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Peace Gestures and Returned Soldiers

Ex-service men generally must have been gratified at the spirit of reverence in which the general public observed the two-minutes' silence on Armistice Day. It is evident that the public is appreciating the significance of the day more and more as the years go on. The silence and the temporary cessation of every form of activity in order to reflect upon the Empire's deliverance was a national gesture, a recognition of the sacrifice made by those who laid down their lives in defence of the social and political institutions we prize so highly.

As the "Last Post" sobbed itself to silence on the crisp morning air, most of us who stood bare-headed in the streets, carried our minds back to the days of hard marching and harder fighting. Visions came to us, as well as to civilians, of some faved comrade, or some dear relative who marched gaily away and did not return. Love, gratitude, and justifiable pride, even a trace of the sorrow that the healing fingers of time can never wholly wipe away, were the emotions appropriate to the occasion. The gesture of gratitude for the Armistice and for the devotion of those who made the Armistice possible is no theatrical gesture. In its simple dignity it could be conceived and practised only by a people which is still sound at heart.

On these days of remembrance, we diggers stand as a link between the future and the past. The man of to-day is the vehicle which conveys the civilisation of his ancestors to future generations. For better or for worse he modifies and changes that civilisation in the process of transmission. This is inevitable, for civilisation is fluid and not static. Once any organism becomes static, it has reached the highest attainable point of its development and disintegration begins to set in automatically. This is happened to the civilisations of other ages, and may, unless we take constant thought for humanity, happen to the civilisation that, for two thousand years, Western Europe has been striving to rebuild from the debris of the Greco-Roman world.

It was to save this civilisation that men from every part of the British Empire fought and died. The words, "The Great War for Civilisation," are inscribed on the Victory Medal. To us who survive it was entrusted the torch, grasped from our fallen comrades' failing hands. Ours is the duty of handing on the civilisation we defended, unmodified except for the better. Naturally, no digger wishes to repeat experiences like Pozieres or the Somme winter. Naturally, also, he would not wish the son on whom he bases such hopes to endure such experiences. At the same time, every man with a modicum of sanity realises that nothing worth-while—and we consider that, in spite of its many anomalies, our present civilisation is worth-while—can be maintained without sacrifice. While working for peace, we should honour the sacrifices of those who made peace possible, and British democracy should be prepared to make similar sacrifices the next time our civilisation is threatened.

It has been said, with a certain amount of justice, that another great war would destroy Western civilisation entirely. The mere recognition of this possibility by nations that have already developed a peace consciousness will not, in itself, prevent future wars. The peace consciousness which has found expression in the constitution of a League of Nations and the Kellogg Pact may lessen the likelihood of another world war, and may limit the theatre of operations in future wars, but it can never render war impossible by the mere expression of pious platitudes or the signing of paper agreements. One has only to look at the present condition of affairs in Manchuria to see how futile it is to expect a Power with a grievance to keep any treaty it feels strong enough to break.

It is an axiom of medical practice that no ill can be cured permanently without removing its cause. It is only by clear thinking, by a study of historical forces, and by a resolute concentration on the world as it is, and not by speculation, upon the world our milk and water pacifists wish to see, that we are going to make any advance along the road to universal peace. It is all very well for the men of words to cast about for some formula whereby a paper security may seem to be promised, and to assume a moral superiority that is more nauseating than the most rabid jingoism, but we can never achieve the dream of universal peace by blinding ourselves to actualities, by allowing the teachings of the historian to be discounted by the clamant vapourings of the hysterian. The problems of war and peace, however much they may be sentimentalised by hysterians, are too complex to be solved by plausible formula or pious gesture. In his article on "War" in the supplement to the 1926 edition of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica," Sir Ian Hamilton issues this warning to the idealists of Great Britain and America:

"Let neither of these great, but strangely imprudent, nations imagine that because they mean to do the right thing by humanity, they will on that account, escape the challenge of the word. Does not Hegel tell us that..."
tragedy is the conflict, not of right and wrong, but of right and right?"

Here we have the crux of the matter. In all the wars of modern times, from the religious wars of the seventeenth century and the colonial and commercial wars of the eighteenth and nineteenth onward, each belligerent has been defending his own inalienable right against the other fellow’s inalienable right. For instance, in 1904, Russia was right in wanting an ice-free port for her swarming millions; Japan was equally right in thinking of her own swarming millions, and objecting. In 1861, the Southern States of America were right to want self-determination; the North was equally right in saying “No.”

Amidst all the hazy generalisations arising from confused thinking which inundate the press every Armistice Day, one gathers that the Great War was futile; that peace gives as great opportunities for fostering the desirable qualities of courage, heroism, and self-sacrifice, as wars; and that disarmament will automatically bring about universal peace.

Great Britain did not draw the sword in 1914 merely to end war. The “war to end war” slogan, like other often quoted slabs of false rhetoric, was invented, not by the fighting soldier, but by the politician long after the war had become an established fact. Because wars still occur, and because the party political hack and the communist, between them, have made the world very unsafe for democracy, those who set formula above consecutive thought argue that the war was futile, and talk about its criminality. From this attitude it is only a step to condemning those who fought in the Great War, and those who are prepared to serve their country in future wars. This condemnation has already been hinted at in the mea culpa prostrations of certain clergymen, and others.

While this paper functions it will always resent soldiers, past, present, and future, being indicted at the bar of public opinion by old women of both sexes, and garrulous clergymen with an unquenchable thirst for limelight. Let us work for peace by all means, but let us, at the same time, retain our sense of proportion.

It is merely stupid to assert that a war which overthrew three aggressive empires; which reconstructed the map of the world; which caused the downfall of irresponsible autocracies, and established a new system of international relationships, was futile. We were not the aggressors in the World War, and none of those who earned and still retain our contempt for their opposition to its whole-hearted prosecution, have yet been able to tell us how we could have kept out of it without being eternally shamed. And yet these same people have the effrontery to tell us that peace gives as great opportunities for the display of courage and heroism as war. The strongest evidence in rebuttal of such a claim is the type of person who makes it. No dogma can over-ride facts.

Upholders of the disarmament fallacy overlook several salient facts. Armaments are a symptom and not a cause of warlike activity. The forty odd years which preceded the Great War marked the establishment of conscript armies and the growth of big navies. During that period there were no wars in Western Europe. Only the strength of the British Navy prevented Germany from attacking us during the South African War, and again in 1911. Had Britain’s Army been proportionate to her Navy, and had she not been faced at the same time with the threat of civil war in Ireland, and disaffection in India and South Africa, Germany would not have dared to throw down the gauntlet in 1914. Since the war the British Empire has set the world an example in the matter of disarmament. Australia, while still issuing a challenge to the rest of the world by adhering to the White Australia policy, is already disarmed and a financially embarrassed Government is about to waste £2,000 on despatching an envoy to Geneva to tell the Disarmament Conference this.

Over a hundred years ago Napoleon learned, to his cost, that it is impossible effectively to disarm a people. It is even less possible to-day. Deprived of their largest armies by the Treaty of Versailles, the Central Powers have adopted national physical culture schemes whereby the young men are developed bodily and trained in those habits of discipline which are the foundations of military effort. They have developed civil aviation and chemical research to an extent that only the stroke of a pen is required to turn these legitimate activities of peace into the sinews of war. Indeed, the temporary scrapping of cumbersome organisations and of obsolescent armaments may prove an asset rather than a hindrance to these nations should they be contemplating future war. Last, but by no means least, the advocates of disarmament, wittingly or unwittingly, are playing into the hands of the communist and his foreign masters. The utterances of these people imply that in a future war we shall be the aggressors. They ignore entirely the enemy within the State, and the fact that armed forces of the Crown are the last bulwark against that civil disorder and violence which the communist loses no opportunity of fomenting.

The prevention of war has occupied the minds of philosophers and churchmen for nearly two thousand years. Past failures are no evidence against future success, but to assume that the churches, for instance, are able to prevent war is to assume that the whole world has been Christianised, or that it has, at least, adopted a common system of ethics. It is obvious that neither has occurred yet. This being so, and in the present state of world politics and ethical outlook, the churches can no more prevent war than the medical men can eliminate death. Education and the inculcation of a more enlightened outlook will have their effect, but that effect will be retarded if every mushy pacifist, with a flair for publicity continues to make Armistice Day an excuse for disarmament propaganda in a country already disarmed beyond the limits of safety. The fundamental weakness of such propaganda is that it so often emanates from persons whose own courage and loyalty are not above suspicion. As to others, Sir Ian Hamilton aptly summed up the situation in the article referred to above:

"Those who have seen with their own eyes and suffered in their—own bodies, know the ugly truths of war, but they cannot convey their knowledge to the young generation. The old lack imagination to tell; the young lack imagination to believe. Nothing will stop war save a Second Advent of Christ."

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The Land Committee
A SATISFACTORY INTERVIEW
WITH MR. McLARTY

On the 16th inst., the Governing Director of the Agricultural Bank, Mr. E. A. McLarty, received a deputation consisting of the Land Committee of the R.S.L. Executive.

Mr. McLarty announced that the Premier, Sir James Mitchell, had agreed to the reduction of interest on the whole of the soldier settlers' debts to 4½ per cent., it being found that by eliminating those areas sold by soldiers or taken over from the Bank by civilian purchasers, the balance would come under the funds provided by the Commonwealth Government.

On the subject of arrears of interest, Mr. McLarty is in agreement with the League's contention that it is impossible for Soldier Settlers to pay these at present, and is favourable to a deferment for a period of years to be arranged.

The question of interest on those arrears is a difficult one, and outside the scope of the Bank, which is governed by Statute.

This Act is emphatic. It gives no latitude to the Governing Director, but says that interest on unpaid interest shall be paid.

Mr. McLarty recognised the seriousness of the position from the Soldier Settlers' point of view, and was of opinion that though the concession is an important one, it should be made, and that it should represent the State's contribution to Soldier Settlement.

Accordingly a motion for submission to the next meeting of the Executive was drawn up by the Land Committee, and submitted to Mr. McLarty, who approved of it.

This motion is to the effect that the Government be urged to at once bring in legislation to enable the Agricultural Bank to waive payment of accommodation interest.

With regard to land valuations, these must remain a matter of negotiation between the Bank and individual members, each case being treated on its merits.

In view of the foregoing, much of the trouble of the Soldier Settler should disappear. It must be admitted by thoughtful persons that the Government has given prompt and definite consideration to the findings of conference, and it is a gratifying result of the work of the Land Committee.

There is, of course, always a quid pro quo required for every concession.

(In this instance it is that the League shall do its utmost to insist on the members of the State's and the Bank. No one will object to this.

Once the contract for mutual service is on a fair and equitable basis, it should be observed by both parties. It must be impressed on Soldier Settlers, as well as on other settlers, that simple honesty requires the fullest effort to do the right thing, and in the matter of interest now the rate is a reasonable one, and it seems that a fresh start is being given. Every settler should recognise that it must be met willingly to the fullest extent of the capacity of the land—"not grudgingly nor of necessity," but as a duty.

Of course, payments are never a pleasure, but then receiving undue benefits is not dignified, and an escape from the mentality which tries to evade just responsibilities is much to be desired.

Ninety per cent. of the citizens of this State loathe being in debt, and make many sacrifices to wipe off their liabilities.

Let it be said that now Soldier Settlers have a ray of hope they will show the same example in meeting their interest as they have in sticking to their work on the land, and in other directions they are so justly proud of.

Then, if Sir James Mitchell and Mr. McLarty complete the arrangements implemented at this meeting, and the officers of the Department show just that tact and consideration necessary for this half year, there is every hope that a very large section of our farmers will emerge from the depression happily to the great benefit of our State.

Light Horse Memorial,
Egypt

The Defence Department recently informed the League of the position of the work at the time of the unfortunate death of the sculptor, Sir Bertram MacKenna, R.A., which occurred in England on 11th October.

The pedestal and base have been erected on the site at Port Said. All models for the structural group are out of the sculptor's hands, the last having been despatched to the founder by Sir Bertram on the morning of his death.

The work of the founder is well in hand, and it is anticipated that the group will be available in Egypt at about Easter, 1932.

The doing of Congress this year were very extensive, necessitating the reports being spread over the October and November issues of the Listening Post. This number should be of particular interest to soldiers on the land, as we have dealt fully with this subject. Unfortunately we have again been obliged to delete or curtail some of our usual features.
1931 Soldier Settlers' Conference

Conference opened at 10 a.m., on September 28th, 1931.

Chairman.—After a few introductory remarks by the State President (Colonel Collect), Mr. A. Yeates (chairman) delivered the report of the Land Committee.

Justice Pike's Report.—Moved Mr. Roche (Kojonup), seconded Mr. Nugent (Campion): In view of the prevailing public opinion that soldier settlement has been a costly failure, Congress considers the statements issued by Mr. Justice Pike, the Auditor General, in his report to June, 1930, and the general return of production by the farmers' section of returned soldiers on the land, so that the erroneous idea may be corrected, and the benefit to the State by farmer soldiers' work be made generally known.

Congress requests the Executive to obtain the following information, if not already available:

(a) Was the total amount of the concession granted by the Federal Government to recoup the State against losses involved in soldier settlement utilised for that purpose?

(b) If not, for what purpose was the balance utilised?

The balance (if any) of the concession granted remaining in hand.—Carried.

Soldiers' Disabilities.—Moved Mr. Brown (Yandanooka), seconded Mr. Trathen (Tellup): The whole question of soldier settlement be discussed.

The Executive to appoint a committee to take evidence as to settler soldiers' disabilities and by deputation place same before the Government with their best proposals as to ways and means to relieve same.

Amendment Carried.—Moved Mr. Nugent (Campion), seconded Mr. Roche (Kojonup): That a committee be appointed by Conference to consider soldier settlement difficulties and to make suitable recommendations to the Government for the relief of same.—Carried.

The following committee were appointed:

Messrs. Nugent (Campion), Simpson (Upper Chapman), Nicholson (Moora), Roche (Kojonup), Newbon (Manjimup), Smith (Lake King), and Brown (Yandanooka).

Minister for Lands.—Mr. Latham, the Minister for Lands, was welcomed by the chairman, and addressed delegates. A vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

Mr. McLarty.—Mr. McLarty, Controller of Soldier Settlemen, then attended Conference and addressed delegates, afterwards answering a number of questions.

A vote of thanks was unanimously carried.

Commonwealth Grant.—Moved Mr. Brown (Yandanooka), seconded Mr. Simpson (Upper Chapman): The Executive be directed, if details of the expenditure of all Commonwealth grant and allowance to the State to cover soldier settlement losses are not supplied, to have a motion moved by a Member of Parliament that all papers in connection therewith be laid on the table of the House.—Carried.

Group Settlement Re-Valuation.—Moved Mr. Heath (Baljagup), seconded Mr. Powell (Karridale): That the whole question of Group Settlement be discussed.—Carried.

After a general discussion on Group Settlement, Mr. Nugent (Campion) moved, Mr. Simpson (Upper Chapman) seconded: That a deputation on Group Settlement be formed from this Conference to meet Mr. McLarty and place the position fully before him, and failing satisfaction the deputation go to the Premier with the full backing of the League.—Carried.

That the following be appointed: Messrs. Heath (Baljagup), Stahl (Yanahan), Whiteman (Torbay), Lewis (Cowaramup), Powell (Karridale), Hoare (Wagollard).

Group Settlement Re-Valuation.—Moved Mr. Whiteman (Torbay), seconded Mr. Lewis (Cowaramup): That a deputation of the Group Settlement blocks be valued on inflated prices of produce, a re-valuation is necessary. Eastern States' stock to be included.—Carried.

Re-Purchased Estates.—Moved Mr. Sholl (Nannup), seconded Mr. Chapman: That this item be referred to the special committee.—There be a re-valuation of all soldier settlers' properties who are on re-purchased estates.—Referred to Committee.

Re-Valuation.—Item 14 moved by Mr. Andrews (Nungarin), seconded Mr. Roche (Kojonup) as substantive motion and carried: Congress endeavours to obtain Zone Boards in connection with the re-valuation of soldier settlers' properties, and that it be suggested that the personnel of the Board of the Agricultural Bank representative, one local successful farmer, and one soldier settler in the zone concerned, and that the soldier settler representative be the elected nominee of the sub-branches in that zone.—Carried.

Re-Valuation Board.—Moved Mr. Simpson (Upper Chapman), seconded Mr. Brown (Yandanooka), and amended as follows: Failing the appointment of the Re-Valuation Board or Boards, Congress is of the opinion that it is in the interest of the soldier settler that a writing down of indebtedness be made under the S.S.S. or not, and urges the controller of Soldier Settlement, in conjunction with the Soldier Settlement Board, to effect such writing down to what it is considered the settler has a reasonable chance of liquidating.—Carried.

Royal Commission.—Moved Mr. Cornell (Moorene Rock), seconded Mr. Nugent (Osborne Park): In view of the unsatisfactory position of the farming industry, the Government be urged to expedite legislation arising from the report of the Royal Commission on the cost of wheat production.—Carried.

