opposite Wesley Church)</td>
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<td>ERNIE LENG, Prop. (Late 11th Batt.)</td>
<td>Between Wellington &amp; Murray Bns. Opposite Royal Hotel.</td>
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<th><strong>FOR A DINKUM DEAL IN SLIPPERS</strong></th>
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<th><strong>ANDY DAVIDSON</strong></th>
<th><strong>WHEN IN TOWN—</strong></th>
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fact that an unknown American Admiral named Mazo was allowed to hoist his flag on the destroyer Broke so that he might officially witness a bombardment of Ostend by the monitor Terror, the Americans had no association with the Dover Patrol. American naval commanders who could be entrusted with patrol work were employed farther down-channel. "Old Glory," seems to have degenerated into a sponge for mopping up other people's glories. Won't this piece of news gladden the hearts of our Ex-Naval men's Association.

The Mayor of West Woop Woop was presiding over the farewell to some of the local lads who were home on their last leave before embarkation. "Youse fellers," he said, "is too late for Gally Polly, but I understand you all will be in time for France, where Napoleon fought and Caesar's legions trod. While wishing you all the best of luck on behalf of the town, I, myself, personally hopes you all will be able to say, like Julius Caesar, 'Veni, vidi, tekel upharsin.'"

The Bag-Man
(By Peter Hopegood)
(Note.—This story refers to the orchard at Carnoy in '18. There were many casualties among would-be apple pickers. That orchard seemed so peaceful of a drowsy autumn afternoon, yet, in Marmetz, across the way, there was no drowsiness among the German snipers.)

I met him on the road, a wizened thing,
All flowing beard and tatters and a bag—
The bag was far the most important part,
Except the needle eyes 'neath thicket brows.
These barred the path like naked rapiers
And, locking mine, they fetched me to a halt.

We turn aside and sit upon a mound
That may contain the shucked rind of a god,
Or merely kitchen scraps; for the quiet spot
Where we encounter once most busy teemed
With woad-smear'd men or ever Caesar came.
The lark soars high above, even now as then;
And now, as then, the bee exploits the thyme,
Laazily droning under the lazy blue.
Not any word he says, but, dipping in
His massive bag, holds out with trembling hand
An apple, which I, taking, bite—and see—
I see a valley, pock'd and slashed and seared
By iron fingers, swooning 'neath the sun,
Yet busily alive beneath the crust
With restless human maggots fed on hate,
And love, and sacrifice, and yet more hate—
Strong meats and heady, with a forced effect
Upon the larvae of the immortal soul.
As if a god had said, "Development
Is cruel-slow, unaided, in these things.
We'll try manuring them with blood and tears.
And, while we're at it, do it lavishly;
We'll not be cheap. We'll aim to kill or cure."

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1/- buys 1 oz. TOBACCO and 1 Briar PIPE. Tobacco only, 4½d. oz. A big bargain.

Walk thro' BAIRD'S—— Wellington & Murray Sts., Perth
High overhead a kestrel swept the sky  
(The valley might have been the twin of this  
Where now we sit) and, higher still, a bird  
Of prey more fierce than ever any hawk:  
A monster kestrel, hatched of man's cool pate,  
Yet, passion-fed, all swiftly grown mature,  
Taloned and beaked, patrolled the summer sky,  
Lazily drowsing under the lazy blue.  
The valley might have been the twin of this.  
Upon a slope there grew some apple trees  
In what was once an orchard, now a waste  
Of splintered boles, all pitted ominous  
With tap-tap-tap of vicious nickle-beaked woodpeckers of Death's brood—yet, here and there,  
A living bough still dangled like a bait  
Its tempting emerald bobbins, hardly ripe,  
Above the parched supports two soldiers—men  
Lie in a dug-out, bored and heavy-eyed  
In latitudes profound, a bastard sleep  
Born of dead nerves and many a night's fatigues.  
Upon the roof of their chalk-hollowed den  
Grins in the sun a mouldered skull, unearthed  
Only the other day when shells had played  
Upon a neighbouring mound, like boisterous trolls,  
Iron shod and iron taloned—and that mound  
Might well have been the one whereon we squat  
(That valley was a very twin to this)  
Munching our apples. Yes, this skull sat there  
And grinned to see the sun again, and grinned  
To note that man now hid in caves all day,  
Fearing the sun as did his brute forebears,  
Those hairy men the old songs of his tribe  
Boasted of hunting down and wiping out.  
This son of Jack the Giant Killer grinned  
To think how, in his time, men walked erect  
For weeks together till some Cormoran  
Stalked through the land heaving his thunderbolts,  
Spreading once more confusion dread and dire.  
He grinned to note how once again the world  
Staggered beneath a ceaseless hail of bolts  
From some dread ogre's sling. He grinned to think  
How snug and safe it is to be a ghost  
In parlous times. He grinned upon that roof,  
For he'd been salved and, jaunty-grim jest, set  
On guard, a dead man watching faithful o'er  
The living dead—from limbo into hell,  
Scuffed up, a very Dante of the Dead,  
And maybe charged to make an epic song,  
A comedy of blood and tears—who knows?—  
For the delight of minstrels long since dust  
Jack grinned.  
And 'neath him, bored and prone, there lay  
Two comely lads (young men who might have been  
The spit of boys who ruffled in his time,  
All hair-brained, eager on their first foray  
To prove their manhood). So now, yawning deep,  
One K.O.S.B. lazily looks up  
And marks the emerald lure that dangles high;  
And stretches, flinging wide his brawny limbs,  
And claps his comrade on the back and roars,  
"Ah'm for you jewsey pippins, Jock"—and goes.  
And, over on the valley's eastern slope,  
With weapon trained upon an apple tree  
(Shrewd eyes had noted through a spy-glass how  
The emerald hoard grew strangely less each day)  
Cormoran watched and waited—not in vain.  
The other K.O.S.B. lit a fag  
And cursed his comrade for a bloody fool  
To show himself in daylight and draw fire  
Maybe, and maybe wreck the leafy goose  
That laid the emerald eggs, or so to speak,  
If Jerry landed a "direct" on it.  
He lit a fag, I say, and cursed his pal.  
And, whilst I'm saying it, he heard a crack

THE IMPORTANCE OF A CORRECTLY DRAWN WILL

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And, suddenly assailed by grisly dread, 
Crawled out and swarmed the parados and saw, 
As he had full expected, Geordie down, 
Crouched at the roots of that dreed apple tree.

"Thee blowly fewl! Thee'll hae to bide richt there,
Till darry," he bawled; "Fritz'll get thee else."

"Thee blowly gowk!"

But Geordie held his peace—
And that was unlike Geordie. So, once more,
Poor Jock felt something in his chillings crawl.

"Wha's got t' laad? Hi! Geordie, ye're no hurr?"
No answer.—"Christ, oh, Christ!"

And worming slow
And snake-like on his belly through the hay,
Jock lays his hands upon his dying pal
And drags him inch by inch towards the trench.
But soon he thinks, "What if I prove too late?"
This way is deadly slow. The wound needs prompt
And skilful aid. I'll risk it." Up he springs
And stagger, dragging Geordie faster now—
And over on the valley's eastern slope
(Corrison's weapon speaks again.

