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The Red Menace

Recent happenings in the Eastern States indicate that, at least, the public has determined to counteract the mischievous activities of these foreigners and hirelings of foreigners whose avowed intention is to destroy our present political system by unconstitutional methods. Too long have Governments, both Federal and State, connived at these activities, and when lax governments refuse to act the people must.

There has been altogether too much rubbish talked about what is airily called freedom of speech. Absolute freedom of speech cannot exist in any organised community. It is restricted on every hand by laws against libel, slander, blasphemy and obscenity, not to mention the canons of good taste and a host of other things. While it is perfectly legal and sometimes desirable to advocate altering a country's constitution and using existing constitutional machinery to effect such an alteration, no one should be allowed to incite people to overthrow the existing constitution by means of revolutionary violence. It may be argued that the communist is a crack-brained individual, to suppress whom would be to exaggerate his importance. It may be conceded that he is too cowardly to break into armed rebellion. Such may be the case now as far as Australia is concerned, but if the public and its representatives in Parliament remain apathetic too long, they may wake up one fine morning to find that the machinery of government has passed under the control of those taking their orders from the gang of international criminals who aim at governing the world from Moscow.

The tenets of their creed—if such vapourings of organised rascality can be dignified by the name of creed—have been set forth unequivocally enough by leading communists in other countries. Admissions by communists on trial in Canada, and documents captured in China reveal the ramifications of the world conspiracy, and the fact that these ramifications have spread into Australia. To the communist every moment is the moment of revolution. Those who have are to be despised in favour of those who have not. Democratic institutions such as representative government and trade unions are to be swept away. The right to bear arms is to be limited to the communist and his pals. For him, the public is an amorphous mass to be moulded to the will of the communist minority. Communism is the antithesis of democracy. It means the seizure of the reins of government, peacefully if possible, for communism is the cult of cowardice, and the subjection of the many for the benefit of the few. Further, the militant minority will rigorously suppress freedom of speech for which he whines when his meetings are broken up by a long-suffering and outraged public. And yet, idiotic politicians would have us believe that the red rascals who are such wolves in other countries are really per lambs while they reside in Australia. One deprecates mob violence of any sort, but when the law is used to support lawless people are compelled to act in their own defence.

Britain's Financial Stability

In spite of the present economic crisis, and the measures being adopted to overcome it, Great Britain—says a writer in Our Empire (October, 1931)—is still the greatest country in the world. The foundations of national stability were never firmer than they are to-day. The total wealth of Great Britain, is estimated at £22,500,000,000, which is equivalent to £100 per head of the population. There is £22,786,000,000 in cash in British banks and with deposit societies. British investments abroad total £4,700,000,000. The foreign investments of the United States are only £3,000,000,000. We owe the world on short term debt £80,000,000 less than in 1928.

One third of the world's shipping tonnage sails under the Union Jack. The British Mercantile Marine represents 20,194,000 tons, an increase of 1,302,000 tons over 1914. The ocean-going shipping of our nearest rival, the United States, is only 10,365,000 tons. Germany, with a merchant fleet of 4,226,000 tons, has 1,000,000 tons less than before the War. Britain's annual income from shipping services is £115,000,000.

Income from investments abroad amounts to £250,000,000. In the last full year £43,358,374 was paid in cheques and bills. The London Bankers' Clearing House. In 1930 our trading balance left a surplus of £44,000,000 for overseas purchases and investment.

Last year Great Britain sold more than £100,000,000 worth of ships and machinery to the world. The Cunard Company is building the greatest liner in the world, 73,000 tons, on the Clyde, at a cost of £5,000,000. Before the liner leaves the slips next February the company will lay down the keel of a sister ship, which will employ 5,000 men for two years.

Our engineers are now building bridges all over the world which will cost £30,000,000. Dorman Long Ltd. have seventeen bridges, costing £10,000,000 in hand. The Sydney Harbour bridge, the largest single arch bridge in the world, has cost £7,000,000.
China for ten years has been buying railway material from Belgium. She has now placed £5,500,000 contracts with British firms. South Africa has ordered £2,500,000 worth of iron and steel. Greece has ordered plant worth £150,000 for the conversion of lignite into coal. Last week the Portuguese Government signed a £796,000 contract with Vickers for warship armament. The four Portuguese destroyers are being built on the Clyde. Poland is spending £550,000 on British material for the extension of her telephone system. Hungary has ordered £60,000 worth of material for railway electrification.

Last year £2,000,000 worth of aircraft and aircraft parts were sold abroad.

A £100,000 contract for airplanes for Argentina has been placed here. Belgium has just bought from us fifty-five fast fighting machines for its army.

The contract for raising the Assouan Dam—£2,000,000—has been given to a British firm. British engineers are carrying out a £200,000 extension on a harbour in Cyprus. Hundreds of locomotives and carriage wheels are being produced for railways in India, South America, China, Egypt and South Africa. South Wales is building the largest pressed steel tank in the world for a Punjab water scheme. A thousand tons of British machinery have been ordered for Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, the heart of the American steel-producing industry. Babcock and Wilcox are constructing a £700,000 plant for the London Electricity Supply Company.

**The Federal Congress**

Messrs. W. J. Hunt and G. H. Philip, the W.A. delegates to the Federal Congress, held at Adelaide last month, submitted their report to the last meeting of the State Executive. They were loud in their praise of the South Australian Branch for the splendid hospitality extended to delegates. All resolutions which were not consistent with the obligations of returned soldiers as citizens were either defeated or withdrawn. Proceedings were of a harmonious nature. Mr. Dyett was re-elected unopposed as Federal President and in his presidential address stated that the membership of the League had increased from 25,517 in 1926 to 42,276 at the end of 1930. The unjust and misleading criticism of the Commonwealth Auditor-General in his report on war pensions appeals was rebutted by delegates, who invited the fullest investigation into his statements. Among the subjects discussed and adopted is the following summary:

- Discontinuance of payment of war pensions in public at Post Offices, payment to be made in a private apartment either at or apart from the Post Office, or by cheque.

- Action to facilitate the handling of pension cases of ex-Imperial soldiers resident in Australia.

- Amendment of Repatriation Act to provide for an Appeal Tribunal to hear applications from disabled soldiers who have commuted their pensions, with power to grant pensions for increased disability.

- Returned soldiers permanently disabled to be maintained in repatriation hospitals until pension claim is finalised, should they so desire.

Legislation to provide that every returned soldier reaching the age of 55 years, who, through bad health, is not in a position to earn a living wage, be entitled to a military pension equal to the old-age pension.

- Extension of medical benefits to deceased soldiers' orphans in necessitous circumstances.

Investigation to be made with a view to having war service homes re-valued when circumstances are more opportune.

- An inquiry into the operations of the war service homes scheme "in relation to the undermining influence of the economic depression and the impending danger of a collapse that would be as dangerous to the finances of the Commission as to the welfare of the tenants."

A complete reduction of interest chargeable to war service homes occupants from 5 per cent. to 4 per cent.

- Returned soldier employees of the Commonwealth Government to be paid full wages while under treatment by military doctors for war disabilities.

Endeavours to secure returned soldier representation on Commonwealth Public Service Board.

- Establishment of an Independent Appeal Tribunal, apart from the Public Service Board, to hear and determine appeals by returned soldier public servants on all questions of privilege or preference to which they are entitled.

- Protest against continued dismissals of returned soldiers from the P.M.G.'s Department.

- Preference to temporary and exempt returned soldiers who were retrenched in the filling of vacancies, temporary and permanent, in the Commonwealth Public Service.

- Preference to returned soldiers in promotion in Commonwealth Public Service.

- Returned soldiers tendering for mail contracts to receive 5 per cent. preference over all other tenderers.

- Similar preference for returned soldiers, tendering for any Government contract.

- Protests against employment of foreign labour to the exclusion of Australian and British workmen.

- Review of the present defence policy to make the voluntary scheme more appealing and comprehensive.

- Clear pronouncement by the Commonwealth Government of its policy concerning the defence of Australia, "as sufficient recognition has not been shown naval and military obligations."

- An international declaration of world disarmament, as competition in arma-
ments is leading all countries to ruin without bringing them security.
Naturalisation fee to be waived in the case of a person who had a good record in the A.I.F.
Closer reciprocity between the Returned Soldiers' League and the British Empire Service League, towards overcoming many of Australia's difficulties.
Protest against importation of goods manufactured in foreign countries when similar goods are manufactured in Australia or the British Empire.
Encouragement and stimulation of the timber industry in Australia.
Curtailment of expenditure on foreign-made films.
An investigation by Royal Commission into the price of petrol.
A general reduction of the tariff on items used in the development of primary industries in Australia.
Award of Certificate of Merit to Mr. William M. Hughes, Wartime Prime Minister of Australia; Mr. J. Taylor, of Victoria Park (W.A.); Mr. M. McLeod, of Wellington (N.S.W.); and Mrs. F. M. Parker, Hobart.
Appointment of a standing committee in each State to advise upon methods concerning the growing army of youth who are entering manhood without adequate training or opportunity for employment, to consider methods for relief.
Names of all who served with the A.I.F. to be engraved on vellum and made up in book form and preserved in the Australian National Memorial.
Next annual Congress to be held in Melbourne, and recommended that the 1933 annual Congress be held in Canberra.
Declaration of Communist organisations as illegal bodies.
Provision of suitable employment for Air-Commodore Kingsford Smith, to ensure the retention of his services for the benefit of Australia.
Exemption from payment of licence fees to the Australian Performing Rights Association where proceeds are exclusively devoted to the funds of ex-service men's associations.
Amendment of the War Service Homes Act to provide for the extension of period of repayment by ten years, arrears in cases of hardship to be capitalised and the repayment to be extended over the balance of ten years.
No League member to be entitled to the full privileges of membership or to vote at a meeting of a branch while subscription due remains unpaid.
Assistance to ensure success of prosperity campaign launched by the Government.
Prohibition of the importation of Russian products into Australia, similar action being requested by other Dominion Governments.
Lastly, but of great importance, is the sanction given by Congress to the West Australian scheme for the formation of a Sons of Sailors and Soldiers' League to inculcate among the young a pride in the achievements of their fathers for King and country.