Denoué.—The Government continues to take action where necessary to ensure the continuity of the farming industry pending the necessary legislation.—Carried.

Security of Tenure.—Yandanooka: The Government be approached to obtain security of tenure while the sales of produce do not cover the cost of production with a reasonable profit.—Refused.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Cornell (Moorene Rock), seconded Mr. Simpson (Upper Chapman): That the question of future security of tenure be referred to the Special Committee with power to negotiate on any terms it may think fit to impose.—Carried.

Interest Reduction.—Moved Mr. Woods (West Swan), seconded Mr. Baasoon (Herring Hill): Congress is of the opinion that all soldier settlers should participate to the fullest possible extent in any interest reduction in view of the policy of the Federal Conversion Loan.—Carried.

Accommodation Interest.—Moved Mr. Sholl (Nannup), seconded Mr. Nicholson (Moora): The question of accommodation interest in respect of soldier settlers be "thoroughly investigated in the same be put on a more reasonable basis.—Carried.

Moved Mr. East (Marrarong-Boddington), seconded Mr. Eldon (Darling Range): That C.P. Land rents be reduced a further 10 per cent. to
November 27, 1931

The Listening Post

retumed soldiers.—Lost.

Bank Loans.—On the motion of Mr. Cornell (Moore111 Rock), seconded by Mr. Mulqueney (Campion), the probability of the farming industry being able to pay its way for some time to come, payment should be suspended on capital instalments where interest thereon is paid on Agricultural Bank loans, unless the Government, in conjunction with the Banking Commission, asks to increase stud stock in all districts.—Carried.

Markets Trust.—Moved Mr. Gilletts (Balbuyj), seconded by Mr. Smith (Harvey); The R.S.L. press for the removal of the Market Trust, representing by primary producers on the Metropolitan Markets Trust.—Carried.

Fertilisers.—Moved Mr. I. Eldon (Darling Range), seconded by Mr. Bateoan (Herge Hill), and carried as amended; Congress considers the price of fertiliser has risen out of proportion to the increased cost of production and the low returns for primary products, and urges the elimination of all chemicals used in the preparation of fertiliser from the tariff.—Carried.

Recess.—Moved Mr. Cornell (Moore111 Rock), seconded by Mr. Mulqueney (Pett); The Government be urged, immediately funds are available, to commence a vigorous policy of reticulation (where levels have been completed), through subsidising and supporting and increasing employment.—Carried.

Dried Fruits.—Moved Mr. Bateoan (Herge Hill), seconded by Mr. Lowson (Upper Swan), and carried with the following alteration: That苹the Government should now begin the preparation of the Dried Fruits Control Bill.—Carried.

Nanup Blocks.—Moved Mr. Sholl (Nanup), seconded by Mr. Eldon (D.R.); Representations be made to the proper authorities that further blocks of land in Nanup area be thrown open for selection, so that the able-bodied sons and single men may apply for same, and be enabled to make a permanent home for themselves.—Carried.

Drainage.—Moved Mr. Dawe (Waroona), seconded by Mr. Patten (Murray); That the Government should commence drainage works in the Coolup agricultural area, and that a comprehensive scheme for drainage be carried out in the Draenbrook and Coolup area.—Carried.

Esperance District.—Moved by Mr. Cornell (Moore111 Rock), seconded by Mr. Hammer (Southern Cross), and carried with the alteration, as follows:—That all surveyed locations in the Esperance district be reclassified with a view to complete re-valuation.—Carried.

MoirR-Bore Gas.—Moved Mr. Yeates (Kawau); The matter of re-classification of morrle and bore country be recommenced, particularly in Kalgan area, especially in view of Mr. Moran’s promise of last year to the settlers of Kalgan that their district will be the next dealt with by the Re-classification Board.—Carried.

Grazing Leases.—Moved Mr. Andrews (Nanup), seconded by Mr. Mulqueney (Pett), and altered to, read as follows: Congress requests the Government to lease for grazing purposes with the Kalgan on 5000 head of cattle and 10,000 sheep, at a considerably reduced rental, of abandoned property, adjacent to salt lakes which have proved unsuitable for wheat-growing.—Carried.

Reduction Interest.—Moved Mr. Nugent (Campion), seconded by Mr. Mulqueney (Pett); In the event of the Debt Conversion Loan being passed that the Agricultural Bank reduce their interest proportionately.—Carried.

Power Farming.—Moved Mr. Mulqueney (Pett), seconded by Mr. Yeates (Kawau); With a view to cheaper and more economical power farming methods the Premier be asked to cause enquiries to be made respecting certain South Australian engine tractor appliances, and if thought fit, authorise the purchase of several.—Carried.

Subsistence.—Moved Mr. Sholl (Nanup), seconded by Mr. Nock (Gosnell); That men at present on blocks of land who are entitled to sustenance, even if they are land holders, be given permission to work their farms and may be confined to road work as at present.—Carried.

LAND SETTLEMENT MATTERS

Brought up at Congress, and items referred to Congress from the Soldier Settlers’ Conference.

Mr. Yeates submitted the report to Congress of the deliberations of the Conference, which was adopted.

Land Deputation.—Moved Mr. Olden; Colonel Nicholson nominated Mr. Olden on behalf of the deputation of the Soldier Settlers’ Conference which waited upon the Minister. The report was adopted, and read as follows:

Mr. And Colonel Olden—presented the deputation’s credentials to the Minister, and Mr. J. I. Mann, M.L.A., introduced the deputation.

The Chairman of the Committee outlined the case for the soldier settlers and was supported by several members of the deputation.

“Mr. Minister was polite, sympathetic, and non-confrontational, and communication can be considered an opening move to bring the position of soldiers before the Government.

“Mr. Minister stated that the matter would come before the Hon. the Premier, but the deputation could rely on putting the matter before the Premier in such a way as to ensure full consideration of the matter.

“The Committee is glad to advise Congress that the Hon. the Premier announced in his budget speech that interest on Soldier Settlement advances would be reduced to 4 per cent, where the funds were allowed from the Government.

“The request to the Minister that this rate should apply to all soldier settlement advances met with a reply which caused uneasiness to the deputation, viz., that he was not sure what amount had been supplied by the Commonwealth, he thought the State had raised the money in London in the Commonwealth Guarantee.

“If such is the case then the general understanding that the Commonwealth had provided funds except the rebate of £796,000 would be incorrect, and the Hon. the Premier simply a mockery to the stated reduction of interest to 5 per cent, which refer to only £10 per annum out of an average interest charge of £162/10/.

“But the deputation is certain that out of the £1,045,000 still owing, at least £3,500,000 is from Commonwealth Funds, the balance being from State funds and capitalised interest.

“To make it perfectly clear to members of Congress the position is as follows:

“A war service home owner receives, say, £1,000 for which he pays a weekly amount principal and interest for 35 years at 2½/.

“A war service home owner receives, say, £2,000, for which he is paid 1½ per week interest and about 12½ per week reduction, or 62½ per week.

“A war service home owners have suffered a reduction of wages, say, from £5 to £4 (or 20%); and a reduction of from £5 per week to £3 4½ per week (or 66 per cent).

“If a grant for War Service homes reducing their indebtedness to £3,000, consequently their weekly payment of 1½/- had been made to the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth reimbursed by the Commission to some other purpose, would holders of War Service homes consider themselves
entitled to that allowance when their wages had been reduced.

"Soldier settlers have been charged a higher rate of interest and a greater amortisation fund and the relief which was granted has been diverted to other channels.

"Therefore, the request of the soldier settlers is simply that the funds made available by the Commonwealth should be applied to the purpose for which they were intended, and Congress is urged to protect the settlers and see that no departure is made from the promise of the Premier."

Settlers' Conference Land Sub-Committee—Colonel Nicholson (Moora), Chairman of the Land Sub-Committee appointed at the Soldier Settlers' Conference, submitted also the attached report on behalf of this Committee and moved its adoption. Seconded by Mr. Simpson (Upper Chapman), and carried.

In considering the subjects requiring attention from the Government, your Committee has been actuated by the present condition of public finance, the known objections of the Government and the probability of successfully placing requests before Ministers. The Committee is of opinion that security of tenure is the basis of all successful efforts on the part of soldier settlers, and urges Conference to take such steps as will assure this security in a definite manner apart from the somewhat vague statements made by the Ministers and officials.

The first essential of security of tenure is the certainty that the coming crop can be harvested and from the proceeds sufficient funds be retained to enable soldiers to live on their land for a further year in the hope that conditions will be restored to at least a workable basis.

As far as private indebtedness is concerned, recent legislation and the general working together of all farmers is doing much, but Government interest bears such a large proportion of total expenditure and is so covered by terms of holding that it is possible for the Government to seize crops in priority of all creditors, rendering it impossible for a settler to remain on his land.

Your Committee urges strongly that no interest shall be charged from 30/6/31 to 30/6/32. There are approximately 2,300 soldier settlers, whose original valuations averaged probably £1,500 each, a total of £3,450,000. Capitalised interest probably increases that to the present sum of £4,448,138, on which interest amounting to £79,618 is due.

If these assumptions are correct, the State is paying £178,000 per year.

To give the relief required, the sum debited to Peel Estate alone covers it.

INTEREST RATE—Before the Conference the rate charged for interest was 6½ per cent., less a rebate of 1 per cent. on the first £1,000, making a yearly payment of £162 10s., less £10, or £152 10s. for the average soldier. The announcement by the Premier yesterday that interest would be reduced to 4½ per cent. in soldier settlements advances on all money supplied by the Federal Government is most welcome and to a great degree meets the present requirements, but your Committee recommends Congress to ask the Premier to go to the full limit and apply it to all soldier settlement, whether in States or Federal funds, at the rate of 4 per cent.

Your Committee considers there is realjustification in asking for this concession, as it appears that for many years the Treasury has made a profit of about ½ per cent. on all moneys received from the Commonwealth Government for soldier settlement, and the 1 per cent charged by the Agricultural Bank to cover administration charges and losses has been supplemented by charges of some £280,000 for administration extra to the interest margin.

Your Committee is of the opinion that the total amount so made available to the State is very considerable, probably in the neighbourhood of £380,000 gross.

Such a concession would be an act of justice and a grateful gesture on the part of the Government, going far to cover the suggestions implied in Mr. Justice Pike's report and the doubt existing in soldiers' minds as to the correct use of the Commonwealth rebates for interest and principal, amounting to £1,400,000.

Your Committee most strongly draws Congress' attention to the crushing system of penal interest charged to soldier settlers and the impossibility of failure to pay the interest the Bank charges 7 per cent. per annum on such amounts short paid. On an average account this amounts for the first half year to £4 16s. 3d. and for the next to £9 4s. 6d. per annum. This is a compound rate and in less than ten years doubles the original deficiency.

Your Committee is sure Congress is ignorant of the demoralising nature of this impost—and urges that a very determined demand be made not only for the stoppage of the practice in future, but that such penalties inflicted in the past shall be wiped out and credit given settlers for what has been charged.

It is submitted that profits of this nature were never intended or, if intended as an intimidation or coercion, are unjust and improper under the circumstances of the soldier-settlement.

Your Committee has carefully noted the well-reasoned statements of nearly every delegate to the almost despairing conditions of soldiers on the land and to any lasting good it is of opinion that in addition to any annual or recurrent alleviation a capital curtailment is urgent, and recommends Congress to support capitalisation without interest of accumulated unpaid interest.

It admits this is a very large question, but submits it has logical reasons for its recommendations. The total unpaid interest accounts is given in the budget speech at £354, 55½, which interest already capitalised probably makes a total of £750,000. A loss of 4½ per cent. in this sum amounts to £33,710 per annum, but it must be remembered that the Treasury has benefited greatly by handling soldier settlers' funds, and one item of interest on unpaid balances with the Treasury has never been credited to soldiers—mere guess-work puts this at least at £30,000, while last accounts show that a balance of £160,000 receivable from the Federal Government outside of which the Agricultural Bank capital had already been written down by £175,000, and, further, the unexpended balances of the special reduction in State indebtedness to the Commonwealth of £796,000, viz., £700,000, makes up a total of more than the £710,000 to be written off.

In spite of these apparent manipulations of soldiers' moneys, your Committee is of opinion that, having incurred liabilities, soldier settlers should in so far as possible meet them, and it recognises that all settlers are not equal—some have paid in full, or nearly so; some have failed to meet a reasonable proportion. Thus to wipe these debts out would be unfair.

It therefore recommends that Congress should represent the case to the Government and the request that all settlers should be capitalised, but that it should be treated in the following manner:

All back interest to be added to the mortgage repayable after the expiration of the present term of the mortgage in five annual payments without interest.

It can be fairly claimed that considering the benefits the State has had from the soldier settler it will suffer no loss through the procedure, not even in current revenue and eventually receive full payment.

Your Committee was requested to consider...
The matter is complicated. There are several systems under which soldiers hold their lands—by blocks in repurchased estates, as at Yanadanooka; by farms purchased as walk-in-walk-out propositions; or C.P. lands improved by advances. There is no doubt in each section there are anomalies. On Yanadanooka and such lands the original estates had great reputations and probably gave excellent returns to the one holder as a sheep station, but, on being cut up into small blocks, proved disappointing as wheat areas, and were therefore over-valued. Many farms proved poorer than they looked, and though they may have given fair returns to an owner who had the advantage of new lands, proved too costly to work once the land was dirty and partly worn out.

Classification of C.P. lands was often made without due judgment and much greater proportion styled first-class than afterwards proved the case. Again it is no use evading the issue what is to be the basis of re-valuation. A basis must be suggested to the Government to receive sympathetic consideration. To-day there is no basis of re-valuation; still, the question is urgent—even a low interest rate of 4 per cent. is impossible if the valuation is too high, and to charge interest on an unduly high valuation is plainly inflation of interest and attempting to get an improper consideration for the values given.

Again the question is one of great public significance. All values are down and a general reduction is inevitable, but should a Government start on such a course before the community is prepared for it? Such a course affects not only soldier settlers, but every other settler and every other property holder. In W.A., as per cent. of the dwellings are owned by occupiers. Can these people perhaps be made to suffer by precipitate action?

Still, our settlers cannot be allowed to starve or work themselves to death under impossible conditions, and it is unthinkable that after years of work they should, as middle-aged men, be driven off their holdings.

Your Committee thinks there should be a prompt enquiry into the matter and that the valuation of the soldier settlers' holdings is in many cases absolutely urgent, even though a mass re-valuation may not be possible at the moment, and recommends Congress to bring the matter before the Government.

It is of opinion that so far as the Soldier Settlement Scheme as a whole is concerned, the writing down as shown in such accounts as are available has been adequate to guard the Government against loss, and that with a reasonable improvement in general conditions, the assessment of properties and transferred holdings will be sufficient to cover the State against any writing down which may be made to existing soldier settlers.

(Sgd.) E. J. NICHOLSON, Chairman.
T. SIMPSON
A. P. NUGENT
H. BROWN
R. H. NEWTON
HARRY SMITH
H. L. ROCHE

Parliamentary and political matters of the day.

Group Settlement—Moved by Mr. Stahl (Yanmah) and seconded by Colonel Olden (Kalgoorlie). Believing that the successful development of the South-West and the comfort and prosperity of the settlers depends upon the institution and maintenance of altered conditions in the methods of policy and control, this Congress strongly urges the Government to appoint a Committee which shall include sufficient local expert knowledge, to make full enquiry into the operation of Group Settlement with a view to making such alterations in methods and conditions as will allow the settlers to pay their way, and Congress asks the Government to give assurance that no settler will be dispossessed in the meantime.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mr. Stahl (Yanmah) to refer to a matter of Group Settlement.

He moved and Mr. Powell (Karridale) seconded that this Congress lodge a protest against the apparent dispossession of Group Settlementers as advertised in the West Australian—carried. Later the State Secretary reported having been in touch with the Agricultural Bank and the General Manager had stated that action in the direction of disposing these men had been suspended and the advertisement withdrawn from the press.

Report of a deputation to the General Manager, Agricultural Bank (Mr. E. A. McLaury) from Congress, introduced by Colonel Olden, and comprising Mr. Stahl, Mr. Powell (Karridale), F. Heath (Manjimup), Lewis (Coweramup), Hoar (Wellard) Whitman (Denmark), and F. J. Stahl (Yanmah). The Report was adopted by Congress.

COL. OLDEN said the deputation wished to express themselves as follows:

(a) Administration:
(1) Interest collection.
(2) Stock.

(b) Conditions:
(1) More efficient farming methods.
(2) Shelter for stock, hay, and implements.
(3) Heavier top-dressing.
(4) Pasture improvement.
(5) Further clearing for hay entitle and root cropping, i.e., thinning out further.
(6) Commonage for dry stock.
(7) Price fixing.
(8) Marketing facilities.