And Jock
Falls with a sigh upon his fallen pal;
For Corrison was handy with a gun
And had shot vultures out in German East
To keep his eye in.—and the mysteries
Of range to master.

Now, above the hay,
A bee boomed drowsily and, overhead,
Green apples dangled and, above the downs,
Hovered a kestrel and, up higher still,
The man-made hawks beat up against the vault
And looped and spiraled in the obedient air.

And, at his post upon a dug-out roof,
Grinned Jack the Giant Killer.

Well, perhaps,
In days to come that trench will mark upon
The Picard downs the record of man's pain,
Showing a deeper green than neighbouring turf,
That foots our seat.

"Our seat! Nay, mine."
I start to note the bagman has passed on;
The road's no longer barred by naked foils.

Lo!
At my feet there lies an apple core.

PERSONAL

The new president of the British United Services is Mr. A. H. Major, of 113 Seventh Avenue, Maylands. Mr. Major served with the Essex Regiment and landed at Gallipoli with the 29th Division. A foundation members of the B.U.S.A., he has never missed an Executive meeting to the end of last year. He is also an office-bearer in the Workshops Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. Mrs. Major has for some considerable time been a very active worker in the R.S.L. Auxiliary.

We wish the new president success during his tenure of office.

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Sub-Branch Notes

DOWAK

The Editor's flattering remarks on last month's brief account have egged the sub-branch "witty ones" to caustic comment—hence this explanation.

The re-union took place on a Friday evening, and the mail closed a few hours afterwards. Think it over.

The sage remarks of our chairman, the anecdotes supplied by Allan Morton, and the vocal efforts of our organiser, Hugh McGuckin, are all worthy of mention. While smile of our worthy Secretary, who joined us—still, unfortunately, on crutches after his accident—at the last moment, was a treat to see. It was a reunion worth attending, and all members look forward to further gatherings of a similar nature.

COLLIE

The annual report of the Collie Sub-branch discloses a healthy condition of affairs. Fifty-seven social functions organised throughout the year were the means of raising a substantial income, which has allowed a much greater scope for assisting members in distress. The annual dinner was held on November 11, 1930, and the euchre parties conducted by the sub-branch during the period under review have shown a net profit of £36/6/-. During the year ten new members joined up, and two transferred to other sub-branches. Unfortunately, one member, Mr. R. T. Hearn, died during the year. No new pension cases arose during the year, and a case in connection with the school allowance has been satisfactorily finalised. The sum of £18/10/2 was spent in amelioration. A considerable amount of money is spent each year on men passing through the town in search of employment. The genuineness of all such applicants is always carefully investigated. Loans of £5 to a member and £2/1/- to a widow were made, and £9/13/6 has been refunded from past loans. The sum of £26/15/- has been donated to various worthy causes. The Poppy Day effort netted a profit of £10/11/4. The annual Christmas tree provided entertainment, at the hands of the Women's Auxiliary, for 28 children of deceased soldiers. The thanks of the sub-branch are due to Madames Vickers, Simpson, Ogden and Wilson for their work in making this function such a success. Tickets to the value of £111 were sold for the R.S.L. Art Union, only one sub-branch (Bunbury) selling more books than Collie. Residents of Collie and district won £70 in the sweep. Tickets to the extent of £19/11/- were sold for the Maimed and Limblenis Association.

Colonel Margolin and the secretary (Mr. H. S. Kramer) represented the sub-branch at the Annual Congress and were successful in having carried the resolution relating to the travelling expenses of men attending medical boards. The sub-branch had been successful, after repeated efforts, in having a headstone erected over the grave of the late Harry Bradbury, The credit of this is mainly due to the past president, Mr. Alex.
Beane. An effort is now being made to have this deceased soldier's name included on the State War Memorial.

Much work has been carried out on the Soldiers' Park, and the committee has purchased a petrol-driven lawn mower. The memorial gates are nearing completion. The revenue for hall hire for the year was £109 13s. 11d., which has been of great assistance in the purchase of the piano installed during the year. A bugle has also been purchased. The tennis courts are in good order and have been opened for play. Messrs. Giblett and Mowbray represent Collie on the Committee of the S.W. District.

GUILDFORD-BASESENDEN

Well in the vanguard in looking after the interests of the young folk at all times, the Guildford-Basensden branch were well to the fore in providing Christmas cheer for the children, and it was pleasing to note that not only members' children were catered for, but non-members as well. The Christmas tree, with its decorative lighting, was the work of Mr. R. McKellar, and looked rather. Father Christmas had no light task in distributing the many beautiful toys—seeing that there were about 500 children present—and one went away empty-handed. There was a full and plenty for all, also any amount of refreshments dear to the young folk. The arrangements were ably carried out under the guidance of Mr. H. L. Kirke, secretary, assisted by the president, Mr. M. Lewis, and an excellent working committee, who did everything to make the night a pleasant one for the kids. During the evening the members of the ladies' auxiliary made a pleasing presentation to Mr. H. L. Kirke, who suitably thanked those responsible. The Secretary, Mr. H. L. Kirke, expressed his thanks to the President and those who had materially assisted him. Donations from this followings were highly appreciated—Mr. P. A. Connolly, cheque; Mr. L. Lovelock, cakes; Mrs. Elliott, fruit; Mrs. Walsman, fruit; Spicers and Detmold, paper bags; Mr. E. F. Byrne, ginger beer; Mr. J. H. Mann, ice cream.

YARLOOP

The annual general meeting was held on 11th January. Present: Messrs. N. Buchanan (president), H. D. Hardy (vice-president), L. Rogers (secretary), A. Watson, L. Woodcock, Dr. Jacobs, F. Trenagan, G. H. Clifton, S. A. Hardy, Parker, G. Wilkes, A. Smith, G. Pink. The balance sheet of the branch was in a sound financial position. The items showing payments from the amelioration fund indicated that the sub-branch was doing its share in alleviating distress amongst local returned men.

The election of officers for the coming year was then proceeded with. There were nominations for the office of president, viz: N. Buchanan (re-signing president), H. D. Hardy and A. Watson. On a vote, Mr. A. Watson was declared elected. Congratulations to Archie, who is a very able and popular member. The sub-branch is confident of a successful year under his rule. The other offices filled were: vice-presidents, N. Buchanan and H. D. Hardy; secretary and treasurer, L. Rogers; committee: G. H. Clifton, T. A. Hardy, G. Wilkes, A. Smith and L. Woodcock.

Dr. Jacobs voiced the unanimous opinion of the members when he spoke of the very able manner in which Mr. Buchanan had acted as president during his extended term of office. The sub-branch owes him a debt of gratitude for his untiring efforts on its behalf. In the course of his reply, Mr. Buchanan stressed the urgency of increased membership. Now, he said, more than ever, was the time for all returned men to come into the League and help for the common good.

Special praise is also due to Les-Rogers, the re-elected secretary and treasurer. Les is a fine work and nothing is too much trouble for him, when the sub-branch is concerned. It is a source of great satisfaction to us that he has agreed to carry on for another year.

It was decided to form a sub-committee, consisting of three members, whose special function would be the recruiting of new members. Those elected were Messrs. Charlton (Yarloop) chairman, G. H. Clayton (Cookup), and H. Eastcott (Wagerup).