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Soldier Settlers' Congress
Resolutions

WITH REPLIES BY THE MANAGER OF THE AGRICULTURAL BANK

Resolution No. 10.—Re writing down of indebtedness by the Bank Trustees failing the appointment of Re-Valuation Boards. The General Manager states it would be impossible to take commodity prices over the last two years as a basis for the fixing of permanent land values, and for that reason alone a review at the present time would serve no useful purpose. Nevertheless, where it is considered in individual cases that the burden of debt would under normal conditions constitute an unduly oppressive load to a competent settler, the policy of the Department is in the direction of granting relief.

Resolution No. 14.—Both the Premier and Mr. McLarty have promised that as soon as the interest reduction is effected between the State and Commonwealth, there will be an interest reduction of 4½ per cent. over the whole of the soldier settler's debt.

Resolution No. 16.—Which asked that payment on capital advances by the Agricultural Bank be suspended when interest thereon is paid. The Bank's reply is that terms of repayment of principal are fixed by statute which cannot be varied, but the Trustees are not likely to worry very much for the present about the principal debt if settlers will pay current interest. A large proportion of mortgagees are paying no interest whatever.

Resolution No. 22.—Urged that a new security document be drafted which would secure the Bank to a maximum amount, thus obviating delays in the preparation and registration of documents. The reply is that the proposal of
Congress to take an initial mortgage to cover the estimated amount required to establish a settler on the land would be alright for short term loans, repayable at the pleasure of the Bank, but with development advances which must necessarily be spread over a number of years, the idea is impracticable. It was pointed out that so few loans are being issued at present, and for such limited amounts, the adoption of the proposal would make no difference whatever.

Resolution No. 20.—Congress enquired as to the scope of the re-organisation of District Offices of the Agricultural Bank, and as to whether the settlers' interests would be adequately safeguarded under the new arrangement. The General Manager in reply has stated that steps are being taken to make District Offices more autonomous. These offices were established to enable clients to more expeditiously conduct their business by not having to come to Perth. District Inspectors will be empowered to deal in a greater measure with their customers' affairs without having to refer to Head Office. "I see no reason," the General Manager states, "why this arrangement should act detrimentally to the Bank's clients. It should, on the contrary, not only save expense, but also obviate so much of the vexatious delay inseparable from the present system. Every day customers call at Head Office only to find that their files are at the country offices."

Resolution No. 17.—Which asked that all future classifications of lands be made by bank inspectors and not by the Lands Department. The General Manager of the Bank in reply states that it would be impracticable for Field Officers to leave their districts for extended periods to classify new areas before selection, but so far as possible all land classifications would be checked by bank inspectors before the land is accepted as security for bank advances.

Resolution No. 33.—Re the leasing for grazing purposes at a considerably reduced rental of abandoned Agricultural Bank properties which have proved unsuitable for wheat growing. The Department states that proposals in this regard from prospective tenants will be considered individually.

Resolution No. 32.—Re the matter of re-classification of morrel and booree country, particularly in the Karlgarin district. The Department points out that there is no reclassification board, but the Plant Nutrition Officer, Dr.

State Executive Meetings
November 25, 1931

At the meeting of the State Executive, held on November 25, 1931, there were present Messrs. Collett, Riley, Yeates, Tyler, Olden, Hunt, Lovell, Edmonds, Panton, Smith, Watt, Farquharson, Pady, Margolin, Bader, and Cornell. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Gilbert, Philp, Denton, Tozer, Nicholson, Birtwistle, and Mellor. Leave of absence for the next meeting was granted to the Rev. Riley.

In confirming the minutes of the previous meeting, the churchmen were included in the vote of thanks in connection with Poppy Day.

Reports.—In the State Secretary's report, he stated that a one-legged returned soldier had notified his intention to walk to Sydney, and desired a letter of recommendation from the League to prove his bona-fides. The Executive did not consider it good policy to encourage any partially incapacitated man to engage in such a hazardous undertaking, and the request was refused. The case of L. Jones was referred to the Pensions and Employment Committee.

The report of the Finance Committee meeting, held on November 23, was received and adopted. The recommendation concerning the system of issuing badges was deferred, and it was agreed that the Kalgoolie Sub-branch should be informed of the recommendation, which was to the effect that action on a Congress resolution should be suspended. It was further decided to ask the Kalgoolie Sub-branch for their comments on this recommendation.

Land and Group Settlement.—The report of the Land Committee meeting, held on November 16, was received and adopted.

Replies from the Agricultural Bank to several resolutions, passed by the Soldier Settlers' Conference, were referred to the Land Committee.

It was moved by Mr. Yeates and seconded by Mr. Farquharson, that this Executive expresses its pleasure at the action of the State Legislative Assembly in approving of a Committee of Enquiry to inquire into the Group Settlement Scheme, and trusts that the result of the findings of this committee will be to place the scheme on a sounder footing, to the benefit of both the group settlers and the Government. The motion was carried.

Mining and Prospecting.—Colonel Olden reported that the Mining and Prospecting Committee had met the deputation from the Victoria Park Sub-branch, and that further information would be submitted at a later date.

The Federal Executive advised that an effort had been made to obtain the necessary funds under the recommendation of the Unemployment Secretariat, but the money had not been provided. The letter was received, and referred to the Mining and Prospecting Committee.

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Mr. Edmonds reported having attended the initial meeting of the Consultative Council, and discussed the proceedings.

Sugar Embargo.—Mr. Farquharson reported having attended a meeting called by the Grocers' Association, to take action for the removal of the Sugar Embargo. His report was received, and a resolution was adopted, on the motion of Colonel Olden and Mr. Panton, that the Executive take no further action in this movement, which is assumed a political character.

Visits.—The report of Mr. Panton, the official visitor of No. 11 Ward, was received, when the report of the Sub-committee, Mr. Panton, S.A. Veterans' Service (Rev. C. L. Riley), Flying Corps Association, (Colonel Olden). It was decided to accept the invitation for November 28, and to ask Mr. C. G. Gillett to represent the Executive at this function.

Pensions.—Mr. E. S. Watt reported in connection with pensions, and stated that a deputation had waited on the Minister for Repatriation in this regard. It was hoped that some benefit would result, especially the Minister had stated that no instructions to cut down pensions had been issued to medical boards, nor would his Department entertain such a policy.

Poppy Day.—The State Secretary reported that the sales for 1931 had been sold as follows:—Metropolitan: Miss Halsey (North Perth), 240 poppies; Mrs. Nicol (Victoria Park), 211 poppies; Mrs. Cleby (Victoria Park), 200 poppies. Country: Mrs. Downes (Bunbury), 223 poppies; Mrs. Wall (Bruce Rock), 181 poppies; Mrs. Fairhead (Narrogin), 171 poppies.

A resolution from the Perth Sub-branch to the effect that the sale of poppies and emblems in connection with Poppy Day should be the prerogative of Sub-branches only, was received. It was agreed to refer the Sub-branch to refer to the matter to the Annual Congress.

The Belmont Sub-branch reported a case of fraud in connection with Poppy Day collections. It was agreed that all Sub-branches be informed of the circumstances, to prevent repetition.

Government Expenditure.—A resolution from the Victoria Park Sub-branch protesting against the State Government spending money on a referendum regarding secession, was received. The Secretary was instructed to inform the Victoria Park Sub-branch that the Executive could take action in this direction.

Art Union.—The Mount Hawthorn Sub-branch considered that the profit derived from the present consultation being conducted for relief funds should be divided amongst Sub-branches. It was decided to inform the Sub-branch that this procedure would be against the policy hitherto observed in this connection, and the Sub-branches should bring the matter before the next State Congress.

Free Trans Passes.—A communication from the W. Perth Sub-branch concerning free trans passes for two of its members was left in the hands of the State Secretary.

At the meeting on December 9th, there were present Messrs. Collett, Yeates, Freedman, Philip, Tyler, Olden, Hunt, Lovell, Edmonds, Panton, Watt, Farquharson, Margolin, Nugent, Mellor, Baker, and Cornell.

Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Riley, Gillam, Cooper, Smith, Birdsworth, and Parker.

Solder's Meetings.—A meeting of the Land Committee (Mr. A. Yeates) referred to, in his report, to a news item in the West Australian, on December 4th, intimating that a meeting of the No. 4 District Committee would be held at Wagon, on December 12th, at which certain proposals concerning soldier settlement would be discussed. Some of these proposals, he said, went further than the best made at the recent State Congress, which were now the subject of negotiation with the Government. The Secretary was instructed to write to No. 4 District Committee for further information.