MR. POWELL said the majority of holdings were not yet sufficiently productive to meet interest charges and quoted contributory factors. From inception in 1921 from an inexhaustible list. The principal items were:

(1) Wet blocks in South-West insufficiently drained to work land until too late.
(2) Type of grasses grown in early years not suitable—sub. clover and reverse. Clover choke other growth and prevent balanced ration, contributing to sterility in stock.
(3) Soil degenerated of mineral by heavy timber, necessitating heavy top-dressing.
(4) Tractor clearing brought up too much sub-soil.
(5) Humus burnt out of soil by burning large stacks, potash not compensating.
(6) Per cent. of stock (Kari country particularly) requiring lime (and available at Karridale).
(7) Ploughing too deep retarded establishment of pastures seven years.
(8) Breeding in early stages. Mr. Hampshire had given 2½ acres per cow, reducing to 2¼ acres per cow with age.
(9) Quality of stock supplied and inflated purchase prices.
(10) Method of valuations on productive capacity three years from assessment—be termed this 'perspective valuation' assuming continuation of development, and suggested that the motive was to present an assumed value, not warranted except to deceive the public. He thought the Valuation Board had not thoroughly inspected holdings and that allowance should now be made for fall in prices.
(11) Lack of settlers' experience in farming, partly, responsible for stock losses.
(12) Lack of working capital to effect cropping, top-dressing, improvements, after home maintenance and interest provided, such capital being required because carrying capacity was insufficient.
(13) Culling of herds—prohibited by field officers.
(14) Freight charges excessive—losses on barley consignments quoted.
(15) Demands for interest preventing the top-dressing required to correct mineral deficiency, which is responsible for 20 per cent. of stock losses.
(16) Policy developed on advice of officials wish to see better and improved, something being known failures as farmers, and aimed at life jobs for themselves.

Foreman's confidential reports enabling cases to be "framed" considered to be the result of foreman's conferences. He complained of stock police, for misappropriation of stock with police, while shortage was due to officials' negligence—the object was to square accounts for auditors.
(18) Side lines (pigs, potatoes) not profitable.
(19) Co-operation required between Government and settlers for marketing, but not for settlers to suggest method.
(20) Cost of stock—loading with inspection fees. Officials inspecting received salary and did the work in official time, but price was increased 12½% to cover this, which was too high for truck loads. Handling charges and freight 12½% also charged.
(21) Eastern States' stock inferior.
(22) Change of policy re Guernsey zone (Margarita-Augusta).
(23) Handling of bulls in transport to other districts.
(24) Peel Estate—required mention only.
(25) Changes of policy. Group Settlement Board was only an incubus dependent on officials.
(26) Farming operations suspended to enforce selling of houses under threat of cessation of contract payments.
(27) Re-possession of cows—not properly looked after and probably not milked. They would be ruined before re-issue and should be brought into condition before. (An individual case cited was noted for enquiry.)

Mr. Lewin, Mr. Heath, Mr. Stahl, Mr. Hoar, and Mr. Whittam then placed many phases of the question before Mr. McLarty, each delegate speaking vigorously and earnestly. It was obvious that they had each gone to considerable trouble to work up the case for the settlers they represented, and if at times the discussion grew heated, it was only further proof of their sincerity in presenting their case.

THE GENERAL MANAGER promised that four cases specified should be specially investigated. He replied at various stages to the points raised as under—

Foreman's reports were supplied on the direct instructions of the executive, and were not the result of foreman's meetings.

Settlers with Eastern States' heifers giving low yields and few other cows could not pay interest, but demand did not necessarily signify any drastic action if payment was not made.

Income.—Cream cheques would show gross income from butter fat only, but expenditure should be stated.

Peel Estate Drainage: Settlers should form a drainage board. The Government could not maintain the system for ever.

Marketing: Settlers should co-operate and not break away, as they frequently did, when an attempt was made to stabilise prices, for whole milk in metropolitan area.

Sustenance before Interest: Reasonable sustenance would be allowed for when fixing interest collection. He had full information on the particular case quoted by Mr. Whittam.

Waiting Disease, Denmark: Investigation was proceeding with special graziers and officers. Men on affected blocks would be moved or provided for as necessary.

Administration: There had been mistakes, but he found that all settlers blamed the Department for their misfortune. Financial assistance to group settlers had been too generous. There should have been a limit of say, £1,000, and if men could not carry on they should get out. It had been a new scheme with inexperienced men, but the expenditure had been beyond all reason. No administration could make a success of any man or land if not backed up by the settler's efforts. He could say as much about settlers as they could about officials, and back it up with facts. An expensive staff should not be needed after eight or ten years. They would have to throw the responsibility on settlers. The onus was with the settler when built up to 15 cows to keep his mortgage obligations. Inspectors had no reason to make unpleasantness—they got disliked for doing their duty. Many settlers did not give the Bank credit, and it was the Inspector's duty to bring them to book. He would not stand for unfairness or interference. If settlers could improve methods, the Bank did not want to lay them down, but the onus was on settlers to get the best out of the holdings, and get the revenue which could be fairly expected.

Soil.—It was utterly absurd to call Manjimup soil poor. It was as good as any in Australia, and he would not agree that trouble was due to soil.

Stock.—He admitted that some stock supplied was inferior. Some of the Eastern States' heifers especially, as they were bought young and suffered for one year in transit and could not give the same return as good cows. Some had become sterile, but many were above the average and constantly improving with good bulls. His suggestion that cows had been ruined by bad treatment had been resisted, but he could prove bad management, and fallow paddocks, and poor feeding to crop or conserve fodder. This year silage and hay had been all used in the summer, when there was grass feed and nothing was left for winter months. The Department must supply decent cows and the onus was then on settlers to feed them. They must grow feed on the farms, as they could not afford to buy concentrates. Many settlers were not making sufficient provision. The Bank had advanced super, seed and minare for cropping, but men with 15 to 20 cows were considered to be in a position to provide their own top-dressing. The Banks had agreed to waive interest collections for four months to enable such men to finance top-dressing, but scores of settlers did none at all, and paid no interest, so that heads would have to be removed or starve. They could not expect the Bank to go on for ever supplying top-dressing for highly improved farms. Super should be a short-term loan over 12 months, as with a wheat farmer, and paid for from proceeds. He asked whose fault was it that they did not get production. One man might spoil 20 of the best cows in three months. If settlers could not manage farms and handle cows, no supervision could help them.

Contagious Abortion.—He hoped to get a special vet. for the groups. Dr. Gilruth considered it could be cured by the use of vaccines. He would provide 200 heifers and 200 bulls. (Mr. Stahl confirmed this from his own experience under the advice of Mr. Twaddle of the Department of Agriculture.)

Overworked Bulls.—Some had been too young, or allowed to run with the hinds. Further bulls were being imported to rectify the position, and better attention to bulls should be insisted on. (Mr. Stahl suggested that they should be under Government supervision.)

Culling of Cows.—All sterile, useless and poor cows should be eliminated. He had never heard of any prohibition and culling was constantly proceeding. He did not think settlers could be expected to carry the loss 'where useless cows were supplied, and thought such cases could be adjusted.

Overstocking (progeny).—Progeny should be sold to pay interest to prevent overstocking, but holdings should be further developed to increase carrying capacity. Herds must be improved from progeny—after 15 cows no more buying should be necessary; after the second year there should be a surplus for sale. Steers could not be carried on dairy farms and bull calves must go young. Mr. Mann said the Eastern Wheat Belt would provide a market for surplus steers or heifers.

Additional Clearing.—Forward blocks at the 15-cow stage would probably have 60 acres to 100 acres cleared. The Bank had been criticised for charging the same interest as for the small and the minimum settlement to maintain, as it was considered better by some to work smaller areas intensively, say, 30-40 acres, but personally he considered 50-60 acres a fair thing. The original scheme provided 21 acres only.

The bank found that large cleared areas were not maintained. There was no possibility of further expenditure on clearing on these, but backward holdings would be brought to the same...
Women's Auxiliaries

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Fourth Annual Conference of the women's Auxiliaries, R.S.L., W.A., was held in Perth on September 28 and 29. There were 68 delegates present. After the presidential address and formal reports had been read and adopted, the following motions were carried:-

**Constitution**

Perth.-That Auxiliary branch secretaries be instructed that bona fides and subscription entire to membership.

Executive.-That in the Constitution on Women's Auxiliaries, Part 1 (a), "unmarried" be deleted. Part II, para. 1, the word "Tuesday" be altered to "Monday"; Para. 19 and 20 (1) be altered to read "Women's Auxiliary R.S.L. State Executive." The following amendments were also carried:

Domestic and Trade

Perth.-That this conference desires members to endeavour as far as possible to further the support of local products: Returned Soldiers first, W.A. second, Australia third, and then the British Empire.

Executive.-That if any Executive member be invited in an official capacity to visit an Auxiliary, the travelling expenses of the member be paid by the Auxiliary concerned, if no other means of transport are available.

Executive.-That the value of Rural Science Courses arranged by the Department of Agriculture, held each year at the University, and to attend which country members may obtain railway concession tickets be increased on all auxiliary members.

That knitting and the making of wool quilts be taught in schools whenever possible.

**Fremantle.**-That members of the Auxiliary who have attended a rural science course be asked to lecture to the various branches for the benefit of those who were unable to attend.

That R.S.L. Auxiliaries interest themselves in the Girl Guide movement.

Executive.-That we refrain from purchasing any goods dumped into the State in order to prevent the establishment of similar industries in our own State.

That we ask our storekeepers and other traders for local brands, thereby creating a demand.

That all exports from W.A., e.g., butter, eggs, etc., be marked or branded.

**Bruce Rock.**-That a more strict supervision be given to dairy herds and methods of milk distribution.

**Wagin.**-That heads of firms be requested to make arrangements by which country people may, like town people, get the benefit of bargains.

That some scheme be put in hand to assist unemployed girls in country districts, who are living away from their people and not in receipt of sustenance.

**Repatriation**

Bayswater.-That the trustees of the Sir Samuel McChesney fund be requested to explain to apprentices who have been compelled to break their indentures on account of depression, that it is not eligible to participate in the grant.

**Wagin.**-That we do not favour big reductions in Soldiers' Pensions and that the Government be urged to find some other method of saving.

Mundaring and Daffinchief and Maylands.-That a protest be made against any further reductions of soldiers' wives' and children's pensions, when single ex-soldiers' pensions remain untouched, and that, to encourage further, the Repatriation Department should go into the cases of individuals who collect several pensions.

**General**

Dingo-Quairading.-That members of Auxiliaries, not relatives of soldiers, coming on repatriation journeys may receive assistance from the R.S.L. Auxiliary.

That Auxiliaries in the Wheat Belt have three months' recess.

**Kelmcott.**-That some arrangements be made to prevent congestion at the War Memorial after the holidays, as many people from a distance did not have the opportunity of seeing the floral tributes.

**Wagin.**-This representative body of women supports the State Executive of the R.S.L. in its efforts to retain the conduct of R.S.L. Art Unions, and that the service should be despatched to the Minister of Police on these lines.

**North Perth.**-That conference urge upon Women's Auxiliaries the necessity of organizing with view to maintaining regular visits of concert parties to Repatriation Hospitals, especially the Edward Millen Home. That a meeting of all branches be called within twenty-one days to discuss this matter.

**Narrogin.**-That the long wait of sick soldiers patience be alleviated by the Repatriation Department before going into hospital and after leaving hospital be inquired into.

**Railway Workshops.**-That when a soldier patient in the Repatriation Ward of the Perth Hospital is on the danger list, he be transferred to a special room if desired.

That the next of kin of a patient on the danger list be given a daily-concession on the train to visit him.

**Maylands.**-That the practice of allowing band concerts in No. 11 Ward of the Perth Hospital be inquired into.

**North Perth.**-That each metropolitan sub-branch be linked with a country sub-branch, and members of linked branches take it in turn to write each month one interesting letter, telling of items of Auxiliary interest, and giving helpful hints and ideas to each other, the letters to be read and discussed at Auxiliary meetings.

**Nedlands.**-That a member of an Auxiliary, on removing to another district, be given a letter of introduction to the secretary for the district in which she proposes to reside, and that the latter secretary be notified of the member's intention to reside in that district.

That means be sought whereby country members may become pen-friends of town members.

**Announcement**

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October 1st, 1931.
for mutual aid in Auxiliary matters and that the president of the State Executive, if so disposed, write a quarterly letter to "The Listening Post," the letter to be read at Auxiliary meetings.

Executive.—That in the event of a soldier settler dying, his widow or family be allowed to carry on under the same conditions as the soldier.

That Auxiliaries be divided into districts similar to sub-branches, and a member of the Executive be allocated to represent each district.

Victoria Park.—That past and present presidents and secretaries, or any other energetic worker for the movement, be entitled to a Certificate of Service, as men have, and it be issued at the annual general meeting. (Not less than three years' service, as per Rule 26 of the K.S.L. Men's Rules of W.A.)

Washing.—That a medical fund be established on similar lines to a lodge's widows, returned men's wives and children to benefit from same. A fixed contribution to be paid each year and only those who would benefit from same to join.

In answer to a question submitted by Subiaco it was explained that if a returned soldier who served in the A.I.F., and never received a pension, dies of heart trouble, his widow is eligible for a pension if the trouble was accepted as war-caused.

Election of Officers
State President, Mrs. T. C. Wilson, was unanimously re-elected State President; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames T. E. T. Marshall and A. G. Kirby; State Secretary, Mrs. H. Hopper (re-elected unopposed); Assistant Secretary, Mrs. L. G. Cole (re-elected unopposed); Trustees, Mesdames H. A. Lewis, M. L. McNally and E. Kretzner; Committee: Mesdames Halliday, Ellement, Stubberfield, Stockman, St. George, Blakemore and Taylor. Mrs. Withnall (Bruce Rock) was next on the list with 30 votes.

During the afternoon session Mr. J. Cornell, M.L.C., attended Congress to explain various clauses of the Constitution and was warmly welcomed.

The conference was visited by the State President W.A. Branch R.S.L. (Colonel Collett), and Vice-President, Archdeacon C. H. Collett. Collett's address to the conference was received with acclamation.

ANNUAL REPORT

The report was read to the R.S.L. Congress by the President (Mr. Wilson), which body, in considering it, made the following decisions—
(a) That the suggested alterations to the Women's Auxiliary Constitution be endorsed.
(b) That the following be referred to the League Land Committee: That all exports from W.A., such as butter, eggs, wheat, fruit, etc., be marked or branded.
That a more strict supervision be given to dairy herds and methods of milk distribution.
(e) That the following be referred to the League's Pension Committee:
1. That we do not favour big reductions in soldiers' pensions, and that the Government be urged to try and find some other method of saving.
2. That the Conference presents against wives and children of ex-soldiers having their pensions reduced whilst single ex-soldiers' pensions remained untouched. Why should some individuals collect several pensions? To further economy, we suggest this matter should be gone into by the Renaturation Department.
3. That a protest be made against any further reductions of soldiers' wives' and children's pensions now, being passed by the Emergency Bill.
4. That the long wait of sick soldiers.

On enquiry, North Perth, Perth, Maylands, Subiaco, and Bassendean Auxiliaries advised that they had been in the habit of taking concert parties periodically.

After discussion it was decided that a schedule should be drawn up as soon as fixed, and sent to each auxiliary.

Xmas Party.—It was moved by Mrs. Ellement, seconded by Mrs. Kirby: That the next united social should take the form of a Xmas Party, to be held on Monday, December 7th, at the Soldiers' Institute, Perth, at 8 p.m. Supper arrangements will be in the hands of North Perth and Mr. Hawthorn.

It was decided that each auxiliary should provide two dozen paper caps; Kelmscott Auxiliary the streamers, and Mr. Hawthorn the prizes for the lucky spot-walks.

Auxiliary members were asked to wear their Poppy Day colours, and to mix well together.

Perth.—An appeal for clothing was made by this Auxiliary.

A letter was received from Mr. Baker, of the Ex-Naval Men's Association, thanking Auxiliary members for their help on "Jack's Day." Mrs. Hopper reported that eleven adults and eight children were supplied with clothing.

The matter of the entertainment of soldier patients in hospital was referred to the next meeting, pending enquiries.

Poppy Day Meeting.—Mrs. Hopper reported that at the Poppy Day meeting, 112 sub-branches were present. For the first time, this year poppies would be made locally, the successful tenderer being Mrs. J. Roberts, of 14 Leonard Street, Victoria Park. Mrs. Roberts has donated three sets of baskets flowers for the best sellers on Poppy Day. One set to Victoria Park, one to the three best town sellers, and one set to the three best country sellers.

It was decided that the question of prizes be referred to the Poppy Day meeting.

Office.—It was resolved that the Secretary write to the House Committee asking them to have the Women's Auxiliary Office kept clean, and polished once a week, the same as the rest of the Institute.