The meeting closed with a note of general optimism for the future of the Yarloop branch.

NORTH PERTH

The last meeting of 1938 was held at the usual meeting place, the Rosemont Hall. Business being over early, the mess orderly got to work and several members told some humorous yarns and war anecdotes. Healths were drunk and pleasant comment was made on the number of new faces appearing in our midst, which is a good augury for the future. The Committee generally is satisfied with the progress made, but as the strength of the sub-branch is poor...
in comparison with the number of returned men in the suburb, it is hoped that all will become enthusiastic and introduce all they know who are eligible. A Drive Committee has been formed and will shortly "get busy" when a strenuous endeavour will be made to bring the membership well over the century during the next half year.

Members are asked to note that a combined picnic of the sub-branch and Women's Auxiliary is being arranged to be held on the river in February, and all are asked to help to make it a huge success. The Committee will do its best. Do yours.

**QUAIRADING**

The annual meeting of the sub-branch was held in Quairading on Tuesday, 5th January, 1931, when a very fair number of members was in attendance. The President, Mr. T. W. Ettridge, was in the chair and gave a resume of some of the activities of the sub-branch during the past year. In his address he stated that amongst the achievements during the year the outstanding success was the amount written off by the Agricultural Bank and S.S.S. from the liabilities of returned soldiers on the Dangin Estate through the efforts of this sub-branch, assisted by the State Executive. The total reduction obtained for these settlers amounted to approximately £7,000. The sub-branch also assisted the returned men on the Mt. Stirling Estate in getting a school in their district. After considerable trouble we were successful in obtaining a full pension for a member and his wife. He was formerly secretary and later president of this sub-branch. At the request of Mr. E. C. Godfrey, a member of this sub-branch, we took up the case of one of his relatives at Mount Gambier, in South Australia, and although previously unsuccessful, we were able to assist him in obtaining a pension. The membership increased to 31, being considerably more than in the past year. During the year the annual smoke social was held in March and was a great success. The annual R.S.I. ball and two ladies' nights were held and were well patronised. Owing to the Parents and Citizens' Association having decided that they would not hold a Christmas Tree function for the kiddies, as in former years, the sub-branch took up the matter and with public support were able to conduct one of the best Christmas Tree functions ever held in Quairading. The President paid a high tribute to our retiring Secretary, Mr. Clive M. Shenton, for the splendid work done by him for the sub-branch, and wished him success in his new sphere. He was supported by other members of the sub-branch and Clive was given a rousing send-off. He leaves this month for Wagin, where no doubt he will interest himself in Digger affairs. The elections of officers resulted as follows:—President, R. Wiford; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. T. W. Ettridge, D. McAte and L. Hadlow; Secretary, K. L. Honesty; and Auditor, T. W. Ettridge.

Recently the sub-branch made monetary donations from its Amelioration Fund to two of its members who were in distress, and the Women's Auxiliary has done good work in providing these and other deserving cases with clothes, groceries, etc.

One of our members, Mr. J. Livingstone, recently had the misfortune to have one of his legs broken, and sustained further injuries through a horse falling on him, and is at present an inmate of the local hospital. A number of our members volunteered to finish his wheat-carting for him, but as he had only another 100 bags to cart, which his father-in-law has carted, their services were not required. He, however, was very grateful for their offer.

**KALGOORLIE**

This branch is continuing its good work. Over £40 was spent last month on alleviating distress among returned men and their dependants. Due to the mistaken idea that there is a lot of work going on, a large number of men are finding their way here only, to be disappointed, because, although in the future the mines hope to be able to undertake more extensive development work due to the gold bonus, there is much preparatory work to be done which does not absorb additional labour. The main group, the Lake View and Star, officials are very good to the returned men and are recruiting practically all their extra labour from the League. The Kalgoorlie Council take all the men they need of the class of workers we can supply from among the returned men and, so, providing no more men find their way here for some time, there is a chance for most of those here now to be absorbed. The number of men who are arriving here to look for work on the mines and fail to pass the standard set by the Commonwealth Health Laboratory is very high, and men are urged to remember that, apart from the mines, there is practically no chance of other than a few hours' casual work, nor will there ever be any difference, for the mines will continue to be the main source of employment for the district. In view of this, it is hopeless for any man who has any doubt of the state of his health to come here. The recent charge of 10/- per head for examination is a very severe one to many men, and is doing much at this stage in the history of the State to lower the morale of the unemployed. Ever since this Laboratory has been in action there has been no charge, and while it is realised that the present total number of returned men is too small for a proposal of this kind to be adopted, it is felt that, with increasing numbers, the charge should be reduced. The recent charge of 10/- per head for the gold mines, it seems difficult to understand that at such a time, when the out-of-work man is having such a hard time, the Federal Government should charge for its services. It is often taken away the last few shillings a man has and in many cases, after he has paid it, he is passed out as unfit, having spent his last shilling to no avail.

The Christmas season was attended to, as usual, by the Goldfields Returned Soldiers' Association. The veterans joined with the Kalgoorlie and Boulder branches in providing a Christmas tree for the kiddies in the Children's Ward of the Hospital, and a Christmas hamper consisting of a bottle of wine, cigarettes and tobacco, fruit, nuts, and chocolates, was handed out to every returned man in hospital by Mr. H. R. Clarke, our Father Christmas par excellence. It is noteworthy that the hospital was a member of the League, and that all belonged to other parts of the State. After the visit of Father Xmas to the hospital, he took the members of the various branches present with him to the Lace, where they dined in company with Doctors Webster, Inman Way and Gillett, the usual Christmas toast was honoured.

During the visit of Mr. Gahan, Commissioner of the Commonwealth Railways, to Kalgoorlie, he was interviewed by appointments by our secretary on matters appertaining to the preference clause in the Federal Parliament, and it is pleasing to note that everything is being done to put into effect the instructions received by all Federal Government members to give preference to returned soldiers. Some members were thrown out and the secretary left Mr. Gahan more firmly impressed that we have in him a good friend.

The annual sweep on the Perth Cup was a success. We are living in trying times we have gone through. The fortunate winner was Mr. Coombes, of 103 Hill Street, Perth; whilst Mrs. Olivers of Ward Street, Kalgoorlie, succeeded in winning the second prize. Miss McKenna, of the Kiosk in Brenna's Arcade, Perth, received the £20 for selling the winning ticket, and Jim Geyer the £10 for selling the greatest number of tickets.

Arrangements are being made by the executive to get the Bondi Beach Band to give a concert here when passing through on the 1st of February. Twenty cent go to our Distress Fund and the rest to help the band on its way through the West.

Members of the League travelling are urged to carry with them their membership card as a certain means of identification. Members of sub-branches like Kalgoorlie, whose members are scattered, are urged to send them in with their subscriptions annually so that they can be kept up to date. The issuing of these cards has not yet been completed by appointees by our secretary. Members of sub-branches like Kalgoorlie, whose members are scattered, are urged to send them in with their subscriptions annually so that they can be kept up to date. The issuing of these cards has not yet been completed by appointees by our secretary. It is hoped that by the end of the month every financial member will have his card with him and that he will immediately complete the card by affixing his signature.