Preference.—Mr. E. S. Watt presented the report of the Unemployment and Unemployment Committee. Dealing with the Preference Advisory Board recently instituted by the Government, the Committee recommended that the applicant should be allowed to hear all the evidence given in connection with his case. In the only appeal heard, the applicant had stated his case, and then retired, whereupon the departmental evidence was heard. The report and the recommendations were adopted.

A letter was received from the Perth Sub-Branch conveying a resolution passed at its last meeting, which stated that, in respect of the appointment of electoral officers for the conduct of the forthcoming Federal Elections in the Perth District, sufficient or no consideration had been given to the policy of preference to unemployed returned soldiers, and asked that the State Government correct this error immediately.

Mr. E. S. Watt moved that a deputation wait on the Commonwealth Electoral Officer in Perth, and, failing satisfaction in the matter of preference, the matter be placed in the hands of the State Executive.

An amendment was moved by Mr. G. Mallor, that a telegram of protest against the non-observance of the preference policy be forwarded to the Prime Minister (Mr. J. Scullin), through the Federal Executive of the League. The amendment was carried.

Reparation Institutions.—A report of the Visiting Committee was appointed by the Chairman (Rabbi D. I. Freedman). At the Edward Millen Home, he said, there were 19 patients. Everyone seemed contented, and the atmosphere of the sanatorium appeared to be satisfactory. There was a total absence of complaints, and the dominating note was one of cheerfulness.

At Lemnos Hospital 74 patients were under treatment. The weather was an obvious consideration of some of them was marked. The Committee was told that it was not altogether due to the weather, but its members were impressed with the aged and care-worn look of some of the patients. The attention and efficiency of the staff was apparent, and the Committee appreciated the manner in which the matron and the staff displayed everything of interest in connection with the institution and its management.

There was a complete absence of the institutional aspect at this very fine soldiers' hospital.

Consulcy Vice-President.—Mr. C. R. Gillett, in his capacity of Counsellor Vice-President, reported having visited the following sub-branches:—South, October 29; Brunswick Junction, November 10th; and York, on November 19th. He also reported that the Croydon Sub-Branch entertained Sir Newton Moore and Sir James Mitchell. At the request of the State Executive, Mr. Gillett attended the Bridgetown Reunion. He commented very favourably on the position of the State Secretary. Mr. J. M. Ross, President of the Bridgetown Sub-Branch, also presented a report, and expressed the sub-branch's satisfaction with and appreciation of the Executive's representative.

Sir Newton Moore.—On the motion of Messrs. Watt and Tyler, it was agreed that Sir Newton J. Moore be entertained at luncheon by the State Executive, and that the matter be left in the hands of the President.

Consultative Council.—Reporting on the meeting of the Consultative Council, held on December 9, Mr. Edmonds stated that a resolution was carried that a monster festivity function of a nature to be determined later be held on Armistice Night, organised by all ex-service bodies. After discussing the proposal, the Council was seconded by Mr. Hunt, that the Council be informed that the Executive is prepared to consider any scheme as suggested when submitted in a concrete form.

Art Union.—Mr. Yeates moved and Mr. Farquharson seconded, a motion that the Art Union Committee be asked to function immediately and to do all in their power to ensure success of the present Art Union being conducted for R.S.L. Amelioration Funds.

Mr. Farquharson said that the chairman of the Government Committee (Mr. A. Clydesdale) had stated that no sum greater than £2,000 should be raised, and that any institution is the result of a single sweep. Mr. Farquharson raised the question what would be done with any sum over that amount, seeing that when the R.S.L. conducted its own sweep, the profits had on some occasions exceeded £2,000. The motion was carried. After Playford.—The proposal for the adoption of the G.P.S. of an Industrial scheme was considered by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Mr. Edmonds, that steps be taken to induce Mr. A. Panton/was drawn his original resignation from the Art Union Control Committee, and that the matter be left in the hands of the President.

Mining and Prospecting Committee.—Colonel Olden reported that the Minister for Mines, to whom a copy of the Committee's Report concerning assistance to the gold mining industry had been referred, had agreed to all the points recommended. The report would be submitted to the Federal Office.

Correspondence.—The Federal Executive forwarded a communication from Major F. H. Bertram, D.S.O., giving details of a memorial service for the late General Sir John Monash, held in the Hampstead Synagogue, on October 30th.

Absorption of Repatriation Employes.—A communication from the Federal Executive advised that Repatriation officers could only be considered for permanent appointment to the Commonwealth Public Service if they had qualified in accordance with the conditions of the G.P.S. Act. Further, a request that all redundant officers of the Repatriation Commission should be paid one month's salary for each year of service as compensation on retirement could not be agreed to.

It was decided to forward a copy of the letter.
The Listening Post

December 18, 1931

to the Deputy Commissioners, Repatriation Department, for his and his staff's information, and also a copy to the West Perth Sub-branch.

Christmas Grant—The Federal Executive advised this State's share of the Christmas grant from the Federal Government this year would be £280 odd.

Immortal Shrine—The Assistant Director of the Australian War Memorial advised that a reproduction of Longstaff's famous picture, "The Immortal Shrine," framed in teak, had been presented to the League by Mr. Jeffery (Asst. Manager for the Texaco Oil Co.). It was agreed that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Mr. Jeffery.

Invitations were accepted for Bayswater, Dec. 9 (Mr. Edmonds and the State Executive), and Leederville, Dec. 14 (Messrs. Edmonds and Nugent).

Perth—Osborne Park Sub-branch forwarded a letter stating that three cases of soldiers' pensions being cancelled had come under their notice. It was agreed to ask the sub-branch to submit particulars to the State Executive.

A resolution from the Nedlands Park Sub-branch in connection with the pension case of the late A. E. Telefis, was received and left in the hands of the State Secretary.

Perth Sub-branch asked that the Repatriation Commission be requested to give grave consideration to the necessity of giving at least three months' notice to second schedule pensioners before reducing their pension to a rate under the first schedule. The matter was referred to the Repatriation Committee.

Federal Congress—Mr. W. J. Hunt reported on behalf of the delegation to the 16th Annual Federal Congress. The report was tabled for the information of members of the Executive.

Thanks were extended to Messrs. Hunt and Philp for their splendid work on behalf of the Branch.

On the motion of Messrs. Philip and Watt, it was decided that letters of appreciation for the entertainment of delegates be forwarded to the South Australian Branch, Port Augusta Sub-branch, and the Kalgoorlie Sub-branch.

General—The Ex-Navy Men's Association submitted items for the consideration of the State Executive dealing with eligibility for League membership and assistance from Amelioration Funds. A reply, as suggested by the State President, was approved.

Torbay Sub-branch requested the Executive to use any means in its power to maintain the present rate of exchange. It was agreed to inform the sub-branch that the Executive regrets its inability to take the matter up, as it is entirely unable to influence the situation.

The election of officers as advised by the Fremantle Sub-branch and the application for the formation of the Northcliffe Sub-branch, were approved.

A query from the Osborne Park Sub-branch concerning employment by the Perth Road Board was left in the hands of the Secretary.

Delegates were informed that the Efficiency Trophy, donated by the W.A. Branch of the R.S.L. to the unit of the Australian A.Military Forces Fifth Military District, for annual competition, would be presented to the 11-16th Battalion on Saturday, December 12. The State President would present the trophy, and delegates were invited to attend the ceremonial parade, which would be held at the foot of Mill Street, at 3.30 p.m.

The Mr. Lawley Sub-branch advised that it could not conveniently hold an exhibition of local products before Christmas. It was proposed to hold the exhibition from the 12th to the 15th of January at a place to be decided.

A communication from the Tramway Sub-branch concerning re-valuation of War Service Homes was left in the hands of the State Secretary and another from the same sub-branch, with reference to the manufacture of poppies, was referred to the Poppy Day Committee.

Mr. S. Patterson requested the assistance of the R.S.L. and its members to expand the activities of the Kellerberrin Preventorium.

The American Legion

REMARKABLE CONFERENCE

Mr. L. A Robb, the president of the New South Wales branch of the Returned Soldiers' League, who was one of the Australian delegates to the recent conference of the British Empire Service League, in Canada, was appointed by that conference to represent the B.E.S.L. at the thirteenth annual convention of the American Legion, held at Detroit from September 21 to September 24. His report to the Federal Executive of the R.S.L., a copy of which was received by the West Australian Branch of the League recently, is interesting and informative. Mr. Robb states:

"Over 100,000 members of the American Legion, whose membership is now over one million, made the journey to Detroit. Of these, 1,415 were accredited delegates, and constituted the voting strength of the convention. The rest were there to listen to the various debates and reports, and to renew their war-time acquaintances.

"President Hoover attended the convention and addressed the delegates on the financial position of the Government of the U.S.A., pointing out that the time had come when any further expenditure in any direction must be avoided. This warning was given in view of the fact that a resolution was listed for discussion regarding a cash payment of service certificates. At a later stage of the proceedings the resolution asking for cash payment was defeated by 902 votes to 907 votes.

"Addresses were given by prominent men from all parts of America, and also by representatives from France, Italy, and Poland, who had been sent over by their respective Governments specially to visit the convention. I was given the opportunity of speaking to the convention on behalf of the British Empire and Australia.