Retiring Officers.—Sorrow was expressed by Mrs. Wilson at losing the services of Mesdames Richardson, Randall, and Noble, retiring mem-

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PERTH

November 27, 1931
The new Executive of the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary met on Monday, the 16th, when the Secretary reported that clothing had been given to seven adults and sixteen children, also two baby sets. It was agreed that the committee comprised the following new articles (boys), 7 pair trousers; 3 flannel, 3 blouses, (girls) 4 pair pants, 5 petticoats, 9 dresses, (babies) 6 nighties, 24 squares, 4 petticoats, 4 dresses, 2 bonnets, 1 coat, 1 shawl, 2 pairs booties; 1 pair men's pyjamas, and 26 yards new material. The meeting on alternate Wednesdays to deal with correspondence from applicants for clothing.

Cigarettes were distributed to soldiers in civilian wards, Perth Hospital. The Committee decided to take over the work of providing motor outings for soldiers and sailors in Repatriation Hospitals. To facilitate the work, a sub-committee was formed, comprising Mrs. T. C. Wilson (State President), Mrs. H. Hopperton (State Secretary), L. Marshall, Ketterer, and Stockman.

**GUILDFORD-BASSENDENEAN**

The popular girl competition, held in Bassendean for unemployment relief funds, finished on 9th October. The S.L. candidate, Miss L. Kennedy, was crowned queen, having won with a majority of 2,250 votes. The committee formed from the sub-branch and Women's Auxiliary are to be congratulated upon the successful result of their strenuous efforts.

The first official (district) dance for the season took place in Forrest Hall, on October 23rd. Games and old-time dancing were thoroughly enjoyed, as were also the solos and recitations given by members and friends during the evening. Mrs. T. C. Wilson, State President, attended. After supper she spoke to the gathering of the assistance and pleasure that the Women's Auxiliary have been able, this year especially, to bring into the lives of others less fortunate, and urged on all to continue the good work.

At the monthly meeting of the Auxiliary, held on November 12th, Mrs. Gallagher, a Vice-President, gave an interesting demonstration on the making of quilts and the spinning of the sheep's wool. The members followed closely the washing and teasing of the wool, and the method of quilt making.

**BRUCE ROCK**

On the representation of the President of the outstanding need for infants' clothes, special working bees have been inaugurated, and many members are busy making up materials provided for by Amelioration Funds.

At the invitation of the local sub-branch, the auxiliary undertook to sell the poppies in the district, and realised the sum of £14/9s., the best individual seller being our President, who sold 215 poppies, bringing a total of £10/15s.

Armistice Day was observed with due solemnity: at the honour board in the Road Board Hall, where, after the two-minutes' silence, the President of the local sub-branch (Mr. H. Wilkins) hung a wreath on the honour board, followed in turn by the President of the Women's Auxiliary (Mr. R. W. Wilkins), the Chairman of the Roads Board (Mr. F. C. Parrell), the children of the State school, who laid the three wreaths that they had made, and which were carried in procession by children of returned men. A large concourse of general public also assembled to join in this great duty. The church bell was tolled by the former Scout Master (Mr. K. Laffter). One verse of "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," was sung, and by the courtesy of one of the R.S.L. members, we heard the "Last Post" and the "Reveille." These were followed by the service.

Later in the day the wreaths, etc., were conveyed by returned soldiers and members of the Women's Auxiliary to the local cemetery, and distributed among the graves of returned men.

At night the Auxiliary held the annual Poppy Day dance in the Road Board Hall. The Committee have been the recipients of endless congratulations on the event, the orchestra, floor, and supper calling for unstinted praise. As the result, £4/18s. was raised for Amelioration purposes. At supper opportunity was taken to present the President (who has been granted six months' leave of absence) with a small token of appreciation of her work by her fellow auxiliary members. This pleasant task fell to the lot of the Secretary (Mrs. G. Mansbridge). Future activities include "Pound Day," in aid of the local memorial hospital, when it is hoped to replenish its store cupboard. Early in December an evening will be given to assist two of our members, who both represent different sections of the district in a Popular Girl Contest.

At the October meeting Mrs. M. E. Finlayson was elected to the office of Treasurer, vice Mrs. F. Bullimore, who resigned owing to ill-health.

**PERTH**

The half-yearly meeting of the Perth Women's Auxiliary was held on the 3rd inst., and the Secretary's report showed that the previous six months had been crammed full of activities. No less than 21 concerts had been given to soldiers patients in the various institutions as follows:—5 at Lennox, 6 at Edward Millen, and 2 at the Repatriation Ward. No less than 6 concerts were given for various unemployed funds, and one for the funds of a Christmas Tree at Cannington. At each visit to the hospitals, literature and smokes were distributed, and 100 oz. of tobacco and 126 packets of cigarettes were some of the items dispensed. Regular visits were maintained at the Perth Hospital, where not only the soldiers, but the wives of soldiers, were attended to with their many little wants. Many cases of distress were investigated, and clothing, blankets, rugs, boots and shoes were distributed to those in need. The Auxiliary helped in Jack's Day appeal, with the result that the Auxiliary were able to hand over £20/10/6 to the Ex-Servicemen's Association.

Mesdames Weare and Cayley, the delegates for the recent conference, read their report, and they were thanked sincerely for their keen interest and local support.

The supper-cloth, donated by Miss E. Page, realised £1/7s. 6d., which has been placed in the general funds of the Auxiliary.

The balance sheet showed a very healthy state of affairs, and the Secretary was congratulated on having such a low expenditure with a maximum of activity.

Office-bearers for the ensuing year are—President: Mrs. Weare; Vice-President, Mesdames Jamieson and Brown; Treasurer, Mrs. Cayley; Secretary, Mrs. Page-Lennox.

**MERREDIN**

The last monthly meeting was held at the Town Hall, on October 16th. The President, Mrs. D. Haines, presided over a good attendance. On this day was our annual egg day for the local hospital. There were 32 dozen collected for the good cause. The Secretary was instructed to send a letter of sympathy to Mrs. R. Nugent, on the death of her son, to Mr. Nugent. As the result of Poppy Day the Amelioration Fund will benefit by the sum of £20/11/9.

**RAILWAY WORKSHOPS**

On November 16th, 1931, the home of Mrs. Lovell, Sixth Avenue, Maylands, was the scene of a delightful evening arranged by the ladies of the Railway Workshops Women's Auxiliary. The evening took the form of a surprise party and presentation to Mrs. Lovell. Mrs. Lovell was the original Treasurer of this Auxiliary, and has been Secretary for something over twelve months.

Mrs. McGraw (the President), was in charge of proceedings, whilst Mrs. Irvine, at the piano, ably assisted by the other members, succeeded in making everyone present feel at home.

Mrs. McGraw, in presenting Mrs. Lovell with a suitably inscribed handsome eight-day clock,
Stud Stock

At the recent State Congress a motion was carried urging the Government to increase stud stock in all districts. Mr. G. L. Sutton, the Director of Agriculture, in his response to a communication from the State Secretary, stated:-

"In order to assist the horse-breeding industry, the Government has for some years past provided a sum from which subsidies are granted on a $ for $ basis for the purchase of approved stallions, and that this year the sum of $1,100 was provided for by the Government in this connection.

Further, the Hon. Premier, when recently in Melbourne, arranged for a special grant from which stud stock was purchased. This stock comprised pigs and cattle, and a great number of the animals have already arrived in the State, and will be stationed at Muresk College, the Denmark Stud Farm, and Abbavale Farm, in the Busselton district."

You are also probably aware that a stallion, 'Fine Dignity,' was also recently purchased in the Eastern States, and is at present stationed at the Muresk College."

Unemployed Diggers

A return forwarded recently from the Federal Office to the State Secretary, gave the unemployment figures for October, as regards ex-servicemen in the various States. They are as follows:-Victoria, 7,340; N.S.W., 1,075; W.A., 1,029; S.A., 1,014; Queensland, 984; Tasmania, 101.

The R.S.L. and Peace

Colonel Collett was invited by the Women's Peace Movement to speak at their Peace Meeting, at Perth, on the 15th November. He was unable to attend, and in his communication to the Secretary, stated:-

Perhaps I might be permitted to state that your desire to institute a general movement for the promotion of international peace has the best wishes of the members of the R.S.L., who, by virtue of their service abroad, have gained a first-hand knowledge of what war means—not only to those who take part in the actual combat, but also to the people who, whilst hostilities are in progress (and even after they cease), suffer untold privation, grief and loss. We are, place, peace is not to be secured by dis- however, of the opinion that, in the first armament, but that disarmament will, as a natural consequence, follow real peace when attained.

The first step can be taken at home.

International strife is the inevitable outcome of national unrest, and that condition is brought about through misunderstandings and lack of true patriotism. If we can induce our people to be a little more charitable and tolerant towards one another, and our public men to place their country before themselves, to encourage honesty and truth, and abolish greed for place and power, we will have laid a sure foundation upon which to build a social structure that will undoubtedly react favourably upon the nations beyond our shores.

The task is a difficult one, but our experience teaches us that there is every reason and justification for any and every attempt to accomplish it. In Australia the women can help perhaps more than in most countries.
An Invitation

HAVE A SHOT AT IT!

In Spinfex Western Australians are to be offered a monthly literary symposium of the most original and significant matter. Its editors are able to procure sketches, short stories, articles, verse, and criticism that will find a place in its pages. To make the publication of the magazine possible, however, the literary public must take the project to its heart. An appeal is made, therefore, to all who are interested in literature in general, and Western Australian literature in particular, to display their interest in a practical way by becoming subscribers to Spinfex in advance of publication, and further, to regard their subscriptions primarily in the light of donations to literature, and only secondly as payment for value to be received. The subscription is twelve shillings per annum.

Advance subscriptions will be utilised as the capital of the magazine, and, until five hundred subscribers have been secured, no further move will be made. But, when that number is reached, publication will be commenced.

Until the full quota of subscribers is obtained, Mr. W. R. Murray, of St. George’s Terrace, and Mr. E. S. Watt, Managing Director of the Imperial Printing Co. Ltd., will act jointly as trustees for subscribers. If the necessary quota is not obtained within six months from the date above, all subscriptions will be returned in full.

None of the capital, created by subscribers will be available for payment of contributors, editors, or managers. It will be used solely to defray the expenses of printing (at printers’ cost) and publication. Revenue from sales and advertising must exceed these charges before any further disbursements are made, but, when revenue does exceed them, the surplus will be distributed as follows:

(a) One-third to the editors and managers in payment of their services; 15 per cent. of the net cost of printing to the printer as his profit; 2d. per line to contributors for published contributions, and equivalent space rate to artists.

Should the surplus available be insufficient to pay the above charges in full, they shall be paid in the ratio which the amount available actually bears to the amount necessary for full payment. In the event of an undistributed revenue remaining, it shall be disbursed as follows:

(b) One-quarter to contributors on a lineage basis, as a bonus; one-quarter to those subscribing in advance of publication, and one-half to the editors and managers as the proprietors, who naturally will need to build up a fund to ensure continuous production.

Should the sanguine hopes of its mentors prove misplaced, subscribers may receive only four or five issues for their money, but they will share the profits if the venture be a success.

The Editor (Mr. William Murray), Assistant Editors (Messrs. J. M. Harcourt and Peter Hopegood), the Manager (Mr. E. S. Watt), and the Assistant Manager (Mr. A. Clemenson), are wholly confident of success. They believe Spinfex will fill a void in the aesthetic and intellectual life of W.A. Spinfex will constitute a new market for the work of local writers and artists. Its catholic pages, espousing no special school, party, code, cult of philosophy, will be open to any writer or artist whose work is of sufficient merit to justify inclusion, and who is prepared to gamble with the subscribers and promoters upon the success of the venture.

The editors are assured of the support of all the leading writers whose acquaintance they enjoy, and any writer or artist who has not yet been approached is asked to take this preamble as an invitation to get in touch with them.

This is a worthy project. Will you give it your support? Send your subscription, or information of your intention to subscribe to: "SPINFEX,” 197 Hay Street, Perth.

Who’s Who in the League

PETER ROSS, OF WEST PERTH

Peter Ross, the hard-working Secretary of the West Perth Sub-Branch, who was recently awarded a Certificate of Service, was born in Glasgow, but came to Australia, via New Zealand, long enough ago to lose all traces of the Glasgow accent. After a sojourn in Broken Hill, as Chief Clerk of the Silverton Tramway Company, he came to Western Australia, in 1896, and joined the Railway Service of this State. He rose through the usual grades to the position of station master at the old Guildford station, whence he was transferred to the goldfields. He was stationed at Southern Cross at the time of the Bullfinch boom. Then the Murchison called him, and he spent some time at Mt. Magnet and Cue.

One of the veteran railway men of this State, he had, once working under him, Mr. Wilcock, M.L.A., the gentleman who wants us to take more water with our whisky. During the war, Peter served with the Anzac Railway Corps, in which unit he held the rank of Sergeant. Of late years he has been an official of the War Service and Workers’ Homes Department, and the mainstay of the West Perth Sub-Branch. He is also on the Committee of the W.A. Civil Service Association. An indefatigable worker of the type that prefers consistent effort to showy oratory, he finds his chief relaxation in the library of the Perth Literary Institute.
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Armistice Night in an Estaminet

(By M.H.M.)

The exciting events leading up to and including the cessation of hostilities on November 11th, 1918, were re-enacted by members of the South Perth Sub-Branch, in the Swan Street Hall, on Friday night, 25th September. Including visiting ex-service men, an attendance of approximately 120 answered the "fall in," and from "Reveille" to "Lights out," the fun waxed fast and furious, and one more highly successful evening in the life history of the sub-branch was recorded.

The important toast of the King, and the very impressive tribute to Fallen Comrades having been honoured, attention was drawn to a scene in a dug-out in one corner of the battalion were eagerly discussing plans for an early attack on the enemy, when a sergeant-major from Division Headquarters appeared, and saluted in the approved S.M. style, announcing that he was the bearer of a special despatch. Having been told in very earnest and sincere army language by the C.O. that the conference was not to be interrupted by a sergeant-major from Headquarters, the S.M., nevertheless, persisted in his announcement that he was the bearer of a special despatch. His persistence being eventually rewarded, the despatch was read, and revealed the startling fact that hostilities would cease at 11 a.m. on the 11th Day of November, 1918.

Following this dug-out scene with its memorable developments, the troops found themselves seated around small tables in the "Estaminet de Rouge et Noir," with numbers of dainty (?) waitresses tripping lightly around with jug in hand endeavouring to cope with the heavy demands for liquid refreshment. Seated round the piano were three staunch members of the Chinese Labour Corps, each having discarded his rifle and bayonet (we mean chop sticks and spade) for musical instruments with which to enliven the auspicious occasion, and happy and contented in the firm belief that no more exploding shells or bombs were to be expected. Unfortunately for these brave, troops, some misguided soldier (dare we suggest it was a digger?) playfully released a Mills bomb (or was it a large cracker?) from its dormant condition, and the resultant explosion caused a riot, and a disorderly retreat in the ranks of the brave trench diggers. Order being restored once more, the troops were called to attention, to pay due homage to the arrival of an excited and popular personage, to wit, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. To the strains of appropriate music from the orchestra, His Highness advanced through a crowd of cheering troops, shaking hands both right and left as he advanced to the table set aside for noted celebrities. The G.O.C., at this stage, called for a song from one of the assembled troops, an Australian digger being chosen for this item. The applause which followed the singing of a well-known ballad was so pronounced that an "encore" was rendered, followed by all the troops lustily singing a number of war-time choruses. An announcement by the guard on the door that two very notable personages had arrived, and were about to enter, caused a breathless silence. Who could they be? Doubt and conjecture were quickly dispersed when a stately and haughty person advanced with measured tread, followed by a thin, meek looking individual, both being arrayed in the uniform of the German Army. The Kaiser and his illustrious son, Little Willie, had arrived! Many and varied were the complimentary remarks of welcome hurled at the two celebrities by the troops from France, England, Australia, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, etc. The President of the French Republic, who was a very prominent figure throughout the evening, favoured the Kaiser with a very expressive look, and said something very quickly in his own language, which was hardly intelligible to either the Kaiser or the troops in general. The excitement caused by this last mentioned arrival had barely subsided when a great cheer announced that Admiral Beatty had arrived in H.M. Flagship "Whizzbang." The excitement was intense as the great ship was carried (sorry, we mean steered) by the Admiral himself, with a Jack Tar in the bow, causing the great ship to roll badly, and standing by to throw out the anchor.

The Admiral being safely landed and escorted to the table of honour; an officer of high rank was called upon to propose the toast of the Allies. In a remarkable speech, which will, no doubt, be handed down the ages, each and every Ally was accorded a word of praise for having gained a decisive victory over the German arm. An interlude that caused considerable amusement, if not surprise, occurred here, when the President of the French Republic was seen to be dancing the "Tango" with one of the Estaminet waitresses, during an orchestral rendering of a popular dance tune. When the applause had subsided, Admiral Beatty and the French President were called upon to respond to the toast of the Allies. The Admiral made an excellent speech, but that which followed from the French President, we are fain to admit, was a gem of eloquence, sincerity and humour, the President, as he extended his final personal expression of thanks to the troops, being almost overcome with emotion. The G.O.C. here announced that "hot dogs" and rolls would be served by Madame of the Estaminet, who was very popular with the troops throughout the evening, on account of her charming manner and good looks. One did not have to look very far to locate a figure of affectionate memory, wandering disconsolately round the Estaminet, namely, Old Bill, apparently looking for his "better 'ole." Old Bill received a rousing welcome from the troops when his entry was announced earlier in the even-
The Listening Post
November 27, 1931

State War Memorial

SIR WILLIAM LATHLAIN’S REPORT TO CONGRESS

As the Warden for the State War Memorial, I have pleasure in submitting my report for the past year.