Kalgoorlie extends to all sub-branches the best of good wishes for this year and hopes that "good hunting" for members will be experienced.
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BRIDGETOWN

The annual meeting of the Bridgetown branch was held on December 18th. A letter received from the Trotting Club asked for a list of unemployed returned men. The secretary stated that he was unable to do this as no returned men had applied to him for work. Mr. Moriarty said that there were names of returned men on the Road Board list and he had made arrangements with Mr. Draper for Mr. Urquhart to secure a list of names. Mr. Urquhart also stated that six returned men had called off him for assistance of recent date and he saw that they had full tackle bags when leaving.

Mr. Wyer drew attention to the fact that no action had been taken to obtain the money held in the bank by him and Mr. Lake, which had been collected some years ago. It was decided to approach the trustees asking if they would transfer the money to the R.S.L.

A very satisfactory balance sheet was presented showing a balance of assets over liabilities of £324/9/5. The president said the position was very bright, particularly as they had paid £50 to the Ladies' Auxiliary. Mr. J. C. Moriarty was elected president. Mr. R. Urquhart was again elected hon. secretary. Messrs. S. Bain and F. A. Veale were elected vice-presidents. The following were elected to the executive: Messrs. Sherrill, Chivers, Jones, Wheat, Hearns, Bullock, Green, Wyer and Chipp. Mr. F. Ashton was re-elected auditor, and Mr. T. Wyer was appointed correspondent to the The Listening Post.

Mr. J. C. Moriarty said he wished to pay a tribute to the retiring president (Major Whittell), who had taken a keen interest in the branch and had worked very hard in the interest of returned men. (Applause).

Mr. J. C. Moriarty drew attention to the death of Mr. S. Brooks, a son of one of their members, and he moved that a letter of condolence be sent to the family.

Mr. T. Wyer referred to the death of one of their comrades, the late Mr. R. L. Walters, who had been a member of the branch for many years and he moved that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow.

Both motions were carried by members standing in silence.

MT. HAWTHORN

Mr. G. W. Charles, secretary of the Mt. Hawthorn sub-branch, forwarded this scheme for relieving distress amongst members due to unemployment:

(1) The basis of this scheme is (providing funds are available) that the sub-branch may subsidise the employment of one member by another; the employer to pay half the cost and the sub-branch the balance, subject to conditions mentioned below.

(2) The amount to be paid by the sub-branch in each case shall be determined by the Amelioration Committee, but shall not in any case exceed the sum of $5/.-

(3) The rate of pay shall be $1/.- per day for casual labour and union rates for skilled labour.

(4) A roster of members having work to be done to be kept and work allotted by ballot and thereafter by rotation.

(5) A list of members applying for work to be kept and work to be decided by ballot and thereafter by rotation.

(6) This scheme only to apply when the Amelioration Committee considers the case warrants it.

(7) Any dispute arising to be decided by the Amelioration Committee whose decision in all cases shall be final.

WILUNA

The Wiluna sub-branch, which opened a few months ago with the regulation membership of ten, has now become a flourishing show. For some time past all eyes have been focused on Wiluna. It is the great hope of the gold industry, the gleaming vision that will soon become the golden reality. A growing and ambitious township, it possesses in the construction of which the brains of science and engineering have blended something not without romance. Wiluna has waited nearly forty years for its great chance. The construction period is nearly over and results are about to accrue. The personnel of the mine is composite. In addition to continental Europeans every part of the Empire is represented, and the Yanks are also present.

Naturally, out of the hundreds of employees there are to be found the Bardolphs, Pistols, and Pyrens of All Great War, and even a Falkirk. There are some who marched on Tangia, others who struggled at Lone Pine and Viller-Brettonouex, others again who froze in the Italian Alps or sweltered on the plains of Mesopotamia. The sub-branch and a Women's Auxiliary have been formed.

Already a successful picnic at the North Pool and a Cairo Night, at which most of the workers dressed for the occasion, have been held. Such functions, it may be noted, are rare occurrences in Wiluna.

The sub-branch has been most fortunate in its duties. Mr. Paterson, a well-known pastoralist, is president; Mr. C. E. Pyer, general manager; Mr. Alec Stark, secretary; and Mr. J. C. Snelling, publicity officer. The sub-branch's co-operate in the R.S.L. sports to be held at Geraldton.

OSBORNE PARK

At the fortnightly meeting, presided over by Mr. H. Nugent on December 4, it was decided to send a letter of thanks to Lieutenant-General Sir J. Talbot Hobbs and the Linke Kiln Co. for their donations to the fund for clearing off the debt incurred in connection with the extension of the hall. The following were elected members of the Hall Committee:—Messrs. A. Glass, D. Foreman, R. Corbett, W. Ashdown, D. Miller, S. Forsyth, C. Gardner, and J. J. Nicoll.

The annual Christmas Tree was pruned by the children of the district on Tuesday, December 18. The sub-branch co-operated with the local Agricultural Society and the Picnic and Citizens' Association in this laudable effort. Over 500 toys, much ice cream and beer (ginger, children, for the use of), were purchased, and Mr. Finess kindly lent the Picture Gardens for the occasion. All Scots, friends of Scots, and imbibers of same, revelled gaily at the New Year's Eve dance, when the old year was seen off the premises in the Auld Scots way.

A Soldiers and Sailors' Sons and Daughters' Auxiliary is being formed in connection with the sub-branch.

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Workshops Sub-Branch R.S.I.L.
Honours Ladies

The Railway Workshops Sub-Branch R.S.I.L. entertained the members of their Auxiliary and other Poppy Day helpers in the Soldiers’ Institute, Perth, on Friday, 12th December, 1930, as a courteous gesture of appreciation of their members and the contribution to the Amelioration Fund made by them throughout the year. The ceiling of the Institute was hung with ribbons of crinkled paper of varying hue—dainty Chinese lanterns being hung from various parts of the decorations, while the dancers were made more comfortable by the electric fans which created quite a gale-like dance atmosphere. Lovers of the terpsichorean arts were catered for with a programme which embodied many novelties—ceremonial direction being in the capable hands of Mr. A. W. Higgins, who controls all the dances held by the Auxiliary at Bellevue. Mr. A. E. Smith, who carries the position of M.C. for the Perth-dances forfeited his portion of the night in favour of the Bellevue Idols. Various novelty dances were introduced by the following—Mrs. Gould and Mr. Summerston (the Monte Carlo dance); Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Cridge (Balloon Dance); Mrs. Langdon and Mrs. McCutcheon (Ladies only); Mr. Oswald and Mr. Smith (gent. only). The two latter dances caused considerable amusement.

Whilst the gaiety proceeded in the main body a fete hall, President Bob Gibson and Secretary Bill Lovell had charge of an excellent culinary staff in the kitchen, which was responsible subsequently for the serving of a very delectable—eulogistic references being made by the guests to the excellent coffee brewed by the President. It is reported that when the washing-up was completed there were no breakages. Another feminine fallacy exploded. Quite a carnival spirit was infused into the dance when fancy head-gear and toy balloons were distributed amongst the tip-toers. During the course of the evening on behalf of the sub-branch, Mr. Gibson expressed the appreciation of the members of his organization for the assistance given during the past year by the Auxiliary. The President’s sentiments were endorsed by the secretary, who, however, expressed disappointment at the fact that the members of his sub-branch had not seen fit to patronize the Auxiliary’s dances to the extent that they should. The Auxiliary, he said, was the only body of its kind in the metropolitan area which financed the Amelioration Fund on a fifty-fifty basis from dances, etc., which it conducted. He also expressed thanks to the ladies who gave their services on Poppy Day, and also to the Auxiliary’s reply on behalf of her members, and thanked all those who had assisted during the year.