"Like ourselves, the American Legion's greatest problem is unemployment. It is estimated that there are six million unemployed in America, of whom 710,000 are war veterans. The Legion, recognising that, if the situation was to be effectively met, it would be necessary to employ the best energy and co-ordination of every element of American life, recently issued invitations to outstanding leaders of labour, industry, finance, transportation, and to the governors of all States and mayors of the largest cities, to attend a conference to draft a pro-

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[Image of Cyclone Fence]
Who’s Who in the R.S.L.

JIMMIE WOODS, V.C.

Among the delegates who attended this year’s Congress was a small dynamo of energy named James Park Woods, who represented West Swan. There is not much of Jimmie, but what there is is good, both in pluck and in grey matter. It was while serving in France with the 48th Battalion that he gained the highest award of all. In the terse language of the official gazette it is stated that he gained the Victoria Cross “for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty near Le Verguiet, north-west of St. Quentin, on the 18th of September, 1918, when, with a weak patrol, he attacked and captured a very formidable enemy post; and subsequently, with two companions, held the same against heavy enemy counter-attacks. Although exposed to heavy fire of all descriptions, he fearlessly jumped on the parapet and opened fire on the attacking enemy, inflicting severe casualties. He kept up his fire and held up the enemy till help arrived, and throughout the operations displayed a splendid example of valour, determination and initiative.”

Since the war Jimmie has been an active and useful member of the R.S.L. In private life he is a viticulturist in the West Swan district.

The courageous spirit manifested during the war is also evident in his post-war activities. He is a cheery optimist whose genial frankness and pleasant personality acts as a refreshing antidote to the general gloom of these days.

General Bruche’s Visit

During the month, Major-General J. H. Bruche, C.B., C.M.G., Chief of the General Staff, and formerly Commandant of this Military District, visited Perth on a tour of inspection.

At the Soldiers’ Institute on November 7, a luncheon was tendered him by the local branch of the R.S.L. The State President of the League (Colonel H. B. Collett) presided, and among those present were Major-General A. T. White, Brigadier-Generals C. H. Jess and Beswell-Browne, Rabbi Freedman (past President of the League), and Mr. A. Yeates (vice-president).

In proposing a toast to General Bruche, Colonel Collett said that the General had been in this State in the days of the war, as Commandant of the district. Most of the younger officers who had made names for themselves had been trained by General Bruche, and unquestionably owed much of their success to him. His presence here again excited many happy memories. General Bruche represented the local branch of the R.S.L. on the council of the B.E.S.L., and the thanks of the branch were due to him for the efficiency he had brought to his duties.

The company sang “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow,” and drank the toast with cheers.

In responding, General Bruche said he was glad of the chance of coming to Western Australia. He had had little contact with the State hitherto, save by reports, he said, but in connection with those reports, one thing had impressed him considerably, and that was the very fine and high note which appeared to be struck in all local activities. Perhaps he was prejudiced, but it seemed to him that the Western Australian district was outstanding in that regard. As Colonel Collett had said, he was here in the days of the war, and it was very pleasing to come back here to see all the old faces he had known then, and to recognise amongst them many who had been towers of strength to him then. His recollections of those days were wholly happy ones.

After relating several reminiscences, General Bruche touched upon the present organisation of the Australian defence forces. Things were more difficult now, when there was little money available for expenditure, than they had been under other governmental policies. Economies
had to be effected, but that was no reason for the sacrifice of efficiency. Efficiency was largely bound up with the spirit which animated the men. He had been in all the States of Australia and he felt that he could say truthfully that the spirit which existed in the days of the A.I.F.—the spirit which prompted the men in charge of platoons to understand the difficulties and responsibilities of their superior officers and to help them—was still at work. The money that was available for expenditure on defence had to cover the costs of staffs and equipment, and men. The staffs came first. Nothing could be done without efficient officers. They had to know their jobs and keep in touch with new developments. Methods were changing in organisation as in equipment, and changing so quickly that to-day it would be impossible to adopt the methods of 1918. Tanks, for instance, had changed till they were faster now than armoured cars were then, and even battalion organisation was equally different.

However efficient officers were, however, and however well mechanised a unit might be, little could be done without the help of which he had spoken—the help of the men lower down. Despite the fact that he was not "a good fellow"—(laughter)—he had enjoyed that help hitherto, and felt sure that he could rely upon it in future.

Colonel Collett then proposed the toast of General Jess, congratulated him upon his promotion to the Victorian command, and expressed regret at his departure.

General Jess responded briefly. He regretted leaving Western Australia, he said, where he had always found the spirit one of goodfellowship and broad vision. It was the call, however, and wherever one was called to go one could but obey.

On the following day, General Bruche addressed the members of the Perth Legacy Club, on the battlefields of France as he saw them last year.

He did not go to Armentieres to see if a certain famous Mademoiselle was still there, but at Arras he wore khaki and his Australian hat, and the old women called him "Deagar." He noticed, too, that they threw protecting arms around their daughters as soon as they sighted the once-familiar head-gear!

Pozieres was a heap of rubble, said the General, when the A.I.F. knew it. It was now a beautiful little village. Mouquet Farm, a shell-torn heap of ill-repute, had become a fine modern building. The desolate battlefield of the Somme was now cultivated, orderly area, with hardly a sign, except perhaps a faint white trench outline winding away in the distance, of the tremendous conflicts that had been waged there. At Villers-Bretonneux the town had been completely rebuilt, with the exception of the Red Chateau, which the owner had left in its shell-shattered condition of 1918. Outside the town, towards Corbie, the French had erected a pedestal with a steel helmet on top and the inscription, "Here the invader was brought to a standstill in 1918."

General Bruche said there was nothing more beautiful on this earth than the war cemeteries in France. The wonderful serenity of these gardens of sleep and the dignity of their simple appointments had a moving effect on every visitor—enhanced when he saw on a headstone the name of some trusted comrade of the war-years. "One felt," he said, "that if one were lying there and were given the choice of staying in those peaceful surroundings or returning to the struggle of life, the decision would not be hard to make."

At Corbie the ancient, shell-battered church had been last repaired of any General Bruche saw. He looked in vain at Peronne for the once familiar Australian-given street sign, "Roo de Kanga," but a less characteristic name denoted it now. In a once-flourishing orchard he poked about the hedges with a stick and found a rusty Lewis gun magazine and the remains of a tin hat. The woods were delightfully green, for the old shattered tree trunks had been removed and a glorious new growth of saplings had sprung up to cover the scars of war. It was all very sad in one way, not to be able to recognise the old places, but it was good to realise that Nature had done so much to repair the damage done by man.

General Bruche also said that the French were very nervous about the future. Their idea was to keep Germany in such a position that she would be unable to wage another campaign. These doctrines got scant sympathy in England, and for that reason the French felt some bitterness towards their late ally. But living Frenchmen had felt the heel of the invader on two occasions and to them in particular it was not of much use talking of the virtues of disarmament.

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A Clean Sweep

Attention is drawn to the advertisement of the Sweep on the Perth Cup in aid of the R.S.L. Amelioration Fund. As it is our own show this time, every digger should give it his whole-hearted support. The half-crown spent on the ticket is money invested in a good cause, and the chance of winning £1,000 is not to be sneezed at these hard times. As is well-known, the Perth Cup is run on the 1st January, 1932. Tickets may be obtained from local agents everywhere or direct from the Secretary, Mr. R. K. Buscombe, 7 Perpetual Trustee Buildings, Perth.
The Passing Year

As the year draws to its close there seems to be an increase in the community's store of optimism. A more confident note is being sounded by the daily press, and business people generally seem more inclined to rid themselves of that red-tape which is supposed to exist only in Government departments, and to give play to the initiative which will help us end our financial woes. If we are not turning the corner, at least the corner is in sight. Naturally, the fact that a general election occurs this month gives an additional impetus to the restoration of public confidence; and herein lies a grave danger. The increased and widespread attention to politics and economics which the present crisis has engendered is a good thing, but the natural reaction to a general election is a relapse into the apathy which has allowed our legislatures to become rest homes for adipose intellects. Political action alone cannot bring about our salvation. The average politician is as fallible as his constituents are gullible.

On the other hand, even the dullest of us can brighten up when in contact with genial or sympathetic personalities. A musician can perform better on a good instrument than on a bad one. A public speaker can always give a better address when confronted with an appreciative audience. In all these matters—art, religion, literature, and even politics—there is an essential co-operation between the performer and the medium of his performance, between the speaker and the audience, between the adviser and the advised. Without such co-operation the greatest orator, the most subtle of philosophers, and the sincerest of advisers would become mere voices crying in the wilderness. We can help our parliamentary representatives with more than our votes. An earnest study of economic matters, not as expressed in the leader columns of one's favourite newspaper, but as elaborated by thinkers and specialists who have written at length upon this subject, will enable the voter to take a more intelligent interest in what his representative is doing for him. Every voter should read, mark and learn. Read the best writers on both sides of any given argument; mark the salient points of their contentions; and learn how frequently a pebble of fact will demolish a striding colossus of theory. One does not need to be a banker or a chartered accountant in order to take an intelligent interest in monetary systems, for instance. The skilled specialist gives a lifetime of study to his profession, and sometimes writes about it for the benefit of those who come after him. Fortunately, in this age of free and compulsory education, books and lending libraries are no rarities, and the writings of specialists in most subjects can be obtained in cheap reprints. Their studied judgments are available for the average man, and set forth in non-technical language which the average man can understand. While it is not contended that each of us can become a specialist in banking or finance, we contend that a study of such subjects will enable the average man to appreciate the specialist, to weigh theory against fact, and to recognise how the most ambitious theories can be restricted by the ruts of practice.