It is interesting to know that the whole of the names of the men who fell, those who have since died of wounds, and those who were West Australians enlistings in other parts of the British Dominions, have all been included; this makes a total number of about 7,000 names. The classification in connection with this work was a very arduous one and Colonel Collett deserves our sincere thanks for undertaking it.

The next item of importance is that the flood lighting has been completed and has given to the memorial another mark of great significance. The whole of the lamps and apparatus was given by a donor who desires to remain anonymous, and in addition to this a number of men who also desire to remain anonymous gave their services in connection with the completion of the work. A great deal of detailed work was necessary in order to get the correct formation, and I am sure that the public generally are delighted with the splendid effect. Our hearts are full of gratitude to the donors.

I also desire to express my appreciation of the splendid work done by the West Perth Sub-Branch in patrolling and guarding the Memorial on holidays and Sundays, and this has been found to be very necessary. As an Australian, I regret to say that we have not yet learned to pay that reverence to the Memorial which is paid in other countries; such as in London, every one pays as they pass the Cenotaph, but I am sure if we all work together and endeavour to inculcate a spirit of reverence into the hearts of, particularly, the younger generation, then we shall have accomplished something worth while.

We have yet to deal with the Crypt underneath, and it is proposed that the badges in bronze of the various regiments will be inscribed there, but this is for some future consideration, and I hope to see everything entirely completed during the forthcoming year.

I congratulate the League on appointing General Hobbs as my successor, as I am sure that there is no one who has given so much time and his talent for the erection of the Memorial, than our much-loved General has. It has been to him a work of love, and I am sure we are very, very proud, not only of him, but of the splendid work he has done for the citizens.

Soldiers’ Scholarship Fund

The Rev. C. L. Riley submitted the following report to Congress on behalf of the Trustees (General Hobbs, Rabbi Freedman and Colonel Lamb) for the Scholarship Fund for children of deceased Sailors and Soldiers of W.A. The report was received and thanks tendered.

You will remember that on the issue of War Gratuity Bonds, the Federal Executive of the League issued an appeal to returned soldiers to make donations from their War Gratuity Bonds to a fund to assist in the education of the children of deceased soldiers and sailors. The response to this appeal resulted in a sum of £2,623/8/-, which sum was handed to the undersigned as Trustees.

The fund was invested in Commonwealth Inscribed Stock and this has now been augmented by an amount of £47/13/19, representing premium on the Conversion of Commonwealth Stock into the National Debt Conversion Loan. The fund, therefore, now amounts to £2,671/1/10, the investment thereof being represented in National-Debt Conversion Loan Inscribed Stock £2,670, and cash at Commonwealth Savings Bank, £1/1/10.

Since the inception of the fund an amount of £1,700/0/6 has been received in interest and this has been applied in the payment of school fees, school books and travelling allowances to the children of deceased soldiers in those cases which such assistance is not provided under the Repatriation Educational Scheme.

We feel that a very useful and important work is being carried on in this direction.

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Personalities

There passed away at Northampton, on the 14th November, Jack Lee, of the Railway Hotel. During the war Jack steered his motor car into Blackboy, left it there for the use of the military officials, and enlisted. He served abroad with the 4th Field Ambulance. Jack was a big hearted fellow, and he was followed to his last resting place by the whole of the returned soldier population of his district.

Bill Waterman, the proprietor of the well-known firm of furnishers, announces in this issue that he has secured the rights of sale of Champion radio sets. Those contemplating purchasing a set are recommended to get in touch with Bill, who will give them a fair deal. They will also be giving preference to a fellow digger. Bill joined the 16th Battalion, was wounded at Bullecourt, in April, 1917, and was invalided home. He was one of the original members of the R.S.A. (as it was then called), and is to-day a member of the Cottesloe Sub-Branch.

A good soldier answered the call on October 25th, when Mr. William T. Richardson passed away after a brief illness. Mr. Richardson served with the 10th Light Horse. He was born at Barcelona, Spain, and had an interesting and varied career. At the time of his death he was Poultry Adviser to the Department of Agriculture.

Australia lost a capable soldier when Brigadier-General W. H. Cass died in Melbourne, a fortnight ago, from the effects of an appendicitis operation. The deceased was a native of Albury, and commenced his military career in that town's volunteer artillery unit. He served in the Boer War with the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles, and was present at the disastrous action at Wilmansrust. Joining the permanent forces after the Boer War, he soon attained commissioned rank. He left Australia as a Brigade-Major with the First Division, served through the Gallipoli Campaign, and was in command of the 54th Battalion when he was wounded at Fleurbaix. The bullet passed through the upper part of his chest, narrowly missing the aorta and several other important blood vessels, the rupture of any one of which would have proved fatal. The late General, who had been stationed in every State of the Commonwealth, had recently been appointed to the command of the Third Military District when death claimed him at the age of fifty-five.

Colonel H. B. Collett is happily recovered from his recent attack of influenza, and is on duty once more. His illness prevented him from accepting an invitation to deliver a speech to be broadcasted on behalf of the Prosperity Campaign.

Among the many victims of the recent "flu" epidemic, was General Sir Talbot Hobbs, who was unable to attend a luncheon of the Press Sub-Branch on November 19th.

Owing to difficulty being experienced in finding the time to adequately do the work, F. A. "Dick" Law, of Merredin, has resigned the Secretaryship of his sub-branch. "Dick" is one of the many ex-Imperials who are working loyally and well in the Movement. Those who read his articles in this journal under the heading, "Our Economic Problems," will recognise in Dick a keen student. He is also fluent of tongue, and a keen and fair debater. During his secretarial term the Merredin Sub-Branch won the much coveted Newdegate Cup.

A Pension Anomaly

In the report of the Pensions Committee to the meeting of the State Executive on November 12th, a case was mentioned of a soldier pensioner who died a fortnight before the birth of his third child. The Repatriation Department had refused to grant a dependant's pension to the child, as stated, it was debarred from doing so by the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act. The Act provided that pensions payable to dependants at the death of a pensioner should continue indefinitely, but, in the opinion of the Pensions Committee, it was not intended by the framers of the Act to debar pension rights in such cases as the one under notice. Through the Federal Executive the anomaly is being referred to the Commonwealth Minister concerned.
Varia

A. R. E. Leader, the Hon. Secretary of Kendale Sub-Branch, writes:—My committee desire me to insert an appeal in your paper for men's clothing and boots, also Christmas cheer for the kiddies. We realise that conditions are not good anywhere, but we hope that this appeal will come under the notice of some who can, and will, assist. Articles placed on rail and addressed to Mr. Leader, at Denmark, and marked “Donation to Group Settlers,” will be carried free on rail. Articles left at the office of the Listening Post will be forwarded to the right quarter, and we urge those who can to give a helping hand.

Bil, the B., writes from Nedlands—
“I was intrigued to notice that on Sunday, November 15th, the Rev. N. B. Richards raised the question, “Can the Churches Prevent War?” and that the reverend gentleman wrote a peace hymn for the occasion. Seeing that, for the last 2,000 years the churches have been trying to abolish sin, with doubtful success, I, for one, can’t see how they are going to abolish war. How does Mr. Richards reconcile his attitude on Armistice Day and Anzac Day with his prominence in the annual celebration of the Battle of the Boyne? Apparently war isn’t criminal if it occurred long enough ago.

The Italian community of W.A. is about to publish a newspaper of its own, in Italian, of course. We suggest that our new contemporary might increase its number of subscribers by making members of other Southern European races honorary Italians.

A.S. writes:—In regard to the stoppage of rail and tram passes to manned and limbless soldiers, I think the State Executive have failed in their duty to ex-service men—A vital principle is involved, and action should have been taken long since. It is no use the State Executive falling back on the old canard “that we are watching the position.” If the matter could not have been dealt with in conjunction with the M. & L. Association (who, by the way, have got nowhere), the League should have acted on behalf of the many M. & L. men who are members of the R.S.L.

It does certainly appear anomalous that while the R.S.L. Executive is marking time, and the M. & L. soldiers are on sick parade, members of Parliament, Government officials and others are still enjoying the privilege of free travel.

We have received many letters and verbal expressions of appreciation of the poem of Captain C. R. Collins, published in our last issue, “Ode on the Death of Sir John Monash.” It was certainly an effort worthy of such great a subject, and we are grateful for the kindly thought that prompts such appreciative expression.

The Listening Post is your own paper, its pages being used solely in the interests of ex-service men. Assist our movement by sending to us personal pars, appropriate episodes of the war, or current comment. Every digger has something of interest to tell. Send it to us.

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The spirit of emulation is still with us. Passing through Trinity Arcade, during Armistice week, we noticed a calico sign advertising the Rev. N. B. Richard’s sermon for Sunday, November 15th. The banner of strange device bore the legend: “Can the Churches Prevent War? Meston and Walters did it.”

The Returned Army Nurses held their annual re-union dinner at the Karrajattna Club, Perth, on Armistice Night. Thirty-six Sisters attended, and after dinner the evening was spent playing bridge, and talking over old times. It is good to see these splendid women getting together.

The Nurses’ Club has been removed from W.A.T.C. buildings, to No. 2, 4th Floor, Orient Buildings, William Street, Perth.

Will Auxiliary Members, who require group photographs of Congress Delegates, please get in touch with Mr. Viveash, Illustrations Ltd., Bungalow Buildings, 870a Hay Street, Perth, where copies are available.

“What’s the first thing you do when cleaning your rifle?” the sergeant demanded.

“Look at the number,” said the hard case.

“Oh,” said the sergeant, “and what’s the big idea?”

“To make sure I don’t clean someone else’s.”

USE

FLORIDA OR MT. LYELL
SUPERPHOSPHATE AND
...MIXED MANURES...

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THE FARMERS’ COMPANY

Victoria Insurance Co.

The Oldest Australian Office. Est. 1849

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C. H. Curlewis, Manager

355 Victoria Arcade, St. George’s Terrace, Perth
Carson Speaking

Full of wise saws and modern instances is the solution to depression put forward in "Carson Speaking (And Others), A Warning by H. C. Farewell." It is a plain man's judgment of the times and the remedies he suggests for their betterment, set out in plain language, to stimulate the minds of other plain men and women. The author has read widely, and has gone to considerable trouble to prepare and marshal his subject matter. Even those who fail to agree with his conclusions will derive food for thought in this courageous statement of our weaknesses, and the sincere suggestions for their improvement. The author, who uses the pen-name of "H. C. Farewell," is a digger, and an active member of the Press Sub-Branch. Those readers who were interested in the discussions on economic questions, published in the Listening Post earlier in the year, are recommended to read this booklet, which can be bought from any bookseller for one shilling, the profits of the publication being used on behalf of the unemployed.

32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION

A gathering of the Members of the 32nd Battalion (A.I.F.) Association will be held at the R.S.L. Rooms on the evening of December 22nd for the purpose of getting together to wish each other a Merry Xmas and the Season's Good Wishes.

The Committee is now at work making arrangements that the occasion will not altogether be a "dry" one, so all ex-members of the 32nd Battalion are asked to come along and help make the occasion a festive one.

Now, Tivey's Chocs, remember the date—December 22nd, at 8 p.m., R.S.L. Rooms.

C.O. (addressing new recruit in Battalion Orderly Room): "Yes, my man, I want you to consider the Regiment a great band of brothers, and I am the father of the Regiment. Are you perfectly sure you understand?"

Very Raw Recruit: "Yes, Dad."

The League's Activities

STATE EXECUTIVE MEETING

October 28th, 1931.

At the meeting of the State Executive held at the Soldiers' Institute on Wednesday, October 28, 1931, there were present Colonel Collett, Messrs. Yeates, Philips, Tyler, Denton, Olden, Cooper, Hollis, Lowell, Edmonds, Panton, Nicholson, Watt, Farquharson, Pady, Nugent, Mellor, Bader, and Cornell. Messrs. Riley, Gillett, and C. F. Smith had previously been granted leave of absence. Apologies were received from Messrs. Birtwistle, Margolin and Parker.

Secretary's Report—The State Secretary reported that Mr. A. Panton had agreed to represent the League on the Art Union Control Committee. Reference was also made to the number of widows who, by re-marriage, had relinquished benefits they had previously received under the Repatriation Act, and who were subsequently compelled, by adverse circumstances to approach the League for aid. The Secretary expressed regret that the advice given by R.S.L. officials to widows before re-marriage had not always been followed with the result that, in some instances, the children of deceased soldiers were left unprotected. The report also mentioned negotiations, between the Secretary and Mr. McLarty, concerning the disturbance of settlers over the harvest period. It would appear that settlers using horses for transport were quite safe, but little hope was held out of securing fuel supplies for those farming withtractors.

Finance—The report of the Finance Committee meeting held on October 21st was read and adopted. The Finance Committee recommended the acceptance of the quotation received from Mr. F. T. Rogers for the manufacture of financial crowns. It was decided to order 6,000. Mr. Rogers is a local manufacturer. A motion, moved by Mr. Yeates, seconded by Mr. Hunt, that the Finance and House Committees collaborate and discuss the financial position of the League and the Institute, and report to the State Executive, was carried.

House Committee.—The House Committee's report drew attention to the difficulty it had, each year, in providing accommodation for unit reunions. It was decided that unit associations intending to hold re-unions during Show Week should lodge their applications with the State Executive on or before January 1st, each year and that the House Committee then allot a night for the holding of each function, so as to prevent overlapping. It was decided to make available at the Institute accommodation for all soldiers functions at a fee of £1, and for non-military bodies at a fee of £1/10/.

Empire and Local Trading.—The report of the Empire and Local Trading Committee meeting, held on October 21st, was received and adopted. This report mentioned that the South Perth Sub-Branch had been asked to arrange an exhibition of local produce to be held during November. It is understood that the Nedlands Sub-Branch is arranging a similar exhibition for the first week of December, and it was decided to ask the Mr. Lawley Sub-Branch to undertake similar action in the third week of December. The object of these exhibitions is to stimulate the Christmas trade in local products, the suggested slogan being "For Christmas trade; buy locally made." The State Secretary was instructed to include in his monthly circular to sub-branches a reminder urging officials and members to do their best to further the sales of locally-made goods. The sub-committee mentioned that attention had been drawn to cases where local manufacturers had not given preference to local traders when buying products. It was suggested that such matters be rectified before much progress was made with the exhibition of the manufacturers' own goods.

Pensions and Employment Committee.—The report of the meeting of the Pensions and Employment Committee, held on October 19th, was received and adopted. The report stated that Mr. Panton had again offered to undertake the duties of official visitor to Ward 11, and his offer had been accepted. The committee asked for a ruling as to whether new business should be dealt with in the first instance by the committee or by the State Executive. It was moved by Mr. Cornell and seconded by Mr. Edmonds, that unless otherwise directed by the President, all matters regarding the office, pertaining to its conduct, go direct to each committee, and each committee shall have power to finalise all matters coming before it, except those involving policy, which shall be referred to the full Executive. The motion was carried.

Land Committee.—Mr. Yeates submitted a report of the Land Committee meeting held on October 19th, and also of a deputation which, on October 25th, met the Premier and placed before him resolutions passed by the State Congress urging the committee to investigate, by appointment to its members, the conditions under which the Crown grants land, and whether the question of tenure over the whole of the debt, and, referring to the deferring of accumulated interest, he thought the Government would be satisfied if the current interest was paid. On the motion of Mr. Yeates and Colonel Nicholson, the report was adopted. Colonel Nicholson read extracts from a leading article in the "West Australian," and moved, with Mr. Farquharson as second, that the Executive adopt the statements contained in the leading article of the "West Australian," on October 28th, and endorses its demand that prompt action be taken by the Government. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the consideration of this item until the next Executive meeting.

Motor Trust Fund.—Mr. Philip, on behalf of the Trustees, reported that consideration had been given to the request that the League undertake the work carried out by this Trust, that is, providing motor outings for hospital patients. The report stated that the Women's Auxiliaries were now extensively organised in almost all suburbs, a great deal of the work of providing
motor could be done by voluntary effort. It is understood that the Auxiliaries have acquiesced in this. The report was received and adopted.

"Listening Post."—On behalf of the committee appointed to confer with the proprietor of "The Listening Post," Mr. Tozer submitted an interim report which was received.

The report for the month of October of the Leomos Board of Visitors was received.