The prizes were then distributed by Mr. Gibson, who said a kind word to all the recipients. The musicians who voluntarily gave their time were Mrs. A. E. Smith (Rita North), at the piano; Mr. H. Iles, violin; Mr. L. Tilling, banjo; Mr. A. Scott, cornet; and Mr. J. Schwartz, drums, etc.; and the committee responsible for the evening. Mr. R. Gibson (President), Messrs. T. G. Summerston, A. E. Smith, D. McCutcheon, H. Turner, A. W. Higgins, A. H. Major, W. F. Langdon, and the Secretary, W. J. Lovell.

MT. LAWLEY

Annual General Meeting

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Auxiliary of the above branch was held in Wallis’s Hall, on Tuesday evening, January 13th, about 10 members answering the roll call, including a visitor in the person of Mr. McDowell, President of the North Perth Sub-Branch. A new member was enrolled, Mr. Hope, late of the 11th Battalion being welcomed to our midst. The hope was expressed that our Auxiliary had a more hopeful outlook than the other Auxiliary’s localities. The reports of the President, Secretary, and Treasurer were read and received with enthusiasm. The Treasurer’s report especially, made good reading, with a balance of over £200 in the Amelioration Fund. The branch has had a good year, many new members were enrolled, and the show joined up, it was impressed on every member the necessity of personally bringing along a prospective member, the President stating that the personal touch was worth a lot more than drives, etc.

The principal business of the evening was the election of officers. The following were elected unanimously—President, Mr. T. Flinffordt, V.D. (re-elected); Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. N. MacDonald, E. Hull (re-elected); Hon. Secretary, F. Fitzpatrick; Assistant Secretary, G. E. A. Lockyer; Hon. Treasurer, L. G. R. Challen, M.C.; Hon. Auditor, A. Chur-Brown (re-elected); Publicity Officer, L. B. Mann (re-elected); Committee—L. O. Schultz, O. J. Williams, C. W. Woods, H. O. Radford, J. Denton, C. M. R. Sinclair, B. A. R. Hull, R. F. Lidbury, L. G. Hogan, H. D. P. Dutton, H. S. Acott, L. B. Carr, C. G. Ferguson. Our late Secretary, Mr. Challen, would not nominate for the office again, but was agreeable to take on the position of Treasurer.

Following the election of officers, Mr. W. H. W. Pratt proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring officers, and held a few amusing incidents in connexion with the early history of the branch. Colonel Flinffordt also made a few eulogistic remarks about the late secretary, who had the standard set by him be followed by our new secretary, Mr. Fitzpatrick.

During the evening a volume of business was discussed, and the Constitution of the sub-branch was adopted. The unemployment question came in for a lot of discussion, and it was decided to circularise members and try to get a list of the unemployed, also to form a sort of bureau, and try to find some employment in the district.

Any member wanting any sort of work done, such as building a garage, cutting the lawn, should get in touch with the secretary, who will do his best to supply the want. At the close of the evening members stood in silence for a minute in memory of the late Captain Isacs, who was an early stalwart of the branch.

The next meeting will be held in the same hall on Tuesday, February 2nd, when final arrangements will be made for the annual smoke. It is hoped every member will make an effort to be present.

FREMANTLE

Fremantle reports another successful year. The meetings have all been well attended, and many happy functions have taken place. The 1930 Christmas Tree, for which the Women’s Auxiliary was responsible, was a great success. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, about £50 was disbursed in Christmas cheer.

Fremantle has been hit hard by the depression, and this cheque must have been a Godsend to many.

Mr. Phil. Jane, who has been Secretary for the past two years, declined renomination. His successor, Mr. Charlie Walker, is one of the oldest members of the sub-branch.

The local War Memorial will soon be the best in the State. The Fremantle City Council, in an endeavour to alleviate unemployment, has begun the grounds into lawns. Lawns have been made, the hill regraded, and new garden plots laid out, making a wonderful change for the better in the memorial’s appearance.

MUNDARING

The sub-branch is seriously facing the problem of its existence, not only for returned soldiers, but for all public officials. Meetings to attempt to find some solution for this problem have been convened for January 17th, at Sawyer’s Valley, All organisations, churches, etc., are invited and urged to attend in order to discuss this most serious matter.
lodges, and sporting bodies have been invited to co-operate, and members of Parliament, and of the Greenmount Road Board have been invited to attend. All who are willing to assist are advised to consult with Mr. McGregor, of Helena.

Captain MacKay, who, owing to circumstances, is rarely in attendance, made a practical effort during the Christmas holidays. He supplied a real live "porker" and a substantial gift of vegetables for a Christmas dinner. Harry Walker and his assistants, with the aid of a butcher's apron and a good flow of Groppo, French, and sanguine, worked hard at the branch during the whole of the Christmas period. The branch had received many calls on the occasion of the "porker." 

VICTORIA PARK

The monthly meeting was held at the Library Hall on Friday, the 16th inst. The State Secretary, Mr. D. M. Benson, paid the branch a visit. He was warmly welcomed, and spoke at length on League matters, tracing the growth of the League during the past six years. At present the membership in the State was 7,000. He paid a glowing tribute to the State President, Colonel Collett, for his unselfish and untiring efforts in promoting the welfare of the League. Mr. H. R. Nichols was in the chair, and thanked Mr. Benson for his able speech and for his visit to the branch. The Secretary, Mr. Thomas, reported on pension matters taken up by the branch, and announced that he had received advice of two successes. Mr. Nichols spoke on Gala Day Appeal, which was being held that winter to augment the funds of the unemployed and of the band, on Monday, January 26th. Mrs. Taylor presented to the "S.L.I. Queen," Miss Eva Droock, a number of penny votes which were taken up in her favour. Miss Eva Droock is a step-daughter of Mr. Bob Hewitt, who died recently in one of the local sub-branches. The sub-branch was successful last year in recording the highest number of votes for their "Queen." Mr. Alf. Shadett was able to give the members a good account of the capabilities of the supporting artists, of which he himself is an unworthy member, on that day. Everyone should have a good day's outing, at the same time helping a deserving cause. Notice among the nearest of our members to join the branch was Captain Edmonds, until recently President of the U.S.A. and who has come to live in the district. The "Whizz-Bang," from our neighbouring branch at South Perth, paid us a visit and entertained the boys with instrumental and vocal items, and Mr. Tim Healy, of the local sub-branch, again provided thrills with his war-time humoristics, being repeatedly applauded. A vote of thanks was accorded our artists from South Perth. As usual, the social committee came to the rescue in providing refreshments.