It has been well said that a nation's greatness depends upon the education of its people. An educated community means a more influential community, one that can reasonably demand representation in Parliament that is not intellectually sterile, and one whose views on all questions will, on that account, command more serious consideration.

It has long been the policy of the R.S.L. in this State to encourage its individual members to play an active part in the various bodies—religious, social, or political—to which they belong. A glance at the existing personnel of Parliament and local government bodies will show that the digger is pulling his weight in public affairs, and setting an example that others might emulate. Even those of us who cannot be leaders can, at least, turn up to meetings and see that the right types of leaders are chosen. Only such active participation in every public activity will prevent gibber-tongued nonentities from talking themselves into office—and the country into disaster.

On those occasions, through the year, when the League as a body has had to assert itself in defence of the returned man's rights and privileges, it has done so with a dignity that contributed in no small measure to the successes achieved. Governments, both Federal and State, have been taught that, although it is thirteen years since the war ended, the preference policy may not be flouted with impunity. We on our side have learned that professions of sympathy on the part of politicians can not always be taken at their face value, that eternal vigilance and concerted action still condition safety as far as our privileges are concerned.

In many respects the year has been a bitter one. Trusted leaders, men of outstanding ability, men whose names will always be honoured whenever members of the A.I.F. foregather, are no longer with us. Sir John Monash; Sir James McCay, Major-General "Pompey" Elliott, Brigidier-General W. Cass, and many others who served with like devotion in a humber sphere, have gone ahead to the last billeting area across the Great Divide. Naturally, too, the financial situation has diminished our ranks.

As Henry V put it to his depleted forces before Agincourt, "There is all the more glory for those who are left."

Though there are fewer to face it, the situation to-day is as serious as it was in 1914.

"Each stepping where his comrade stood
The instant that he fell,
Let us keep the flag of the R.S.L. flying,
And maintain its prestige, until the last man and the last badge are still symbols of the story that was Anzac, and objects for respect on the part of those who come after us. The fewer there are of us, the greater the responsibility; therefore let this be the slogan for that merry Christmas and happier New Year which the Listening Post wishes all its readers.

The American refused to be impressed by London. "Now kinda place," he declared to the Englishman who was showing him round, "no hustle there in is Noo York." A minute or so later the visitor was hauled on to the move ment as a fire engine flashed past. "What's that?" he asked in a startled voice. "That," said the Englishman, looking after the retreating vehicle, "is just some window cleaners working a bit late."

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Luncheon to Major-Gen. Sir Newton J. Moore, M.P.

SOME TRUTHS ABOUT DISARMAMENT

At the official luncheon tendered to him by the Executive of the Western Australian Branch of the R.S.L., Sir Newton Moore made a few outspoken remarks which should sink into what our peace-at-any-price cranks call their souls. Sir Newton is of the opinion that Great Britain, who has already done more than her share in the way of disarmament, is the only nation that is treating this problem honestly.

Among those present at the luncheon were the President of the W.A. Branch (Col. H. B. Colletts), Lieutenant-General Sir J. Talbot Hobbs, Major-General White, Brigadier-General Bessell-Browne, and the members of the State Executive. Apologies were received from the Rev. C. L. Riley and Rabbi D. I. Freedman.

In proposing the toast of the guest, Colonel Collett referred to his work as a citizen—and as a soldier. Sir Newton was the father of the Light Horse movement in this State. He was responsible for founding the old 18th Light Horse, and the famous 10th Light Horse, which gained such distinction in the Palestine campaign. The A.I.F. owed a debt of gratitude to Sir Newton for the great work he did in connection with the organisation of the A.I.F. Depots on Salisbury Plains. When the Australian units commenced to arrive in England, they did so in detached parties which were scattered all over the place. Under the organisation of which Sir Newton was the head, these stray detachments were collected and organised in the various depot camps. The organisation he formed had a great deal to do with the efficient state of the Australian troops arriving in France.

In his response, Sir Newton touched on the work of the B.E.S.I., of which the R.S.L. is a constituent member. It had been his privilege to be selected to attend the recent conference in Toronto, but, unfortunately, other arrangements supervened. He paid a glowing tribute to Lord Jalligue, whom he considered a worthy successor, as Grand President of the B.E.S.I., to Lord Haig. In passing, the speaker told an anecdote of Lord Haig and that much misunderstood statesman, Lord Haldane. Lord Haldane, who was responsible for the reorganisation of the British Army, after the South African War, and for the formation of the Territorial Army, became unpopular during the early days of the Great War because his admiration for German philosophy had led him to describe Germany as his spiritual fatherland. Nevertheless, after the Victory March, Lord Haig made a private call upon Lord Haldane, and presented him with a copy of his war diary, in which the great soldier had inscribed: "To the greatest W.A. Secretary England has produced." While still Premier of this State, Sir Newton was present at a dinner in London at which Mr. McKenna responded to the toast of the Navy, and Lord Haldane to that of the Army. Lord Haldane's speech was a strong argument in favour of the voluntary system of enlistment. While replying to the toast of the Overseas Dominions, Sir Newton Moore had the opportunity of speaking strongly in favour of the system of universal service which Australia had just adopted. When he had sat down, Lord Haldane leaned across to him and said, "Colonel, the honours are with you this evening."

The speaker had been entertained by the R.S.L. at Kalgoorlie and at Bunbury, and eulogised the work of the League. He expressed sorrow over the conditions which had brought about the disbandment of the famous old Goldfields Regiment, which had been founded by such men as Colonel Flinnerty and Major Owens, and which had made history under the stern test of war. He was utterly tired of all this talk of disarmament. The British regular and territorial forces had been drastically cut down, but Continental countries were bristling with troops and armaments. The Royal Navy had been whittled away, but America was paying a subsidy to all vessels of twenty knots. This subsidy was paid by the U.S. Postal Department, but one of the conditions of receiving it was that the ships eligible must be built so that they could be converted into auxiliary cruisers. Britain, already disarmed beyond the limits of safety, is the only Power that has been honest over disarmament. During the recent British election campaign, in the speeches he had broadcast to his constituents, he had stated that Britain had reached the limit of disarmament and that he would not support any further depletion of our strength.

Jewish Ex-Service Men's Circle

There was a good attendance at the R.S.L. Institute on Saturday, December 12, when the Ex-Service Men's Circle held their first ladies' night. Rabbi D. I. Freedman presided and a very enjoyable evening was spent. It was announced that the Circle had decided to take under its wing a troop of Jewish Boy Scouts which had been formed recently in Perth. Musical and other items were contributed by Mesdames J. Van Der Velde and M. Lewis, Miss Olga Cohen and Messrs. Harry Mendelson and Harry Glick.

A negro turned up one morning at a registry office in an American town and asked if there was any work for him. The clerk looked down his lists for some time, and said: "There is a job here that might suit you. They are needing a hand at the Eagle Laundry." The darkie looked doubtful. "Wal, sah," he said slowly, "I ain't weanber had no 'experience' washin' eagles."

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During his visit to President Hoover, M. Laval gained a reputation for reticence. He gave nothing away to the press. Even when Senator Borah made one of his characteristic anti-Ally outbursts, the discreet Frenchman refrained from retorting, "Dites vous!"

It is refreshing to find an occasional legislator who is not afraid to say a few words of straight common sense to the various cranks who endeavour to blackmail politicians into supporting all sorts of fantastic nostrums. When the usual bevy of manlsh women and womanly men waited upon the Tasmanian Minister for Education and requested him to excuse all references to war from the kiddies' history books, he told them pretty forcibly that, as wars have happened, they are part of history; that, in the present state of world politics, Australia has disarmed too much already, and that the very existence of the British Empire was brought about, and can be maintained, only by Britain's military effort.

A recent cable states that the British film censors have banned a number of American films on account of their inherent vulgarity. No doubt Mr. Creswell O'Reilly will retaliate by prohibiting the entry into Australia of a corresponding number of British films.

Stanley V. Divall, writes from Woodburning.—In your November issue I read the report of the Annual Conference held by the Women's Auxiliaries, which calls for some comment.

At the time the Conference was taking place I well remember the indignation of a number of patients in No. 11 Ward (some of whom had their wives attending the Conference) in connection with two particular items which were discussed, resulting in the following two motions being adopted:

No. 1.—"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."

No. 2.—"That the practice of allowing band concerts in No. 11 Ward of the Perth Hospital be inquired into."

Whilst believing that the Women's Auxiliaries are an excellent organisation, it is patent that there are numbers who talk and ventilate views on matters of which they know absolutely nothing.

Sister R.V. Jones is quite capable of looking after her patients, and those on the danger list are placed in special wards at her discretion.

To some of these poor chaps the quickest way to carry them out would be to place them in a special ward; furthermore, No. 11 has not an abundance of special wards.

Sister Jones has at all times never slackened her interest in the welfare of soldier patients, so much so that I have known of her refusing to allow band concerts in No. 11, that band concerts are very few and far between, and also that during three months I spent as an in-patient of No. 11, no band concert was held, and, furthermore, no person connected with the Women's Auxiliaries to my knowledge officially visited the ward.

In view of the foregoing, it would appear that the adoption of these motions were through ignorance and want of knowledge of the matter under discussion.