Poppy Day.—The Poppy Day Committee reported that it had met the delegates from metropolitan sub-branches on October 14, to discuss the organisation for this year's appeal. Country sub-branches, as resolved by the Chief Mechanical Engineer, were permitted to hold an appeal on a day, other than November 11, best suited to local conditions, subject to the approval of the State Executive, to which body application to alter the day of appeal must be made. Poppy would be sold at the rate of 1/- each, fourpence of which is to be forwarded to the State Executive within thirty days. From the balance any incidental expenses will be deducted and half the remainder credited to Colonel Collet's Aged Soldiers' Fund.

Chief Mechanical Engineer.—The State President reported that enquiries had been made into problems against the recent appointment of the Chief Mechanical Engineer, and recommended that the sub-branch concerned be informed that the State Executive, after enquiry, is to take any further action.

Visits—Colonel Olden reported having represented the Executive at the 16th Battalion Reunion. Mr. Nugent reported having visited the North Perth Sub-branch, and Mr. Panton, on his visit to No. 11 Ward.

General.—The Federal Secretary forwarded a copy of an extract of a report of the Employment Secretariat of the Premier's Conference, in September, 1931, dealing with assistance to the gold mining industry. This was referred to the mining and prospecting committee. Figures for the various Unemployment Bureaux throughout the Commonwealth were received, and are published in another column.

It was decided that the State Secretary and Assistant State Secretary should attend the re-union of the New South Wales Sub-branch. In response to other invitations, Messrs. Yeates and Tozer were invited to visit the Darling Range Sub-branch on November 11, and Archdeacon Riley, Traralgon, on November 7. An invitation from the Treasurer, Royal Sub-branch, was referred to the Management Committee. The members of the Executive received a general invitation to attend the Armistice service in St. Barnabas' Church, Lederville, on November 11.

Information was received from the South African and Imperial Veterans' Association that their annual memorial service would be held on November 15, at 3 p.m., in King's Park. The Secretary was instructed to obtain six tickets.

The appointment of officials in the South Perth, Geraldton, and Murchison Sub-branches was approved. War medals were paid to the work done on behalf of the League by Mr. F. A. Law, who had relinquished the secretariatship of the Merredin Sub-branch. On the motion of Colonel Denton, seconded by Mr. Longstaff, it was resolved that this Executive record its appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. F. A. Law, as secretary of the Merredin Sub-branch, and that a letter be forwarded to him in this effect.

The report of a delegation referred to the State Executive was left to the Management Committee for examination and report.

The Late General Sir John Monash.—A communication was received from the Australian War Memorial regarding the portrait of the late General Sir John Monash. It was agreed that a copy be forwarded to sub-branches, and on the motion of Mr. Philip, seconded by Mr. Tozer, it was also agreed that a copy be purchased to hang in the Soldiers' Institute.

Letters were received from the Warden of the State War Memorial (Lieutenant-General Sir J. Talbot Hobbs) and the Assistant Wardens (Toc H), advising that they would like to receive a portrait of Mr. Ben. Davies' membership of the R.S.L. be removed.

A communication was received from the Perth Chamber of Commerce, inviting the State Executive to send a delegation to a meeting convened with the object of forming a Tariff Revision Committee. It was agreed that no action be taken.

The Cottesloe Beach Sub-branch requested the Executive to present the sub-branch with a flag for the Memorial Park. It being understood that this could mean the purchase of a flag for presentation, it was agreed to advise the sub-branch that the Executive regretted that it could not comply with the request.

Six cases brought up to be submitted to the Federal Pensions Advisory Committee were discussed. The case of one man as submitted by the Karri-dale Sub-branch was explained and the action taken by the State Secretary was endorsed. Another case, emanating from Osborne Park, was left in the State Secretary's hands for further action.

It was decided to ask Cottesloe Beach Sub-branch to bring forward any further evidence which may be available in the case submitted by that sub-branch.

The cases of two tramway men and one railway man, submitted by the Perth Sub-branch, were referred to the Pensions and Employment Committee.

The Mount Hawthorn Sub-branch again wrote expressing dissatisfaction at the reply received from the State Executive with regard to meal tickets. It was decided to inform the sub-branch that the Executive is not prepared to depart from the present procedure.

The Mount Hawthorn Sub-branch expressed its desire to obtain a list of soldiers' widows and dependants in their area to facilitate the extending of assistance in accordance with the resolution of the Department, who had been approached, could not supply the information. The sub-branch, therefore, requested the Executive to secure information by the employment of a man to go through the Department's files. In view of all the circumstances the Executive decided that it could not assist the sub-branch in its request.

November 12th, 1931.

The following were present at the meeting, held on November 12th, 1931, at 7.30 p.m.:—Messrs. Riley, Yeates, Freeman, Tylee, Olden, Tozer, Lovell, Edmunds, Nicholson, Watt, Pady, Birtwistle, Nugent, Mellor, and Bade.

Leave of absence was granted to Colonel Collett, Mr. Gillett, Philip, Denton, Hunt, Pan, and Tozer. Mr. Tozer, in consequence of the absence of Colonel Collett, through illness, the chair was taken by the senior vice-president (Archdeacon Riley).

Preference Advisory Committee.—The Pension Advisory committee reported that information had been received from Mr. Allan, Chairman of the Pensions Advisory Committee, appointed by the Premier, that it was not intended to allow appellants to have the services of a representative or advocate when their cases are being heard, such representation being considered unnecessary. Mr. E. S. Watt moved that an advocate from the League should be permitted to appear with or on behalf of an appellant, to watch the interests of those appellants whose cases had been investigated by the League and endorsed by the League, and that the matter be left with the State Secretary to approach the Premier. The motion, which Mr. C. Bader seconded, was carried.

Mining and prospecting Committee.—A report from the Chairman of the Mining and prospecting Committee (Colonel A. C. N. Olden) was adopted. This report urged the Federal Government to put into operation the recommendations made by the Federal Secretariat to the Premier's Conference concerning assistance to the gold mining industry. In reference to the recommendation that a sum of £50,000 be appropriated for that purpose, the committee suggested that this should be apportioned to the States on the basis of the productive possibilities of the States concerned, the distribution of a sum among States in this instance would not be equitable. The report also recommended that any funds made available should be administered by a Committee appointed in each State, each committee to be responsible direct to the Commonwealth Government and be formed by the Federal Committee proposed by the Secretariat to be attached to the development branch of the Prime Minister's Department. It was considered that each gold mining State possessed men with the necessary qualifications, and, in addition, the advantage of local knowledge.

Poppy Day.—An interim report—the final figures were not yet available—of the Poppy Day Committee was submitted by Mr. Tozer. The report was received, and the Executive re-
corded its thanks to the Women’s Auxiliaries for their untiring efforts in making Poppy Day such a huge success in view of the difficult times. Thanks were also extended to the buglers who assisted, to the Poppy Day Committee, and its Chairman, Mr. J. Tozer, and to the business houses, the Government, and broadcasting stations for their assistance.

**Visits**—The following visits were reported:
- October 15, Wubin Sub-Branch (Archdeacon Riley); November 5, Mr. Marshall (Archdeacon Riley); November 7, Traying (Archdeacon Riley); Ex-Navy Men’s Association (Mr. Tyler); Subinco (Mr. Tyler); Narrogin (Colonel Olden); Mt. Hawthorn (Mr. Nugent); Fremantle (Mr. Yeates); Darling Range (Messrs. Yeates and Tozer); Corrigin (the State President and Assistant State Secretary).

**Soldier Settlement**—A communication from the Narembeen Sub-Branch, with reference to the 1,500 Farms Scheme, was referred to the Land Committee. A further communication concerning stored wheat was received.

The Kojonup Sub-Branch forwarded a communication referring to the disabilities of soldier settlers. Col. J. H. Nicholson raised the precarious position of men engaged in the wheat and wool industries. It was essential, he said, that steps be taken by the Government to give these men security of tenure, to ease their interest burden, and to give them a chance to save themselves and their industries.

(He moved: That this Executive again urges upon the Government the necessity of ensuring security of tenure for a period of years to soldier settlers on wheat and sheep lands by deferring the payment of accumulated interest and abatement of the charges made as accommodation or penal interest on such present accumulation.)

Mr. H. Nugent seconded the motion, which was carried.

**General**—It was decided to invite the Minister for Repatriation (Mr. J. McNeill) to lunch with the Executive during his visit to Western Australia, and that he be asked to make a deputation concerning visiting committees.

Replies to Congress resolutions on the following subjects were received and forwarded to the sub-branches concerned:
1. Fruit Inspectors.
2. Freight and fares, farmers’ supplies and deliveries.
5. State Batteries and Local Prospecting Boards.
7. Sustenance and Relief.

**Anzac Day**—A resolution from Congress with reference to transport for unemployed on Anzac Day was referred to the Anzac Day Committee.

Congress resolutions on the cost of living and license fees were left to the State Secretary for action.

Information was submitted that the Women’s Auxiliary State Executive had agreed to accept the charge of the balance of the Motor Trust Fund.

A petition signed by a number of ex-soldiers, requesting that the Executive receive a deputation concerning the reading room was referred to the House Committee.

A draft bill in connection with the W.A. Saddles’ and Soldiers’ Relief Fund was submitted and referred to the Trustees and Mr. H. S. W. Parker.

The Grocers’ Association advised that a movement had been started to form a sub-branch of the Australian Sugar Consumers’ Association, which had for its object the cancellation of the sugar embargo. They requested that two delegates be appointed by the Executive to attend the meeting on November 17th. Messrs. Farquharson and Tozer were appointed.

**Pemberton**

At our usual monthly meeting (held this month on a week night, for a change), there was a good muster of 25 members and one member, Mr. P. Horn, did not attend (the meeting was held at the Pemberton R.S.L. mentioned in the “Listening Post.” We have a membership of 38, all financial. On Saturday, September 26th, we ran an eucharistic and dance in the Institute, which proved quite a success. Mr. L. J. Herrick (and his jazz band) were in attendance, the ladies supplied supper, everyone being delighted with the affair. We are having another night on Saturday, October 17th.

On Saturday, October 3rd, we held our general monthly meeting, which proved to be one of the brightest evenings held for some considerable time.

**Sub-Branch Notes**

**Kimberley**

T. Hall writes:

Having just been elected as Hon. Secretary to the Sub-Branch, I thought I would send you a line as most press have been kept away from the R.S.L. mentioned in the “Listening Post.” We have a membership of 38, all financial. On Saturday, September 26th, we ran a eucharistic and dance in the Institute, which proved quite a success. Mr. L. J. Herrick (and his jazz band) were in attendance, the ladies supplied supper, everyone being delighted with the affair. We are having another night on Saturday, October 17th. On Saturday, October 3rd, we held our general monthly meeting, which proved to be one of the brightest evenings held for some considerable time.

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CLAREMONT

A large meeting of the Women's Auxiliary took place in the Council Chambers during the month. After the business of Poppy Day was dealt with, the matter of the dinner and dance on Thursday, December 3rd, in the Parish Hall. A strong committee has the work in hand and it is hoped that members, their friends and sweethearts will turn out in force. Good music will be provided and vocal and instrumental items will be provided by local talent. Everything free. As this is the first social since the creation from Cottesloe, it is hoped to make it a success and not to be introducing Diggers and their families to each other, in order to carry out similar functions during the coming year.

NORTHCLIFFE

Armistice Day

In commemorating Armistice Day, opportunity was taken by local ex-Service men to hold a parade. A fair number were present, but owing to early morning rain, settlers from the far-out groups were unable to attend.

The new branch of the Osborne Park Sub-branch in the Northcliffe Store, will open shortly. The combination of social and service work will prove very useful, and in the very near future, Northcliffe should have a very strong contingent. The ex-Service men, led by the pipes, marched through the town and were joined by the children from the town school.

A fairly large gathering was present to hear short and appropriate speeches by Deaconess Mildred, Mr. H. Hood, President, and Mr. W. Platten, Secretary. The parade was in charge of John P. Platten, 5th Dunham Light Infantry, and Sergeant Major Anderson, who was given charge by the new ex-Service men to send in their names to the secretary, Mr. Gibbs, and wish to remind them, that it is to their own benefit to make the branch as strong as possible.

Notice of meetings and general information may be obtained at the office of the Northcliffe Branch, adjoining the Northcliffe Store, which will be open each Thursday.

MT. HAWTHORN

LEEDERVILLE

The usual fortnightly meeting of this sub-branch was held in the old Council Chambers, Oxford Street, Leederville, on Thursday the 5th inst., the President (Mr. J. Morton) being in the chair. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. G. F. Charles), was complimented upon his efficient and expeditious handling of the large volume of business, passing through his hands, mainly between this sub-branch and the State Secretary (Mr. Benson). Mr. A. H. Panton, M.I.A., attended this meeting, for the purpose of submitting his report, of a delegate from this sub-branch to the recent State Congress of the R.S.L. No one could have wished for a more comprehensive and interesting report, than that placed before our members by Mr. Panton, and when he had concluded, the members present gave a hearty vote of thanks, upon a motion moved by Mr. More, and seconded by Mr. W. Rowles. It is the intention of this sub-branch to apply for a number of books of tickets in the current Government-assisted R.S.L., and the Hon. secretary desires to advise the general public that this sub-branch will hold its annual picnic to Bicton, on Sunday, December 16th, and trusts that all those wishing to attend will communicate with him at Quartz Street, Mr. Hawthorn, as early as possible.

Opportunity was taken at this meeting by the president, to welcome the president (Mr. H. Nugent) and several members, of the Osborne Park Sub-branch, who had attended for a friendly concert at Bowls and Quoits. A most enjoyable evening was spent, the boys feeling really fine in such an atmosphere of friendliness. Mr. W. Rowles gave his usual cheery report of the activities of the cricket club, and summing up generally, this meeting was one of the best.

KOJONUP

Some people think banks are fair cows these days, but it is by no means the only one for the two men in this town we wouldn’t have had half the people we did. George and Mrs. Anderson of the National, and Vic Sewell of the Wales, got going bright and early, and finished up the day with about £1 in the kitty, which in a hard-hit district like this, reflects great credit on the settlers’ good looks and persuasiveness. The recent rise in wool and wheat has raised the spirits—never very fermented—of the community; but the returned men on the farms fear, with what appearance it may be a certain composite of reason that now their unanswered case for a revision of values may not be pushed sufficiently hard and they will have an impossible load to carry with the turn of the tide. We have been asked to report Great Southern Re-union here, and March 19th this year has been fixed as the date. It is a big thing for a district hit in money matters by both the wool collapse and the P.P. Bank, but being a conveniently central town for the Great Southern, we must just pull up our socks and deal the Osman Sub-branches, the new R.S.L. year commences on January 1st, and by hook or by crook hang on to 10/- from your wool cheque. This is your own organisation and there was never a time it wanted to be stronger.

NANNUP

The monthly meeting of the above branch was held on Thursday, 11th inst., with an attendance of over 50 per cent. of membership. On Friday, October 7th, the flag was flown half-mast at the Soldiers’ Memorial in memory of Sir John Monash. At the meeting the members stood in silence as a token of respect to their late leader, and eulogistic references were made to his military and civil work for Australia.

Owing to the depression existing in the timber industry, many of the children will miss their Father Christmas this year, so the branch has undertaken to run a Christmas Tree for their benefit. This is a large undertaking, as there are in the district approximately 100 children from walking age to 12 years to be catered for.

However, with the willing co-operation of other helpers the members are confident of success.

The social part of the evening, after ordinary business has been disposed of, is proving a great success. Members are permitted to invite their friends and sons, and quite a number turned up to listen to a lecture on “Lawrence in Arabia” given by the president.

Though only a small branch, the members at present are very enthusiastic and are seriously thinking of challenging some of the larger branches for possession of the Newdegate Cup. So Nedlands, look to your laurels, we’re after you.

BUNBURY

The last meeting of this sub-branch was held on Wednesday, October 21. Approximately 42 members were present, and listened to the report of their worthy president of the deliberations of the Annual Congress. There was a very little routine business which was perhaps just as well, as more time was given to the report, which was of a more comprehensive nature. Many members of the League do not perhaps realise the important bearing that the conferences play for the general welfare, and after listening to this report, must have gone home fully convinced that the power of the League for good has more far-reaching effect than they ever anticipated. The portion of the report which dealt with the election of Mr. C. R. Gillett, as country vice-president, was received with deafening applause. He himself must have felt that the job is worth while when such approval is forthcoming from the members.

Quite a number of diggers were welcomed in the usual manner from other sub-branches and even from Victoria. Items of musical interest were supplied by the concert party, and the evening wound up in a very happy vein.

The committee are particularly busy at the moment in arranging a fine Christmas welcome to Sir Newton Moore, who is Bunbury-born. He will be accompanied by Sir James Mitchell, who is also a Bunbury-born man. On this occasion you can bet your life that this burg's returned mps will come out in force, as the community has remembered him for many years, and it is hoped that when Sir Newton gets back to the Cold Country he will re-member the dear old birthplace. However, more of this in our next issue.