KIMBERLEY

The annual general meeting was held at Broome on January 19th. The following were elected as officers for 1931: President, Mr. E. de B. Norman; vice-president, Mr. I. E. Bardwell; secretary, Mr. W. Cryer; committee, Messrs. Stainton, Macnee, Hornsby, Robinson, Webbe, Carrick, Casskey. During the meeting a Certificate of Service was presented to the late president, Mr. J. N. Hay, in recognition of his valuable services during his term of office. The proceedings terminated with the usual "two-bob in."

GERALDTON

The large and enthusiastic gathering at the annual meeting of the Geraldton branch this month augurs well for still greater interest and a most successful year's operations. There was an attendance of approximately sixty, and the keen interest displayed in the business brought forward—and particularly in the office of auditor—and the position was considered as being highly satisfactory.

Mr. W. Bagshaw. Various items in the statement were discussed at length, and on the whole the position was considered as being highly satisfactory.

It was agreed that a sub-committee should be appointed to frame by-laws to govern the domestic affairs of the branch.

For the office of president there were three nominations, these being Messrs. P. Briers, G. Brown and P. G. Collins. Messrs. Brown and Collins declared to accept the position, and Mr. Briers was elected without opposition. In returning thanks for the honour conferred on him, the newly-elected president intimated that he had accepted office with the intention of doing all that was in his power to promote the interests of the League and the Geraldton branch and its members.

Messrs. A. E. Anderson and A. H. Salmon were elected vice-presidents, Mr. T. Greenaway declining nomination for re-election.

For the office of treasurer there were four nominees in Messrs. F. Dunn, C. Francis, A. J. Wooller and R. Mow. The retiring treasurer (Mr. Dunn) and Mr. Wooller declined nomination, and on a ballot being taken, Mr. Francis was elected by a narrow majority.

There were three nominations for the position of secretary, these being Messrs. W. Bagshaw, T. Greenaway and F. Dunn, and keen interest was evinced in the election. A count of votes disclosed that Mr. Dunn had obtained an absolute majority, and was therefore declared elected.

There were fourteen nominations for committee members, and, following the exhaustive ballot, Messrs. Collins, Cranwell, Morris, Mow, Brown and Greenaway were declared elected.

To conform with the by-laws of the League, two trustees were appointed, the nominees being Messrs. P. G. Collins and T. Greenaway. Mr. L. J. Chapman was re-elected without opposition to the office of auditor.

Prior to the close of the meeting, the question of arranging the annual re-union function was introduced, it being eventually decided to hold a smoke social in the Soldiers' Institute on the 7th prox., to which all returned men will be admitted at a nominal charge.
The Grotto of the Two Churches
(From the "Billijim's Progress," by John Buttonstick Bunyan)

Weary and overburdened with the heart of the day, I passed along the street which is called Hay, until I came to a place devoted to the uplifting of the spirits. This place is called Criterion, which meaneth, in our speech, a place to be looked at. It is a place greatly frequented by pilgrims, who look at it through the bottoms of many glasses. And I was told that it is a place of especial sanctity for the reason that there are two Churches in it—the Church, which is called Ted, and the Church called Harold.

And near the door there was a great concourse of pilgrims, many going in but few coming out. Many stood by the wayside looking for converts, for I heard them stop divers travellers, saying, "Hi, have you the price of one?" for it was told me that pilgrims seeking to drink the healing waters must first pay pieces of silver for the upkeep of the two Churches therein. I was also told of another way into this place. This leads from the street which is called Murray, and is used by those pilgrims who do not wish to make a display of their holiness, or have it known to the ungodly.

Now in this place there are three large rooms. In two of them, devout women serve the healing waters to pilgrims of the richer sort, for in them the vessels are smaller and the price is greater. And, the names of devout women in the one room are Hazel and Cass, and in the other, Maudie and Tootkey. And the last of the four is a specially devout woman, for in a land which lies many days' journey to the east there is a kind of healing water named after her.

In the third and largest apartment of all, the wants of pilgrims are ministered unto by four lay brothers. And two of these, Thomas, surnamed McGow, and Ken, who is also called Symon, are merry men; but the others, Charlie, who is known as Sleep, and Morrie, are sad men who smile not: and I was told that Brother Morrie grieves much over the sins of men, and the wrongs of a far-distant country called Ireland.

The pilgrims in this place were many, and of all ranks. There were men who had fought in the King's wars, men who drove the King's tums, and others, too, whose business it is to put out fires. These last consumed much of the healing water lest their calling should cause too much heat within. Other men there were, those who look after the King's children, for in that land, when a child is not wise enough to know his own father, he becomes the son of the King of that place. There is a special name for them which I have forgotten, which is strange, for pilgrims called one another by it with great frequency. And I marvelled that the King of that place should have so many sons of such varying ages.

Now most of the men who had fought in the King's wars were of the tribe of the diggers, and of this tribe, Brother Thomas was a rigged man or shieftain; but there were also warriors of another tribe called the Pommezites. The Diggers and the Pommezites reviled one another very much; but while they did so they drank together and laughed much. There were also in that place certain scribes belonging to the Diggers, whose business it was to taste the waters, and write down everything which happened in that city. Also they write down many things which do not happen. Some of these were mighty men of war, yea, even colonels and captains, and there was one of fierce aspect whom men called "Cherry," a noisy man who talked much. And these men were called the Press gang.

Then came in one of dignified aspect, a Pommezite, who is a maker of garments. And Brother Thomas called him "Pitch and Toss." He wore in his coat the white flower of a blameless florist, and he told tales that have no ending. His manner of speech was strange, for he said unto me, "Could you keep one down?" And when I answered him, "Yes," he said unto Brother Thomas, "Fill 'em up, Tom."

While serving the healing waters Brother Thomas made much sport with Brother Morrie, and spoke much of one, "Mickey the Mouse." There was also much talk of a demon which is now ravaging that land. And the name of that demon is "Depression," and men drink much to drive him away. Then entered one of peculiar aspect, holding cards on which were studs and pins. Some pilgrims tried to drive him away, others to propitiate him. I asked Brother Thomas what he thought of the demon Depression, but Brother Thomas replied, "Nay, Behold, that is Giblets." But the pilgrims called this man by divers other names. One who is a servant of the governor of that city, called him by the name which signifies those who have become sons of the King.

And I tarried as I drank the healing waters, until I heard the voice of one crying "Time gentlemen," for it was the hour of nine, when all pilgrims must depart, so I passed on my way rejoicing exceedingly and marvelling at the deyout ways of this strange city.