The R.S.I., in reply to a message of condolence conveyed to the daughter of the late Sir John Monash, has received the following acknowledgement:

"Mrs. Gershon Bennett and family acknowledge with feelings of deep gratitude the many touching expressions of sympathy sent by branches and individual members of the League in the sad loss of her dear father, General Sir John Monash. Mrs. Bennett finds pleasure in the knowledge that the great love Sir John had for old comrades of the A.I.F. was reciprocated by them, and feels that members would like to know that Sir John prided above all things his association with them in their splendid work."

We are in receipt of a communication from Mr. S. Bowers, the Secretary of the Brunswick Sub-Branch, informing us that the following motion was carried unanimously at a recent meeting of his sub-branch: "That this sub-branch express appreciation of the services of the Listening Post.

Thank you, Brunswick. It is very pleasing to get a pat on the back occasionally.

C. F. Buttle, of Cookernup, writes—Standing on a fire step at Gallipoli, on the morn of 19th May, 1915, I was joined by a digger who had just arrived as a reinforcement to the 11th Battalion, and who had then not fired a shot. Being anxious to prove his value, he fired a few shots over the parapet at nothing in particular, then turned to me and exclaimed casually, "Well, that's the first B—I've shot without getting into a hell of a row about it."

In receiving the Freedom of the City of Leeds last September, General J. Smuts, ex-Premier of South Africa, and this year's President of the British Association, declared:

"You are in for a struggle as grave as any in your existence, but I would back you with my bottom dollar that this nation is going to pull through."

And so say all of us.

Don't Fail to Read—

"A DIGGER'S DIARY"

IN

The Western Mail

AUSTRALIA'S BEST PICTORIAL WEEKLY

Topics for all ex-A.I.F. men.

News of League—doings.

War tales, grave and gay.

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Lord Jellicoe, in his presidential address to the Fifth Biennial Conference of the B.E.S.L., said:

"It is true that our first duty is to protect the interests of the dependents of our fallen comrades and the welfare of all ex-Service men, but that is because they have given service and sacrifice for the community at large and have suffered as the result; but we do not forget that we are a responsible body in the life of the Empire."

"In the present Empire-wide depression we are prepared to play our part and are, in fact, doing so.

"We represent the millions of men who were prepared to make a great sacrifice during the War, and I can safely say we still represent men who are prepared to make yet further sacrifice, if necessary, and to play their part as citizens of this great Empire.

"It is our responsibility, because no other body has the same right to speak, to see that all that we defended in the Great War shall not be lost in peacetime troubles.

"Throughout the Empire there is wide unemployment, and of the numbers unemployed a great proportion are ex-Service men.

"Perhaps the greatest problem facing all Member-Organisations of the British Empire Service League is that of unemployment. In Great Britain, where we have so many ex-Service men unemployed, the Employment Department, under the charge of Admiral Payne, has, in spite of industrial depression, done excellent work in finding jobs for ex-Service men."

"It's a way they have in the Navy. Bill Bobstey had the proverbial sweetheart in every port, and, being a sentimental bloke, he made an honour roll of his chest by having the name of each girl tattooed thereon. When he left the Navy he decided to marry and settle down. Before the ceremony he spent a painful afternoon in a Jap tattooer's beauty parlour, having "H.M.S." placed before the names, so that he could tell his bride they were the names of ships he had served in.

Jim Whiteman (the Marquis of Torbay) writes:—

"As the years go on I have fears that the League is in danger of losing its pep. At our last conference it struck me that we lacked enthusiasm and initiative, and were inclined to be smugly complacent. I felt that it would not be out of order if lemonade and sponge cakes were handed round to the strains of an organ playing "Wandering Boy."

Our Branch President has advised members to take an active part in public affairs. This advice has no doubt been acted on by individual members; the branch, however, in its desire not to offend some of its members, has avoided issues that really count.

"To-day we see the rising crimson tide of communism increasing, not because the people want it, but through dissatisfaction with the present state of affairs. Armaments are increasing in numbers and deadlines. Modern invention has largely done away with man-power, and unemployment must increase.

"In the U.S.A., we are told, all the boots and shoes needed for one year can be made in three weeks. In all cases where massed production has been aimed at there is always over-production. Only an international agreement to shorten working hours can remedy the matter.

"Surely now is the time for the League to take the initiative and make an effort to call a world conference of soldiers, including ex-enemies. Such a meeting held at Berlin would at least be a gesture of world-wide significance and would carry more weight with the public of the various nations than those held by international politicians steeped in diplomacy.

"I take the liberty of forwarding these lines, trusting that the matter might come up for discussion and that someone more able and with access to facts and figures will advocate such a world conference.

Two destroyers, completed by the Ansaldo yards, says London Truth, were delivered at the Golden Horn during October. In general details they appear to reproduce our own latest type. It is announced that the chief purpose of these new destroyers is to screen the ex-Goeben against submarine attack. The Goeben was an expensive toy for Turkey. She was only two years old when she escaped into the Dardanelles, and as she has lived a pretty stagnant life since, she has rusted out rather than worn out.

The Secretary of the B.U.S.A. writes:—

"With great regret the Executive of the British United Services Association have decided that owing to unforeseen circumstances the dance and social promised for New Year's Eve has been definitely abandoned. To all Imperials—The Season's Greetings."

Political events in Britain and Australia have diverted public attention from the failure of the League of Nations to find a solution to the Manchurian problem. Japan, who is a member of the League, successfully defied that body and is now prepared to acquiesce in the League's recognition of an accomplished fact. Local papers went to strange lengths in their endeavours to save the League's face. Although three-major engagements, which would have ranked as important battles in older wars, had been fought, the newspapers persistently used the heading, "Danger of War. We shall
not be surprised if our cautious pressmen inform us that a Federal election probably occurred on December 19.

The latest to join the ancient order of hill-birds is Rear-Admiral Dewar, the hero of the "Royal Oak" courts-martial, who is alleged to have called the bandmaster a bar-steward. As socialist candidate for North Portsmouth, he sanctioned the issue of a broad-sheet, making capital out of the Invergordon episode. This discreditable and mendacious publication contained a picture of battleships in action, with portraits of Kaiser Bill and the Governor of the Bank of England. The caption read: "The British Navy at Jutland in 1916 beat the Kaiser, and at Invergordon in 1931 it beat Mr. Montagu Norman."

So far from repudiating this offensive propaganda, the undisciplined Rear-Admiral declared that he has nothing to apologise for and that "the sheet merely states facts."

Edgar Wallace, who contested the Blackpool seat in the recent British elections, fought in the Boer War as a private in the regular army. About that time, Kipling was shown Wallace's first published work, a slender book of verse, which so impressed Kipling that he advised the young soldier to adopt a literary career. His venture into the political arena disillusioned him. Though new to politics, he told the electors of Blackpool he was not without a preliminary training. He possesses a unique knowledge of the criminal classes, and imagined that when he put up as a candidate he was therefore prepared for anything. "I find," he says, "that politics is the only game where there is no honour among thieves."

We desire to extend our congratulations to the Australian War Memorial Commission for the very excellent reproduction of the painting of General Sir John Monash, by Sir John-Longstaff. All diggers who have had an opportunity of viewing this reproduction cannot fail to be impressed with the living likeness to our late leader.

Affixed to the portrait is a descriptive title setting out in detail his military and civic honours; also the battles in which he participated.

The portraits are suitably mounted in three styles of frames: a three-inch oak frame, 50/-; a gold frame at 65/-; and a most ornate gold frame at 84/-.

Old-Time Dances

(By "Piplok")

(The Tambellup Sub-branch has organised an Old-Time Dance, to be held in October, at Bobalong. Sub-branch Notes.)

The moon's a disc of blazing pearl,

The sky is crystal clear,

And Mum is blushing like a girl,

While Dad is full of cheer.

The motor hums a merry song;

The long miles fall behind;

We'll dance to-night at Bobalong,

Where joy is unconfined.

We talk of many another night

That set our hearts awhirl,

When you were just a dancing sprite,

A flame-flower of a girl,

And I was not so gaunt and long,

Fate's song was yet un sung;

Those night we danced in Bobalong,

When you and I were young.

Old "Roany," with his hairy hocks,

Would do the distance then,

No dinner suits nor Paris frocks

Were worn by maids or men;

And rich and poor would join the throng,

Lean purse and income large.

A "bob-a-nob," at Bobalong,

Was all they used to charge.

The M.G. with his strident voice

(Its range was near a mile)

Would marshal all the girls and boys

In sergeant-major style,

With "Brand yer heifer fer a valse!"

"Yoke up fer this quadrille!"

Or, "Gents not dancing, line the walls!"

"Strike up the music, Bill!"

Then fast the tunes would ebb and flow

From Bill's accordian,

"Blue Danube" or the gay "Keel Row."

And many another one.

That sped our pattering feet along,

And made the rafters ring.

That's how we danced at Bobalong

When all the world was Spring.

Arrangements have been made for the distribution of these portraits from the War Memorial's Perth office, 4th Floor, G.P.O., Perth. Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Assistant-Director, who is now engaged on the work of distribution of Captain Will Longstaff's works, "Menin Gate at Midnight" and "The Immortal Shrine." Then, when the glory of the morn

Set sky and field aglow,

We'd hurry home to thresh the corn,

Or milk cow after cow.