WEST PERTH

Although not now assistant wardens of the State War Memorial, the sub-branch still has the care of Honour Avenue, and a recent visit shows the Forrest Avenue road nearing completion, and the trees in both avenues in bed of leafy order. It is anticipated the name plaques which require renovation will receive attention during the month.

The committee have had several matters in hand, in particular being the renewal of war widows in the Taxation Department. This matter is being investigated by the investigation committee.

Owing to the alteration in the working hours in the Commonwealth departments the committee have arranged to meet for an hour, commencing from 5 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. on alternate Thursdays.

The cricket club commenced the season well by winning their first match against Parkin’s XI at Roleystone on November 1, the scores being 239 runs to 200. H. J. Jarman of the Workers’ Home Board, led the branch’s team. Jimmy Everett, of the same department, made top score.
with 75, followed by Mundy, 47; Jordan, 33; Eddy, 30, and Jarman, 21. Parkin's team included six members of the family. Top score went to Evans, 67, next being Buckingham, 42; M. Parkin, 36; Beale, 19, and Hilton, 17. For the winners Jarman did best with the ball (3 for 12), and Carne (4 for 31). For Parkin's team, D. Parkin took 3 for 19.

Arrangements are in hand for the next match to take place on November 29, against Mt. Hawthorn.

The Hon. Secretary desires members and intending members to bring their subscription for 1931 up to date as soon as possible.

PERTH

The general monthly meeting was held in the Soldiers' Institute on the 10th inst.

Vice-President Harold Hopperston was in the chair, as the President is representing the Western Australian Branch at the Federal Conference. The financial reports showed that the branch was maintaining itself to a slightly better degree than the preceding few months. It was decided that a debating club should be formed, and challenges would be issued to other sub-branches at some future date.

In order to do something for the unemployed and financially members of the sub-branch, it was decided to hold a monster smoke social on Tuesday, the 22nd December. Invitations are to be issued to each member as soon as possible, financial on the 31st December, 1929, and who have not since been able to make themselves financially. Also to financial members of the sub-branch, who, through present unemployment, are unable to purchase tickets. All other diggers, enjoying the privilege of being employed, will be asked to pay 2/- for the evening's entertainment, which it has been determined must surpass any previous effort. The committee considers that by this effort "Old Man Depreciation" will be driven away for the festive season at least. The invitations to unemployed and financially members of the sub-branch must be applied for at the sub-branch office.

The Christmas Fees for members' children and the children of departed comrades will be held on the day following the breaking-up of the State schools.

A resolution requesting the State Executive to ensure a higher percentage of restored soldiers being employed at the Wyndham Meat Works during the forthcoming season, was unanimously carried.

Poppy Day collections amounted to a gross total of £92.16s. 2d. Although this figure is considerably below previous efforts of the sub-branch, it is considered eminently satisfactory in view of the prevailing circumstances.

The meeting terminated with the dispensation of refreshments which are so popular after all digger functions.

NEDLANDS

Over eighty members attended our last monthly meeting. During the meeting a letter from the Secretary of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. Terelinck, was read, in which the ladies expressed their wish to help us in any way to use funds to augment our unemployed financial members' fund. They also stated that they proposed holding a big bridge evening in the lesser hall, Nedlands, and handing over the whole proceeds to us for that purpose. The committee had been giving this question of raising money for this particular fund a lot of earnest thought and it is proposed, with the help of the ladies, to hold several attractions during the local industries exhibition, to be held in the Broadway Theatre early in December; not some catchpenny scheme, but something that will be to our mutual advantage. Nedlands Sub-branch was the first to inaugurate these local industries' exhibitions last December, since then they have been held with great success by different sub-branches throughout the State.

After the meeting closed the toast of "New members" was proposed by Vice-President Harry Lewis, all members joined in heartily singing "The More We are Together." The orchestra then played some community songs, after which rifle shooting, cards and the old game of "House" were indulged in.

The gratitude and thanks of the sub-branch are extended to Mrs. T. Ketterer, President of the Ladies' Auxiliary, and her merry gang of helpers, on the magnificent effort they recorded on Poppy Day. Although rather unfortunate in their "draw" for position, they quickly offset this disadvantage by the well organised and earnest way they went about things. Some of these indefatigable workers were on the "job" at 6 a.m., and each and everyone proved herself a saleswoman. The result was in the vicinity of £64—a wonderful effort which quite exceeded our most sanguine expectations. Thanks are due to the following members and wellwishers for providing transport for the ladies:—President Gordon Thomson, Members V. Ketterer, J. Tozer, D. Challoner, Perry, Cdr. H. L. Downe and Mr. Donaldson. The ladies are holding a "hand-up" evening, the idea being to persuade anyone who comes in smart attire. Judges will cause a fine to be imposed according to your smartness, so come along in your old clothes and enjoy yourself on Tuesday, 1st December, at the lesser hall, Broadway, Nedlands. There will be supper provided, also prizes will be awarded. Admission 1/-.

TAMBELLUP

Armistice Day.—Members paraded at the memorial, as did the school children, and some of the public. After the two minutes' silence, the flag, which had been half mast since 8 a.m., was hoisted, and wreaths and poppies placed on the memorial. Colonel Birt addressed the children, and explained the lesson of the day, stating that, coupled with regret for comrades who had lost their lives in the Great War, there was a feeling of relief that the horrors of over four years were ended, he hoped never to recur again. Colonel Birt impressed upon the children the honour it was to be associated in any service in commemoration of those whose names were engraved on the memorial. Mr. Roy Hamner attended to the flag arrangements, and Mr. W. Henneker was busy throughout the day disposing of the poppies, and judging by the number of people wearing them, his efforts must have been successful.

At the monthly meeting of the sub-branch, held on the 4th inst., the main business was the reading of his reports by the delegates, Mr. J. E. Tratham. The reports which were of No. 5 District Council held at Mt. Barker, and the Annual Congress, held in Perth recently, were listened to by an appreciative audience, and were unanimously adopted. A vote of thanks to Mr. Tratham was moved by Mr. Roy Hamner, and seconded by Mr. Markey, and the President, Mr. A. J. Smith, in supporting, spoke eulogistically of the services of Mr. Tratham. We offer our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Henneker on a further addition to the family, and trust that with "his advent brighter times have come to stay."

BRUCE ROCK.

The annual general meeting was held in the Druid's Hall, Bruce Rock, on Monday, November 7th, 1931.

The Secretary reported on the delegates' meeting of the No. 5 District Council, which was duly approved, and the thanks of the members to the delegates for their report was carried. It was agreed that the names of all fallen comrades for the memorial hospital honour roll be forwarded by the secretary to Mr. Geo. Mansbridge.

I am proceeding with the election of office-bearers for the year 1931, the President, Mr. H. W. Wilkins, in an appropriate speech, presented to Mr. Fred Bullimore, Hon. Secretary, a framed Certificate of Merit.

Mr. Bullimore suitably replied, thanking the President and members for the mark of appreciation of his services.

The election of office-bearers was then proceeded with, and the following gentlemen were
duly elected—President, Mr. H. W. Wilkins (re-elected); Vice-Presidents, Mr. D. R. Black and Mr. Stan Bourne; Secretary, Mr. Fred Bullimore; Treasurer, Mr. R. David; Committee: Messrs. W. Dean, J. Thomas, M. G. Hawks, R. David, A. Scott, U. Sedgwick, and J. Miller. Mr. K. A. Burton, Solicitor, was appointed as auditor.

YARLOP

Armistice Day was observed in the customary fashion at the Yarloop War Memorial, but representatives of the sub-branch attended, and after the two-minute silence, wreaths were laid on the memorial. In the evening a dance was held in the Yarloop Hall. The “Diggers’ Annual” has always been one of the most enjoyable events of the year, and this year proved no exception to the rule. Congratulations are due to the Committee, Messrs. Charlton, F. Eastcott, Pitta, and the indefatigable Secretary, Les Rogers, for the manner in which they carried out the arrangements.

The November meeting has been postponed until Thursday, November 9th. Mr. C. Gillett, the President of the Bunbury Sub-Branch and Country Vice-President, will be the guest of the sub-branch on that occasion. Mr. Gillett will give an address upon the work done at the recent Congress. A large attendance is hoped for, as the evening should prove a most interesting and instructive one.

BUSSELTON

Armistice Day was observed in the customary manner at Busselton. Wireless enthusiasts were able to follow the Perth services very clearly, and people in Queen Street were somewhat astonished to hear the “Last Post” ringing out from a wireless set. In the evening Mr. H. Willmott presided over a gathering of the ex-service men of Busselton and district. This took the form of a dinner in the Oddfellows. At this function the resignation of the Secretary, Mr. L. G. Taylor, who intends leaving Busselton shortly for an extended tour, was accepted with much regret. Mr. Taylor’s services to the movement, and to the Busselton Sub-Branch, were eulogised by Mr. E. W. Pocock and others. Mr. J. H. Atkinson was unanimously elected to the vacant office. During the evening Mr. Willmott was presented with a small but very useful present in appreciation of the happy way in which he has filled his responsible office, and in song the audience compared him with a much married “Henry the Eighth.” Songs, recitations, and other items were contributed by Messrs. Biddell, F. Plaistowe, and “Jock” Fish. Messrs. Jack Christie and Arch. Campbell provided the accompaniments.

PRESS

The monthly luncheon of the Press Sub-Branch was consumed at the Institute, on November 19th. The guest of honour was Mr. W. C. Thomas, whose remarks on “Dancing Leaves,” has received a favourable press. Mr. Thomas gave an interesting lecture on the beauty spots of Pérth. Mr. C. P. Smith, who has just returned from a visit to the Eastern States, described an all Australian film production he has seen in Melbourne. Mr. Smith predicted that film-producing will soon be another important Australian industry. The sub-branch’s quarterly dinner will be held on Saturday, December 12th.

NORTH PERTH

The President (Mr. McDowell) expressed the appreciation of the sub-branch to the Women’s Auxiliary, and their helpers for the great success of Poppy Day. Several members also expressed their very keen gratification at results attained.

Perth Wool Sales

SEASON, 1931-32

The following Sale Dates have been fixed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sale No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. 1</td>
<td>November 16th</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 2</td>
<td>December 14th</td>
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<td>No. 3</td>
<td>January 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 4</td>
<td>February 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 5</td>
<td>March 14th</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For Efficient Service Consign your Clothing to—

ELDER, SMITH & CO., LIMITED
FREMANTLE

A stunt social is being arranged, and invitations are being forwarded to all the workers to be present; all members are asked to attend and make it a success.

We had a visit from the Osborne Park Sub-Branch early last month. Mr. Nugent and his members, it is said to relate, won the games indulged in. We were glad to have had them, and look forward to seeing them again.

The cricket club is starting to make history, having won the first match against Mt. Hawthorn, but lost to Maylands last Sunday. A match is arranged against Hillary, Practice takes place every Friday on the Woodville Reserve; all likely players are requested to come along and get into form.

Mr. Godden is tennis captain, so it will not be long ere we have our nettle tried at that. The Goose Club is out, and a good list drawn up; every assistance is required to ensure its success. Books may be had from the Secretary, or Mr. Middleton. Those who dispose of books are asked to return butts, with cash as soon as possible, and so the draw may be facilitated.

FREMANTLE

This branch had a busy time during the month of November. The evening of the 10th was a great time, over 100 returned men turning up to be entertained by the South Perth “Whizz Bang.”

Needless to say, the “Extremist” went dry, but everyone was wet, excepting Admiral Brennan. It was the first time in history that the visitors were received by the city officials. Although running a little late, a good crowd hovered near the Town Hall, expecting the distinguished visitors, who duly arrived, singing “Here We Are Again,” and the crowd laughed and cheered, as each was introduced to the Mayor, Mr. Frank Gibson. The Mayor was kissed by the amorous mademoiselle, and he seemed quite embarrassed. A procession then led the “Whizz Bangs” to the Entertainment, and then the fun began.

The branch very much appreciate the efforts of the “Whizz Bangs.”

The Ladies Auxiliary have also been very active, and the latest report is that £55 was collected on Poppy Day. This speaks well for the ladies, who must have worked hard.

The general election of officers will take place this month. Theo Brennan is unopposed for President. W. Beer was the only nominee for Secretary. C. C. Walker retiring.

The Branch is at present in a very satisfactory position, after having passed a very strenuous twelve months.

MERREDIN

At a special general meeting held on Saturday, October 10th, and presided over by the President (Mr. E. Logan), Mr. F. A. “Dick” Law tendered his resignation of that body. His plea was that, owing to other duties, he was unable to devote sufficient time to the job, that its importance demanded. It was with sincere regret that his resignation was accepted. Even then, one wonders whether the indefatigable Dick ever sleeps. The President and several members spoke eulogistically of the work performed by Mr. Law, during his three years’ secretariatship, and the Committee has recommended him for the League’s Certificate of Service. Mr. D. McNaughton, his successor, promises to worthily fill the position. The Congress report was made by the sub-branch delegate (Mr. E. Randolph), who attended the meeting with a lengthy and interesting speech, covering the more important matters dealt with by Congress. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Randolph.

VICTORIA PARK

At the special evening arranged by the Victoria Park Sub-Branch, in the Library Hall, on Friday, November 13th, in honour of their Auxiliary, the President (Mr. Nicol), and the Vice-President (Mr. Alexander), eulogised the work of the Women’s Auxiliary, which had assisted socially to keep the sub-branch together, and had done valuable relief work. Madames Taylor (President), and Jordan (Vice-President) responded.

The evening’s prize winners were Mademes Hesrow, Taylor, and Corker. Mrs. Roberts, the guest of honour, and donor of prizes, was introduced, and the results of the Poppy Day sales were announced. Mrs. Nicol secured first prize for town sellers, collecting £11/11/-; Mrs. Cable, second, £10/10/-; In the Park, Mrs. Matthews topped the score with 110 poppies; Mrs. Kandler sold £5 worth; Mrs. Palmer, £3/10/-, and Mrs. Tolmin, £2/19/-.

Mrs. Roberts presented each of these ladies with a beautiful basket of flowers, and one of the animals. Miss Auxiliary, Mr. Pike, who, on account of illness, and her position, had been unable to compete.

Musical and other items were contributed by Miss Pat Brophy, Messrs. Ashbolt, Alexander, Tim Healy, and Gus Stewart, whose cornet solos were accompanied by Mrs. Corker.
## R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH AND UNIT ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