An innovation at the recent Kelmscott reunion was the toast "The League of Nations," and during the speeches it was disclosed that about one third of the members were members of the League of Nations Union. The peace propaganda of this Union approximates to that of our League and real progress has been the result; more being achieved towards universal peace and harmony among the nations in one year than would ever result from the hysterical bleatings of most of the so-called peace organisations. Congratulations, Kelmscott. Other sub-branches could, with profit, follow your lead and, when possible, arrange for lectures on the League of Nations, from prominent members.
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<th>Sub-Branch</th>
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<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. E. Potts, State School, Albany</td>
<td>F. W. Thorp, P.O. Box 14, Albany</td>
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<td>BUNBURY</td>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday</td>
<td>C. R. Gillard, Bury St., Bunbury</td>
<td>A. E. Murray, Stephen St., Bunbury</td>
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<td>BELMONT</td>
<td>Belmont Hall</td>
<td>27th May and every 4th Thursday</td>
<td>T. H. Sibbritt, Grandstand Rd., Belmont</td>
<td>J. J. Mann, Epson Ave, Belmont</td>
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<td>BAYSWATER</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bayswater</td>
<td>Alt. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>V. White, Slade St., Bayswater</td>
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<td>COLLIE</td>
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<td>A. E. Rolfe, Throsell St., Collie</td>
<td>Hugh S. Cramer, Sandy Hill St., Collie</td>
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<td>COWARAMUP</td>
<td>Cowaramup Institute</td>
<td>2nd Sunday, 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Sydney Frohawk, Cowaramup</td>
<td>F. Tew, Cowaramup</td>
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<td>COTTESLOE BEACH</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>Last Wednesday in each month</td>
<td>G. Brown, &quot;Scotia,&quot; Fairlight St., Cottesloe Beach</td>
<td>W. Burgess, 33 Mason St., Cottesloe Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLAREMONT-GORTESL</td>
<td>Alternately Council Chambers</td>
<td>First Thursday in each month</td>
<td>C. F. J. North, M.L.A., Forrest St., Cottesloe</td>
<td>A. S. Cook, 12 Dalrymple St., Cottesloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARLING RANGE</td>
<td>Parish Hall, Kalamunda</td>
<td>3rd Saturday</td>
<td>W. Logie, Kalamunda</td>
<td>Wm. Wright, Kalamunda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td>Institute, Denmark</td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
<td>Rev. J. Lawrence, Denmark</td>
<td>J. Holmes, Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUMBLEYUNG</td>
<td>Dumbleyung</td>
<td>Quarterly, last Sunday in Jan., April, July, Oct.</td>
<td>T. Brown, Dumbleyung</td>
<td>H. Greaves, Dumbleyung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWAK</td>
<td>Salmon Gums, 1st Friday;</td>
<td></td>
<td>L. A. Weeks, Dowak</td>
<td>Gerald Andrews, Dowak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMANTLE AND DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, South Terrace</td>
<td></td>
<td>Theo. Brennan, Fothergill St., Fremantle</td>
<td>P. S. Jane, Carrington St., Fremantle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GASCOYNE</td>
<td>Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>C. R. Cornith, Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td>W. J. Firth, Gascoyne Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUILDFORD-BASSENDEN</td>
<td>Council Chambers, Guildford</td>
<td>1st Thursday, alt. months, commencing January</td>
<td>M. Lewis, Helena St., Guildford</td>
<td>H. L. Kirk, 6th Avenue, Bassendean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERALDTON</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bassendean</td>
<td>1st Thursday other months 2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>A. H. Salmon, Geraldton</td>
<td>W. Bagshaw, *Geraldton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARVEY</td>
<td>War Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Last Tuesday</td>
<td>T. W. D. Smith, Herbr Rd., Harvey</td>
<td>Alfred J. Knight, Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALGOORLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>Every 2nd Tuesday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>C. D. A. Donaldson, 11 Hillary St., Kalamunda</td>
<td>T. C. Fairley, 49 Campbell St., Kalamunda, Tel. 290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARRIDALE AND DISTRICT, KELLERBERN AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>P.P.A. Room</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. H. Salmon, Geraldton</td>
<td>Charles S. Smith, P.O., Karridale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIMBERLEY</td>
<td>Broome</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>G. L. Ogilvie, Karridale</td>
<td>Geo. W. Mann, Karridale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOJONUP</td>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>E. de B. Norman, Broome</td>
<td>A. B. Cryer, Broome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOORDA</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Kojonup</td>
<td>4th Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Roche, Malingup</td>
<td>V. B. Sewell, Kojonup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE GRACE</td>
<td>Commercial Room, Hotel</td>
<td>Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. C. Chappell, Koorda</td>
<td>L. J. Carter, Koorda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERREDIN</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>When and where called</td>
<td>J. Collinson, Lake Grace</td>
<td>H. H. Pelham, Lake Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOORA</td>
<td>Moora</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>E. Logan, Merredin</td>
<td>F. A. Law, Merredin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT BARKER</td>
<td>Mt. Barker</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. W. S. Myles, Gardener St., Moora</td>
<td>J. P. O'Neil, c/o Shell Co, Moora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYLANDS</td>
<td>Friendly Societies' Hall, Maylands</td>
<td>Alt. Wednesdays, 7.30 p.m. (new pension week)</td>
<td>P. P. Le Cras, Bencubbin</td>
<td>S. N. McKenzie, Bencubbin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNDARING AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Alt. Mundaring and Mt. Helena</td>
<td>3rd Friday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>L. A. Huntley, 114 Guildford Rd., Maylands</td>
<td>R. Waddington, 6 Normandy St., Maylands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>H. Walker,</td>
<td>A. J. McGregor, Mt. Helena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Branch</td>
<td>Place of Meeting</td>
<td>Date of Meeting</td>
<td>President and Address</td>
<td>Secretary and Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDLAND JUNCTION</td>
<td>Town Hall Committee Rm.</td>
<td>1st Friday</td>
<td>P. F. Jamieson</td>
<td>Edward Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT LAWLEY</td>
<td>Wallarah Hall, Grovenvor Rd., Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Col. T. Flintoff, 5 Woodbridge Terr., Midland Junction</td>
<td>39 Holmesdale Rd., Midland Junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORNINGTON MILLS</td>
<td>Mornington Mills</td>
<td>Every Alt. Sunday</td>
<td>J. Tozer, Morinington Mills</td>
<td>L. G. R. Challen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEDLANDS</td>
<td>Broadway Theatre (Lesser Hall)</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>K. J. Jones, M.C., Northampton</td>
<td>49 Fourth Ave., Mt. Lawley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAMPTON</td>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>N. C. Scott, Northam</td>
<td>E. W. Robinson, Mornington Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>Avon Bridge Hotel</td>
<td>1st Wednesday in the month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>15 Tyrell St., Nedlands</td>
<td>W. A. Duffield, Northampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUNGARIN</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>1st Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Rev. J. C. Lund, York</td>
<td>G. C. Curlewis, Fitzgerald St., Northamtel. 174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERTH</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>F. L. Warner, Red Forest, Kelson</td>
<td>L. W. Brockway, Nungarin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESS</td>
<td>At Luncheon</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday, noon</td>
<td>C. F. Smith, C/o West Australian, Perth</td>
<td>Geo. S. Miller, Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PITHARA</td>
<td>Billiard Saloon</td>
<td>Alternate Months, commencing Feb. 1, 2.30 p.m.</td>
<td>T. Cowan, Yornaning</td>
<td>I. T. Birwistle, C/o The Western Mail, Perth, Tel. B118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILBARA</td>
<td>Port Hedland</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>R. B. Gibson, Olive St., Subiaco</td>
<td>C. J. McFarland, Popanyinng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAILWAY WORKSHOPS</td>
<td>&quot;Mill&quot; at Workshops</td>
<td>Alt. Tuesday, 12.30 p.m.</td>
<td>H. K. K. H. P. Ola, 69 Douglas Ave., S. Perth</td>
<td>A. E. Clarks, Port Hedland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH PERTH</td>
<td>Masonic Hall, Cnr. York and Forrest St.</td>
<td>3rd Monday</td>
<td>W. A. She, 244 Hammersley Rd., Subiaco.</td>
<td>W. J. Lovel, 96 Sixth Ave., Maylands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUBIACO</td>
<td>Branch Rooms, Rookeby Rd., Subiaco</td>
<td>Every Thursday</td>
<td>J. Keightley, Southern Cross</td>
<td>M. Mundy, Cnr. Dyson and Vista St., South Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTHERN CROSS</td>
<td>Palace Hotel</td>
<td>3rd Saturday</td>
<td>Padre O'Halleron, Dennis St., Toodyay</td>
<td>F. J. Story, Temple St., Toodyay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOODYAY</td>
<td>Freemasons' Hotel</td>
<td>Second Wednesday in each month, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>T. C. Thompson, Toodyay</td>
<td>F. N. Grange, Toodyay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAYNING-YELBENI</td>
<td>Trayning (2) Yelbeni</td>
<td>4th Sunday</td>
<td>H. Nicol, 116 Miller St., Victoria Park</td>
<td>W. G. Thomas, 62 Temple St., Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICTORIA PARK</td>
<td>Library Hall, Albany Rd., Subiaco</td>
<td>Third Friday in each month at 1 p.m.</td>
<td>V. Walker, Waroona</td>
<td>R. H. Roberts, Waroona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAROONA</td>
<td>Mt. Hail's Office</td>
<td>1st Friday, 8.30 p.m.</td>
<td>R. E. Tyler, Taxation Dept., Perth</td>
<td>P. L. Ross, Workers' Home Board, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST PERTH</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Alt. Thursdays, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>J. Day, Bunting</td>
<td>W. A. Coles, Waroona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WUBIN, BUNTINE, JIBBERDING</td>
<td>Each place alt., commencing</td>
<td>1st Sunday, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>J. Day, Bunting</td>
<td>W. A. Coles, Waroona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST LEEDERVILLE</td>
<td>Bunting, March 1st</td>
<td>2nd Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. Kruger, 79 St. Leonard's Ave., Leederville</td>
<td>W. A. Coles, Waroona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YORK</td>
<td>Town Hall, Cambridge St., Leederville</td>
<td>1st Saturday, Quarterly</td>
<td>T. Sten, York</td>
<td>L. Mahoney, York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Best Bar - Bar None