Ah, life was all an elfin song

By lovers' voices sung.

Those magic nights at Bobalong,

When you and I were young.

This soft gum-scented air revives

Dear ghosts of yesterday.

Can this calm autumn of our lives

Youth's ardours overlay?

Perchance they'll seek us in the throng,

With welcoming arms outflung.

Those ghosts who danced in Bobalong

With us, when we were young.

A Patient's Gratitude

Mr. F. G. Denslowe, 2nd Pioneers, who has been for some weeks past a patient in No. 1 Ward of the Perth General Hospital, desires to return thanks through our pages to the Medical and Nursing Staffs of the hospital, and to various members of the R.S.L., Women's Auxiliary and others, for the many kindnesses he has received at their hands during his recent spell in hospital. Mr. Denslowe is a member of the Merredin Sub-branch. Messrs. Edgar Logan and Kendall and other Merredin diggers rallied to his assistance and helped him in the way of transportation to the train, on his way to hospital. While in No. 1 Ward he received the same care and attention as digger patients in No. 11, and he speaks in glowing terms of the kindness and efficiency of the hospital staff.

Mrs. Jamieson, of the Women's Auxiliary, visited him daily and, as he has been unable to use his arms, attended to his correspondence. Gratitude is also expressed to Mr. Wadding for his many little acts of kindness. Mr. Denslowe especially wishes us to state that it is not necessary for a man to be in No. 11 Ward to receive the kindness, attention and consideration which is usually extended to incapacitated diggers. We are glad to learn that there is a prospect of Mr. Denslowe being reunited with his family for Christmas, and wish him a speedy recovery and the compliments of the season.

An argument arose in a certain club concerning the merits of temperament. One member, who strangely enough displayed this unpopular cause, proceeded to develop his contention at length, and wound up a fine peroration by saying, "Where would the Americans be to-day if it were not for prohibition?" There was a slight pause, and then a nasal voice spoke up: "In America, I guess."
The Diggers’ Business Directory

BREAD
CORLETT BROS.
(late A.I.F.)
White or Wholesome Bread.
Sole Manufacturers in Belmont and
Victoria Park for
BERMALINE BREAD
Deliveries Daily.
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307 HAY ST. (East), PERTH
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Phone B4750. E. S. Watt, Mon. Dir.

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Next door Prince of Wales
Theatre
JACK LUNNY
Proprietor
(Late A.I.F.)
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MADE TO ORDER
Surgical Work a Speciality
Boot Repairs While You Wait

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HEMSTITCHING
BUTTONS
MACKENZIE Bros.
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(Late 11th and 4th Batt.)
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TAILORING,
DRAPEY,
FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS,
HAY STREET, PERTH
(Opp. Stores)
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Monumental Works
ONLY ADDRESS:
KARRAKATTA (near Station)
Write or Ring Fl812 and we will
post Catalogue
WE CALL BY APPOINTMENT

DIGGERS!
Excellent Accommodation
Moderate Tariff
A Home from Home
RAILWAY HOTEL
BARRACK ST. - PERTH
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J. H. LUNNON
F.S.M.C., F.I.O.O., D.B.A.
LONDON
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WHEN IN TOWN—
Secure your Fruit Supply from
“JACK” MICHAEL
(Late 11th Batt.)
Barrow
In front of East End Beano Ltd.
WELLINGTON ST., PERTH
Apotheosis
(By O'COILEAN)

Bill was aware of a curious feeling of lightness. Then he realised that his spirit had escaped all bodily restrictions, and was now hovering above the bed. He looked down at himself. How white and strange was that figure which had been him! How tragically concerned seemed the nurse who bent over it. So this was death. Ah well, what next?

Then by some rapid method of transition, of which he was barely conscious, he found himself along with others before immense gates, by which were angels and demons, lolling around, chaffing one another like the frontier guards of two adjacent but friendly States. The voice of someone unseen recited Bill’s regimental number and name, gave a brief summary of his earthly doings, and soon Bill was travelling along a road which led to a building like a huge quartermaster’s store. Someone thrust a huge saxophone into his hands. He noticed that everyone who entered this place was presented with a saxophone.

"Here!" he exclaimed. "I don’t want this. I’d rather have another sort of instrument. Anyway, I can’t play it."

"Neither can anyone else," replied the issuing clerk. "But everyone has to have a saxophone here. That’s what makes the place."

Someone then directed him to an immense auditorium, where guides were mustering the newcomers into their earthly units. Bill recognised several members of his old battalion and joined them. In an adjacent pen were thousands of military police.

"We’re pretty near the jacks, ain’t we?" Bill inquired.

"No more than any other unit," his friend explained. "This place is lousy with the jacks. There’s so many of them that the heads have to shove ’em in between the various units."

"Who are those important looking blokes that have just come in?"

"Oh, they’re members of the R.S.I. State Executive. They have a special room for them. There’s another room somewhere about this place specially reserved for padres. But, shut up now, the show’s just about to start."

Someone with an especially nasal American accent announced through an enormous megaphone that the time was ripe for a little community work with the saxophone. The tune selected was “Painting the Clouds with Sunshine,” and Bill was surprised to find that he was managing his saxophone just as well as anyone else. One of the advantages of this strange instrument is that no knowledge of music is required for playing it. The community work which, as Bill learned afterwards, lasted a thousand centuries, was followed by a broadcasting of the women’s services speeches in favour of disarmament. Then another American-looking shade played syncopated Beethoven and Verdi on the Wurlitzer organ for a thousand centuries, after which Mr. Fred Alexander occupied a similar period of time in explaining the objects and ideals of the League of Nations.

"What do we do now?" Bill asked his neighbour.

"Oh, we just go through the programme. You see, we work on periods of a thousand centuries for each item, and we go through this programme for all eternity."

"Struth!" Bill ejaculated. "You’d think they’d have a bit more variety in Heaven."

"Heaven!" his pal sniffed scornfully. "Where do you get this Heaven idea from? You —— fool, we’re in Hell."

"An old man once presented himself at a hospital for dogs and cats, and asked for permission to be taken in. "You cannot come in here," he was told. "Yes, I can,” he protested, “I’m an old soldier.” “But, my good man, you can’t,” was the reply. “This is a veterinary hospital.” “That’s all right,” answered the old man, solemnly, “didn’t I tell you I’m a veteran?"

A Group of Recruits photographed at Blackboy in August, 1915. The photo was sent to us by Tommy Sly, of the Western Australian Insurance Coy. Noted in the group are Ben Jones (third from right, back row), who later represented Fremantle in the Legislative Assembly, founded the “Mirror” newspaper, and who died five or six years ago; Tom Sly (third from right, front row, sitting) and Stan Watt (fourth from right, front row). Perhaps some of our readers will recognise others.
Then—and Now

Hats off to Rev. C. V. Burden, M.C., of Huntingdon, England, for his outspoken defence of the truth in a recent address given during a service at his Parish Church. This padre, although ordained at the time when war broke out, and fought in the ranks, eventually reaching the rank of captain. Here is his address—

"In the early days when we first put on khaki we were thought much of. People spoke of us as if we were doing something for them. Then peace came, when people could go home and sleep in a bed without any 'bits of things' lying about. No S.R.D.; no sergeant-major. All went back to a life from which they had been separated by vivid experiences and tried to replant themselves after being uprooted. They had to go back sometimes to a subordinate position, worse than that they had left, and take orders from people who did not possess qualities for managing men which they themselves had displayed in the War; who did not know what danger meant, and in some cases had taken care not to know—and had prospered meanwhile.

"And then came the slump. Trade depression increased; the gaunt figure of unemployment stalked through the land and grew even more menacing. When things go wrong a scapegoat must be found. Many believed that the war was responsible for everything. The true view, I believe, is that the change started long ago. The War was only an incident in a chain of events which was to produce, sooner or later, a new order of things, but it greatly accelerated the change. We have lived to see, plays, books, and films which profess to give a true account of what really happened in the War, but quite unlike anything men knew who took part in it. The weakly sentimental strain—the love interest as it is called—which appears in them gives the impression that smart and alluring females were part of the life of the front line troops. That drunken officers were all over the place; that cowardice and hysteria were very common.

An atmosphere of low brutality marks such stories, and there is an absence of idealism or even decency.

"I may have been fortunate, but during two years in a battalion of infantry as a combatant in the front line in France, I never saw anyone drunk or approaching drunk in the trenches or in battle. I never saw a woman within several miles of the front line who would be any temptation even to a man on a desert island, and, as to fear, I think it better to say very little about that, when it is remembered that sometimes men, after the utmost exhaustion, and with little food or shelter, wet through and numb with cold, sleepless, shelled and gassed, were then expected to attack, sometimes never having been in a trench before. These films and books are the medium by which the post-war generation is learning what war was like; what the life of the men who took part in it was like; what you and I were like.

"What has become of the old idea that English soldiers were defending their country, keeping safe and inviolate English homes, and the Empire free? But we can afford to smile because as we march along, as we have been doing today, memory comes back of a time when one spirit and purpose bound all together in defence of King, Country and Empire—and of Civilisation as well."

Young Lady: "Will you buy a ticket to see the Morris dancing in our hall next week?"

Old Gentleman: "Sure! Isn't it wonderful what they can do with these small cars nowadays!"