### Rates: £1-1.0 per annum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Branch</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President and Address</th>
<th>Secretary and Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>B. E. Potts, State School, Albany</td>
<td>F. W. Thora, P.O. Box 34, Albany, A. E. Murray, Stephen St, Bunbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUNBURY</td>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday</td>
<td>C. R. Gillett, Bury St, Bunbury</td>
<td>J. J. Mann, Norway Ave, Belmont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELMONT</td>
<td>Belmont Hall</td>
<td>4th Tuesday</td>
<td>D. Burton, King William St, Bayswater</td>
<td>R. B. Anderson, Roberta St, Bayswater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYSWATER</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bayswater</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>H. Willmott, Busselton</td>
<td>L. Taylor, Busselton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSSELTON</td>
<td>Weld Hall</td>
<td>Tuesdays before pension day</td>
<td>D. W. Paterson, Collie</td>
<td>Hugh S. Cramer, Medic St, Collie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>A. T. Cooke, Cowaramup</td>
<td>C. W. A. Lewis, Cowaramup Cowaramup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COWARAMUP</td>
<td>Cowaramup Institute</td>
<td>2nd Sunday, 2 p.m.</td>
<td>J. Bryant, 110 Glyde St, Cottesloe Beach</td>
<td>W. Burrag, 13 Mason St, Cottesloe Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTESLOE BEACH</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>Last Wednesday in each month</td>
<td>J. M. King, Kalamunda</td>
<td>A. G. Cook, 12 Dalgety St, Cottesloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAREMONT-COTTESLOE</td>
<td>Alternately Council Chambers, Claremont, and Wells Hall, Kalamunda Parish Hall, Kalamunda Institute, Denmark</td>
<td>3rd Saturday 1st Monday</td>
<td>J. A. H. Salmon, Geraldton</td>
<td>H. G. Penrose, Kalamunda W. S. Ferrier, Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARLING RANGE DENMARK</td>
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<td>T. Brown, Dumbleyung</td>
<td>H. G. Greaves, Dumbleyung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUMBLEYUNG</td>
<td>Dumbleyung</td>
<td>Quarterly, last Sunday in Jan., April, July, Oct. 3rd Friday</td>
<td>J. W. Wegner, Salmon Gum</td>
<td>Alan Moeron, Salmon Gum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWAK</td>
<td>Salmon Gum,</td>
<td></td>
<td>Theo. Brennan, Forthgill St, Fremantle</td>
<td>C. G. Walker, 132 Hampton Road, Fremantle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMANTLE AND DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, South Terrace, Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays (Pension Nights), at 8 p.m. 1st Monday</td>
<td>C. R. Cornish, Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, Gascoyne Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>GASCAYNE</td>
<td></td>
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<td>H. L. Kirk, 4th Avenue, Bassendean</td>
<td>P. Pendlebury, 20 Parker St, Bassendean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUILDFORD-BASSENDEAN</td>
<td>Council Chbse, Guildford</td>
<td>1st Thursday, alt., months, commencing January 1st Thursday other months 2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>A. H. Salmon, Geraldton</td>
<td>F. J. Dunn, Geraldton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERALDTON</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bassendean</td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
<td>T. W. D. Smith, Herbor Rd, Harvey</td>
<td>Alfred J. Knight, Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARVEY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Memorial Institute</td>
<td>Last Tuesday</td>
<td>J. C. Hutchinson, Kalgoolie</td>
<td>T. C. Fairley, 49 Campbell St, Kalgoolie, Tel. 290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALGOORLIE</td>
<td>War Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Every 2nd Tuesday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. Flanagan, P.O., Kudardup</td>
<td>Charles S. Smith, T. C. Fairley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARRIDALE AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>Bi-monthly</td>
<td>G. L. Ogilvie, Karridale</td>
<td>Geo. W. Mann, Karridale T. C. Fairley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELLERBERRIN AND DISTRICT</td>
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<tr>
<td>KIMBERLEY</td>
<td>P.P.A. Room</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Rocha, Mallingup</td>
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<tr>
<td>KOJONUP</td>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>1st Saturday</td>
<td>W. C. Chappell, Kojonaup</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOORDA</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Kojonaup</td>
<td>4th Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>L. J. Carter, Koorda</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE GRACE</td>
<td>Commercial Room, Hotel</td>
<td>Friday, 9 p.m.</td>
<td>T. W. McDougall, Lake Grace</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LAKE KING</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>3rd Monday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>G. Verden, Lake King</td>
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<tr>
<td>MERREDIN</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>Last Sunday</td>
<td>Lake King</td>
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<td>MOORA</td>
<td>Moora</td>
<td>When and where called</td>
<td>E. Loggan, Merredin</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOUNT BARKER</td>
<td>Mt. Barker</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Dr. W. S. Myhre, Gardener St, Moora</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT MARSHALL AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Road Board Hall, Bencubbins</td>
<td>Third Sunday, Dec., Mar., June, September</td>
<td>P. P. La Cia, Bencubbins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANDALANDS</td>
<td>Supper Room, Town Hall, Maylands</td>
<td>Art., Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>W. A. Clowes, Maylands Hotel, Maylands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNDARING AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Art, Mundaring and Mt. Helena</td>
<td>3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Walker, Mt. Helena</td>
<td></td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>MIDLAND JUNCTION</td>
<td>Town Hall Committee Rm.</td>
<td>3rd Thursday</td>
<td>P. Bateson, c/o P.O., Midland Junction</td>
<td>R. E. Marsh, Harold Road, East Midland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tel. MJ19</td>
<td>Tel. MJ19</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOUNT LAWLEY</td>
<td>Wallish Hall, Grovenor Rd., Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Col. T. Finotti, 3 Second Ave., Mt.</td>
<td>F. O. Fitzpatrick, 110 Fourth Ave.,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lawley, Mornington Mills</td>
<td>Mt. Lawley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORNINGTON MILLS</td>
<td>Mornington Mills</td>
<td>Every Alt. Sunday</td>
<td>A. Macklin</td>
<td>G. Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANNUP</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>3rd Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Fred Clayton, Nannup</td>
<td>Mornington Mills, Nannup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NARROGIN</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute</td>
<td>2nd Sale Day, Monthly</td>
<td>J. Barron, Soldiers’ Institute</td>
<td>T. Hoag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEDLANDS</td>
<td>Broadway Theatre (Lasser Hall)</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>C. S. Thompson, Hobbs Ave., Neddlands</td>
<td>Flour Mills, Narrogin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>Avon Bridge Hotel</td>
<td>1st Wednesday in the month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>K. J. Jones, M.C., Northampton</td>
<td>Thos. F. W. Kendall, 12 Grovenor Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda’s Hall, Glebe St.</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Rev. A. Schroeder, Northham</td>
<td>John Rohr, Northampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda’s Hall, Glebe St.</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>L. J. McDowall, 20 York St., North Perth</td>
<td>G. C. Carlewis, Fitzgerald St., Northam.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda’s Hall, Glebe St.</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. J. Hunt, Mary St., Como</td>
<td>Tel. 174</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda’s Hall, Glebe St.</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>C. P. Smith, C/o West Australian, Perth</td>
<td>H. W. Rigg, 16 Elizabeth St., North Perth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda’s Hall, Glebe St.</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. E. Elton, Pithara</td>
<td>Phone No 2196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda’s Hall, Glebe St.</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>T. Cowan, Yorarning</td>
<td>Geo. S. Moller, Soldiers’ Institute, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda’s Hall, Glebe St.</td>
<td>1st Saturday, 10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Ross A. Keeling, Port Hedland</td>
<td>I. E. Sorrensen, C/o Shipping News (W.A.) Ltd., Perth</td>
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<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda’s Hall, Glebe St.</td>
<td>1st Saturday, 10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>R. B. Gibson, c/o W. J. Lovell</td>
<td>H. K. MacLean, East Pithara. Tel. No. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda’s Hall, Glebe St.</td>
<td>1st Saturday, 10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>F. J. Aberle, 10 Rose Ave., South Perth</td>
<td>C. J. McGarrigal, Poganyning</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda’s Hall, Glebe St.</td>
<td>1st Saturday, 10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>S. A. McNamara, Heytesbury Rd., Subiaco</td>
<td>A. E. Clark, Port Hedland</td>
</tr>
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<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda’s Hall, Glebe St.</td>
<td>1st Saturday, 10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>S. Hammer, 10 Rose Ave., South Perth</td>
<td>W. J. Lovell, 29 Sixth Ave., Maylands</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTHAM</td>
<td>Mission Hall, Cr. York and Forrest St.</td>
<td>3rd Monday</td>
<td>A. J. Smith, Tambellup</td>
<td>R. Irvine</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTHAM</td>
<td>Mission Hall, Cr. York and Forrest St.</td>
<td>3rd Monday</td>
<td>A. J. Smith, Tambellup</td>
<td>66 Hannan St., South Perth</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTHAM</td>
<td>Mission Hall, Cr. York and Forrest St.</td>
<td>3rd Monday</td>
<td>A. J. Smith, Tambellup</td>
<td>W. A. Wilkins, 262 Hammersley Rd., Subiaco</td>
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<td>J. E. Tatham, Box 1, Tambellup. Tel. No. 45</td>
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<td>Mission Hall, Cr. York and Forrest St.</td>
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<td>A. J. Smith, Tambellup</td>
<td>W. G. Thomas, 62 Temple St., Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUBIACO</td>
<td>Branch Rooms, Rokeby Rd., Subiaco</td>
<td>3rd Saturday</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>P. L. Rose, Workers’ Home Board, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUBIACO</td>
<td>Branch Rooms, Rokeby Rd., Subiaco</td>
<td>3rd Saturday</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>W. A. Cadwallader, Workers’ Home Board,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUBIACO</td>
<td>Branch Rooms, Rokeby Rd., Subiaco</td>
<td>3rd Saturday</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTHERN CROSS</td>
<td>Palace Hotel</td>
<td>3rd Saturday</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>T. S. Andersson, Southern Cross</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMBE LLUP</td>
<td>Mr. Markey’s Residence</td>
<td>1st Wednesday</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>J. E. Tatham, Box 1, Tambellup. Tel. No. 45</td>
</tr>
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<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>W. W. Howie, Toodyay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOODYAY</td>
<td>Freemasons’ Hotel</td>
<td>Second Wednesday in each month, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>F. N. Graves, Yelbeni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAYNING-YELBENI</td>
<td>Trayning (2)</td>
<td>4th Sunday</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>W. G. Thomas, 62 Temple St., Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
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<td>TRAYNING-YELBENI</td>
<td>Trayning (2)</td>
<td>4th Sunday</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>P. L. Rose, Workers’ Home Board, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICTORIA PARK</td>
<td>Library Hall, Albany Rd., Victoria</td>
<td>Third Friday in each month, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>W. A. Cadwallader, Workers’ Home Board,</td>
</tr>
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<td>VICTORIA PARK</td>
<td>Library Hall, Albany Rd., Victoria</td>
<td>Third Friday in each month, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST PERTH</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Alt. Thursdays, 9 p.m.</td>
<td>G. H. Philip, 106 Miller Street, Victoria Park</td>
<td>P. L. Rose, Workers’ Home Board, Perth</td>
</tr>
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<td>Alt. Thursdays, 9 p.m.</td>
<td>G. H. Philip, 106 Miller Street, Victoria Park</td>
<td>Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST LEEDERVILLE</td>
<td>Each place alt., commencing Bunting, 3rd Monday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>3rd Monday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>C. W. R. Beechey, 8 Kerr St., Leederville</td>
<td>M. Duroum, 266 Railway Parade, W. Leederville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YORK</td>
<td>Each place alt., commencing Bunting, 3rd Monday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>3rd Monday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>C. W. R. Beechey, 8 Kerr St., Leederville</td>
<td>L. Mahoney, York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 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>BRITISH UNITED SERVICES ASSN.</td>
<td>Executive at 229 Charles St., North Perth</td>
<td>1st Monday, 8 p.m. (monthly)</td>
<td>A. H. Major, 131 Seventh Avenue, Maylands</td>
<td>Geo. E. Cottermole, M.C., 229 Charles St., North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. I. E. Dunkley, 16 Angove St., N. Perth</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James, 19 Marion St., Lendalville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELEVENTH BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly Luncheon, 1 p.m. on 11th of month</td>
<td>W. Kruger, 79 St. Leonard's Avenue, Lendalville</td>
<td>R. V. Blair, 79 William St., Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EX-NAVAL MEN'S ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Sports Club, King St.</td>
<td>Last Tuesday</td>
<td>L. Kaye Parrin, 43 Douglas Av., S. Perth</td>
<td>P. S. Harrison, 270 Wellington 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 Lendalville</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>Xmas Meeting, Dec. 22</td>
<td>R. Alexander, c/o Government House, Perth</td>
<td>L. D. Lobachs, 26 Second Floor, Economic Chm., Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Major G. Rosewar, M.C., St. Leonard's St., Cottesloe Beach</td>
<td>R. W. Perry, c/o Repat. Department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sons of Soldiers' League

The following report was submitted to Congress by the State Executive and endorsed:

That the Federal Congress be asked to amend the constitution, rules, and bylaws of the R.S.S.I.L.A. by:

(b) Adding after Rule 47 a new rule, to be numbered 47(a) to read:

1. Any State Branch may permit the formation of an Association to be known as the "Sons of Sailors and Soldiers' League of Australia" with the short title of "S.S.L."

2. The objects of the S.S.L. shall be:

(a) To establish and maintain close and kindly ties of friendship, one member with another, such as were enjoyed by their fathers as a result of mutual service in the Great War. To guard the good name and observe a becoming respect towards all sailors and soldiers and maintain a proper standard of dignity and honor amongst themselves. To set an example of public spirit and noble-hearted endeavour.

(b) To preserve the memory of those who suffered and died for the nation; to maintain monuments erected to their valour and to observe in their honor an annual day of commemoration.

(c) To assist in providing for the sick, wounded and needy of those of their fathers' generation who served in the War of 1914-18. To aid in any work undertaken to ameliorate the conditions of the dependants and descendants of those who fell in battle or died from the effects of war service.

(d) To inculcate loyalty to Australia and the British Empire.

(e) To induce members as citizens to serve Australia with that spirit of self-sacrifice with which as sailors and soldiers, their fathers served Australia and the Empire.

(f) To maintain an Association non-sectarian and non-partisan in politics.

3. Any person, being 12 years of age, the son of a sailor, soldier or nurse who served in the Great War, or other wars of the British Empire, shall be eligible for membership in the S.S.L.

4. The minimum annual subscription payable by members shall be 2/6.

5. The S.S.L. shall be divided into sub-branches to correspond with the distribution of the sub-branches of the R.S.L., and shall be affiliated with such sub-branches and be subject to the rules thereof in respect to the general conduct of business, and in matters of policy.

6. The officers of the sub-branch shall be as prescribed for the parent body, and be elected in a like manner; provided that for the first year after the formation of a sub-branch the president and secretary shall be appointed by and from the members of the sub-branch of the R.S.L.

7. A badge of similar, but of smaller design, and of different colour to that distinguishing membership of the R.S.L. shall be issued free of charge to every member on payment of his first subscription.

8. At the termination of three years from the date of this constitution coming into force it shall be subject to review by a conference of delegates in each State. Each sub-branch shall have one delegate to such conference. The conclusions of each State Conference shall be submitted through the State Executive to the Federal Executive of the R.S.L., which will formulate recommendations to the Federal Congress of the parent organisation.—Carried.

### BRITISH UNITED SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Members are cordially invited to attend and assist where possible at the garden party on Saturday, November 28th, at the residence of Mr. Wilkinson, corner of Ruby and Charles Sts., North Perth. A big programme of a most attractive and varied nature has been arranged to suit every possible taste, and in view of the fact that the object is to assist to raise funds for the North Perth Troops’ Building Fund, a very hearty response is desirable. Sir Talbot Hobbs will be present, and would like to meet his fellow members of the B.U.S.A. Everybody welcome. Admission free.

Details for the New Year’s Eve dance social in our next issue.

### 28th BATTALION ASSOCIATION

The annual general meeting of the 28th Battalion Association will be held at the Soldiers’ Institute, Government Gardens, Perth, on Monday, 14th December, at 8 p.m., when the report and accounts for the financial year will be presented, and office-bearers for the ensuing year will be elected. Will all members and intending members endeavour to be present. Refreshments will be provided.
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### 6/11 Fugi Sports Shirts
Men's Cream British Fugi Sports Shirts, a strong durable cloth ideal for the warm weather, good value at 6/11 Boans Price 4/6

### 1/11 Cotton Athletic Singlets
Men's White Cotton Athletic Singlets, silk braided round neck and arms, secure a few of these while stocks last. Usually 1/11, Boans Price 1/-

### 11/6 One-Piece Bathers for Men
Men's Bathers, 1 piece with skirt attached, in plain colors of black, royal & maroon good value at 11/6, Boans Price 7/6

### 7/11 Singlet & Underpants
Men's Silk and Wool Singlet and Underpants, a nice medium weight cool and comfortable for the hot weather. Usually 7/11, Boans Price 4/11

### Grey Flannel, Oxford Trousers
Men's Mid Grey Oxford Flannel Trousers Cripu waistband, side and hip pockets, cuffs. Boans Price 25/-

### Cream Flannel Cripu Trousers
Men's All Wool Cream Flannel Cripu Trousers, very smartly made side and hip, cuff bottoms. Boans Price 25/-

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A. L. ROGERS, MANAGER
Varia

A. R. E. Leader, the Hon. Secretary of Kendale Sub-Branch, writes:—My committee desire me to insert an appeal in your paper for men's clothing and boots, also Christmas cheer for the kiddies. We realise that conditions are not good anywhere, but we hope that this appeal will come under the notice of some who can, and will, assist. Articles placed on rail and addressed to Mr. Leader, at Denmark, and marked "Donation to Group Settlers," will be carried free on rail. Articles left at the office of the Listening Post will be forwarded to the right quarter, and we urge those who can to give a helping hand.

Bil, the B., writes from Nedlands:—

"I was intrigued to notice that on Sunday, November 15th, the Rev. N. B. Richards raised the question, "Can the Churches Prevent War?" and that the reverend gentleman wrote a peace hymn for the occasion. Seeing that, for the last 2,000 years the churches have been trying to abolish sin, with doubtful success, I, for one, can't see how they are going to abolish war. How does Mr. Richards reconcile his attitude on Armistice Day and Anzac Day with his prominence in the annual celebration of the Battle of the Boyne? Apparently war isn't criminal if it occurred long enough ago.

The spirit of emulation is still with us. Passing through Trinity Arcade, during Armistice week, we noticed a calico sign advertising the Rev. N. B. Richard's sermon for Sunday, November 15th. The banner of strange device bore the legend: "Can the Churches Prevent War?" Weston and Walters did it.

The Returned Army Nurses held their annual re-union dinner at the Karra-katta Club, Perth, on Armistice Night. Thirty-six Sisters attended; and after dinner the evening was spent playing bridge, and talking over old times. It is good to see these splendid women getting together.

The Nurses' Club has been removed from W.A.T.C. buildings, to No. 2, 4th Floor, Orient Buildings, William Street, Perth.

Will Auxiliary Members, who require group photographs of Congress Delegates, please get in touch with Mr. Viveash, Illustrations Ltd., Bungleon Buildings, 870a Hay Street, Perth, where copies are available.

"What's the first thing you do when cleaning your rifle?" the sergeant demanded.

"Look at the number," said the hard case.

"Oh," said the sergeant, "and what's the big idea?"

"To make sure I don't clean someone else's."

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