PLAISTOWE'S NEW WORLD CHOCOLATE BAR
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTILLERY COMRADES' ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>Bgr.-Gen. A. J. Bussell-Brown</td>
<td>J. Smyth,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Recce Price</td>
<td>Lands Dept., Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRITISH UNITED SERV. ASSN.</td>
<td>Executive at 229 Charles St., North Perth</td>
<td>1st Monday, 8 p.m. (monthly)</td>
<td>A. H. Major, 153 Seventh Avenue, Maylands.</td>
<td>T. A. Burns, Hay St., Subiaco.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. I. E. D. Dunkley</td>
<td>Geo. E. Cattermole, M.C., 229 Charles St., North Perth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELEVENTH BATTALION ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly Luncheon, 1 p.m. on 11th of month</td>
<td>W. R. Kruger, 79 St. Leonard's Avenue, Leederville</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James, 19 Marine St., Leederville.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EX-NAVAL MEN'S ASSN.</td>
<td>Sports Club, King St.</td>
<td>Last Tuesday</td>
<td>L. Kaye Petrin, 43 Douglas Av., S. Perth</td>
<td>R. W. Blair, 79 William St., Perth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWENTY-EIGHTH BATTALION ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly Luncheon, 1 to 2 p.m., 28th of month or nearest weekday thereof</td>
<td>S. Jones, 170 Cambridge St., West Leederville</td>
<td>F. S. Harrison, 270 Wellington St., Perth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIXTEENTH BATTALION ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>General Meeting, October 25th, 1929</td>
<td>Colonel E. L. Margolin, Nederlands</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. M. Davies, 42 View St., Cottesloe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THIRTY-SECOND BATTALION ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>A. D. Stone, c/o West Australian Newspaper Office</td>
<td>V. Ketteler, c/o Dept. of Repatriation, Perth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ending War

"Catastrophe" writes: Life would have to be a matter of extreme simplicity, instead of the complex thing it is, before the direct methods proposed by "Nedele" could have any real effect in the direction of ending war. Stripped of non-essentials, his argument is that a species of international workers' association, a bewildered history course in schools, and the abolition of martial music, would give the world permanent peace. Like most idealists, "Nedele" fixes his eyes on the world as it ought to be and ignores the world as it is. Were man a logical, and not a biological, organism, sweet reason might sway him in all his reactions to circumstance. Moreover, quarrels between nations are not like quarrels between individuals. "Nedele's" reasoning presupposes that all nations have arrived at a similar stage of social, mental and moral development. Even were that so, it is doubtful whether complete harmony would be achieved. Are there no such things as quarrels between members of the one family? And has there not been, even in peaceful Australia, mob violence between two sections of the one community?

Before the war prominent socialists on both sides of the map used to assure us that war would be impossible because the soldier, on either side would refuse to fire on his fellow workers. Nevertheless, the war happened, and there was little or no peace talk from the German socialists until after the Treaty of Versailles. History contains no example of organisations, such as "Nedele" suggests, preventing war, but it reeks with instances where such organisations were swept aside by waves of herd passion. In this connection, how would "Nedele" propose dealing with the recent outbreak of dacoity in Burmah? Does he think that the Government should have allowed these merry gentlemen to carry on their career of murder and pillage unchecked? Or does he believe that the Government could have stopped it by lifting up a finger and saying, "Tweet, tweet, now, now, come, come"?

Equally indefinite is "Nedele" as to his plan of teaching children the futility of war. This will never be done by eliminating all references to the war from the history books, or by allowing children to think that the brunt of the war was borne by only one class of the community. When history is emasculated to this extent it ceases to be history and becomes mere lying propaganda. War has been a recurrent phenomenon throughout the course of history, and has had its course of evolution, as regards causes, like everything else. The wars of the Middle Ages were romantic adventures occasioned by the rivalry of kings. Then religion began to play its part, and brought about the bloodiest of all wars before the last one. When men ceased to fight over religion they fought to obtain colonies or markets. Children should be taught all these things, for only by understanding causes and potential causes will their possible effects be forestalled. The "hush hush" policy as regards the last war will no doubt appeal to the slacker and the traitor, but I for one do not intend that my son will grow up under the impression that his father's war service is something to be ashamed of.

Why in the name of common sense should martial music be dispensed with? Why stop there? Why not go on and dispense with all music except church music, lest it interfere with the propagation of Christianity? Again, why should the Executive of the League "take a hand in organising a world-wide union of non-combatants"? The Executive, I take it, has quite enough to do, as it is, to protect the interests of returned men against the attacks, subtle and otherwise, of those very amiable non-combatants, with whom "Nedele" would have it join hands. Finally, how would the existence of such a union enable us to "pay hard cash only—for our differences of opinion"? How is the amount of payment to be determined? What about the fellow or people without cash? Are they to be denied justice? Again, suppose a disputant refuses to pay, what then? The whole matter is too complex to be settled by the simple schemes "Nedele" proposes.
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