Personalities

Alex McGregor, of Mt. Helena, recently resigned the position of Secretary of Mundaring and Districts Sub-Branch, acting on medical advice. He served with the famous 16th Battalion A.I.P., and was severely wounded on two occasions, the last "issue" spell "finish France," and eventually he came home to Aussie. Each time Mac collected his "blighty," he happened to be stretcher-bearing.

"Sandy Mac," as he is familiarly known among his bigger friends, has proved his worth as an able Secretary, and his genial disposition and good fellowship won him many friends both in and out of the League, and, needless to say, all wish him well.

Mr. H. H. Howard, chairman of the War Pensions' Assessment Tribunal, who has been visiting this State on official business, was present at the State Executive meeting on December 9. After being formally introduced by the President, Mr. Howard briefly addressed the delegates on pension matters.

Lieutenant-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston, M.P., who commanded the immortal 29th Division at the landing at Cape Helles, in 1915, having attained the age limit of liability to recall, has been transferred from the reserve of officers to the retired list.

General Hunter-Weston entered the Army in 1884, joining the Royal Engineers, and has seen service in campaigns on the North-West Frontier, Egypt, South Africa, Gallipoli, and France.

Deep regret is felt by the members of the Yarloop Sub-branch at the impending
A Brass Hat's Stepfather

(By C. R. Collins)

The passing of Major-General Alexander Whitelaw Thorneycroft revives memories of the darker days of the last Boer War. South Africa proved the grave of many military reputations that had been built up in previous wars, just as the World War sounded the death-knell of reputations painfully acquired in South Africa. Gatacre at Stormberg ("Old Backacher" his hard-worked foot-sloggers nicknamed him during the Omdurman campaign), Methuen at Magersfontein, Buller at Colenso, mildewed the laurels they had won in India, Zululand, the Sudan and elsewhere, Thorneycroft, and his Divisional Commander, Sir Charles Warren, also had this misfortune, for the verdict of history attaches to them the blame for the British failure at Spion Kop. The reason for such reversals of form would seem to be the professional soldier's incurable habit of training for the war which is just over, instead of for the war which is yet to come.

Like Sir Charles Warren, Thorneycroft knew South Africa well, long before President Kruger essayed to stagger humanity. Born in 1859, he entered the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1879, served in the Zulu War, the Sekukuni Campaign, and the Boer War of 1881. His towering physique, his handsome exterior, his personality and military efficiency, combined to make him the ideal leader of gentlemen adventurers of those dashing irregulars with whom Britain has won most of her little wars, and some of her big ones.

The Spion Kop affair was the culmination of Buller's second attempt to relieve Ladysmith. The failure of the frontal attack on Colenso on December 15, 1900, caused a foreign attaché to ask, "Was there no way round?" Profiting by his bitter experience, Buller essayed to open the road to Ladysmith by turning the Boer flank. He had just been reinforced by Sir Charles Warren's division and he had a preponderance of artillery, at least in weight of metal. Warren crossed the Tugela, sixteen miles westward of Colenso, and proceeded to roll the Boers off the long, pleated plateau they were holding. The key of the Boer position was Spion-Kop, literally the "look-out mountain" from which, in 1835, the leaders of the Great Trek had first beheld the lowlands of Natal. This was the high peak marking the corner of the Boer position.

During a night of drizzling mist and rain, Woodgate's Brigade, led by 180 men of Thorneycroft's mounted infantry, established themselves on the crest of the plateau. Little opposition was encountered, so a halt was made—a fatal halt, as it turned out, for the Boers were strongly entrenched at the further end. Had Woodgate on that morning, January 21, 1900, held the whole end of the plateau, the relief of Ladysmith would have been accomplished.

The British position was very narrow. In many places the front was only one

---

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hundred yards wide. There was barely room for a company of infantry in extended formation. Artillery support could be obtained only from the low-lying ground on the river front. Upon this congested area, devoid of natural cover, the Boers concentrated a venomous deluge of artillery, machine-gun and rifle fire. Our own guns on the plain below failed to register on the well-concealed Boer batteries. Woodgate was wounded early in the action, and Buller himself placed Thorneycroft in command of the defence of the hill. Thorneycroft received reinforcements, a whole brigade, which added to the congestion, and swelled the casualty list. So close did the fighting become that Boer and Briton frequently found themselves firing at one another from opposite sides of the same boulder. When some of his men were inclined to give way, Thorneycroft, regardless of snipers' bullets, rushed forward and yelled to the advancing Boers, "You may go to hell. I command here and allow no surrender. Go on with your firing." After enduring a bombardment for twelve hours, the British obeyed Thorneycroft's order to retire from the position under cover of darkness. Thirty hundred dead and dying, forty per cent. of the total strength, were heaped within that confined space into which the Boer artillery had pumped shells at the rate of seven a minute.

Now arises the question of Thorneycroft's responsibility. Should he have given the order to retire, or held on? Thorneycroft said himself, "Better six battalions safely down the hill than a mop up in the morning." On the other hand, General Botha, who was in command of the Boers, was astounded at the British retirement. A diversion to relieve the pressure upon Spion Kop had been made successfully by the British, lower down the Tugela, and Botha was making his own preparations for retreat when his scouts brought him word that the British had withdrawn. Had Thorneycroft held on, Ladysmith would have been relieved a month earlier than it was. Brigadier-General Crozier, the author of "A Brass Hat in No Man's Land," received his baptism of fire as a member of Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry at Spion Kop. Thorneycroft afterwards married Crozier's widowed mother. In his "Impressions and Recollections," Crozier writes of his former commanding officer and stepfather in terms of ardent admiration and glowing affection. But Crozier considers Thorneycroft should have held on, quoting a verse of Kipling's "If" in support of his contention.

However, few of Thorneycroft's critics have considered the question why such a grave decision should have been thrust upon a relatively junior officer. Sir Charles Warren, the advance brigade of whose division commenced the action, remained at the bottom of the hill all day. Had he ascended the Kop he could have withdrawn Thorneycroft's decimated troops, replacing them with small parties of fresh troops who could have held on to the position.

It must be remembered that Thorneycroft was, after all, a regimental leader, and it is hardly fair to make him the scapegoat for the supineness of the higher command. His whole training had been that of a regimental leader, and as such his first thought was the welfare of the men under his command. His ability as a leader of men was recognised by the award of the C.B. in June, 1900. As a leader of men he did excellent work in the guerilla warfare that followed the fall of Pretoria. The column he commanded was ever hard on the heels of the elusive De Wet, whom he was once within an ace of capturing. After the Boer War he held various staff appointments and commands, retiring from the Army in 1912.

After the prisoner had been convicted, a list of his previous crimes and antecedents was read out. "So," said the judge, "your father was a forger, your brother a burglar, and you sister a blackmailer?" "Yes, sir," said the prisoner eagerly, "but I've one brother in Guy's Hospital." "Indeed!" said the surprised judge. "In what capacity, may I ask?" "Please, sir, he's in no capacity. He's in a bottle."

The Effects of Machinery on Farming Practice

(By J. Leith Gillespie, B.Ag.Sc.)

During times of depression, when both the farmer and the city man are feeling the affect of world-wide overproduction or, as some economists claim, world-wide underconsumption, it is interesting to study the effect of machinery on agricultural production. Some figures of great interest relating to Australian conditions were issued officially a few years ago. These figures show the increase in production of each person engaged in farming industries, in manufactures, and in all industries for the period 1911 to 1924. These figures are expressed as a "Production efficiency index", where 1911 equals 1000.

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1911</td>
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<td>910</td>
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Compare the small increase in the efficiency of persons engaged in manufactures (75) with the tremendous increase in efficiency of those engaged in crop production (505), or dairying (779). These dramatic figures are partly due to the work of scientists who have, by increasing the yield per acre, or cow, and by reducing the destruction by disease, increased the production per man; but by far the greatest influence on all figures has been the large-scale introduction of machinery into these two branches of farming since 1911. The reason why the manufacturing and pastoral industries have not increased greatly in efficiency since 1911 is probably that most of the mechanical aids were discovered prior to 1911, and no startling improvements have been made since that date.
Australia has always been well abreast of the times when there is a possibility of using machinery to help the primary producer, and many inventions used throughout the world to-day are the result of Australian ingenuity.

A striking example of this is the combined Reaper Thresher or Header Harvester, which has cut the cost of harvesting cereal crops not only in Australia, but throughout almost every grain-growing community of the world. Take for example the increase in the number of "combines" in use in Western Canada from 1922 to 1929:

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<td>18</td>
<td>1929</td>
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This example is only one of many which might be quoted. Inventors have been or are busy on mechanising every branch of agriculture. Machinery for draining, ploughing, sowing, manuring, and even electrifying the soil to increase fertility, is available. Seeds and seedlings may be sown and cultivated, and when ready for harvest the grain can be gathered; and even complicated processes such as the harvesting of cotton, sugar cane, or root crops, are receiving attention, so that by mechanical aid the cost of production and the labour required is cut down very considerably.

Only recently, for example, our daily papers published reports of experiments being conducted with electricity for curing tobacco leaf. If these experiments are successful a tremendous amount of labour and time at present used in fueling and supervising this delicate operation will be cut out, and a more even and valuable leaf will be produced.

The man with any imagination will be able to multiply these examples many times and, as in years past the industrial organisation was revolutionised by machinery, so to-day we are living in an age of agricultural revolution.

How does this revolution in agriculture affect us personally in Australia? We have always led the world as far as inventions in connection with the cheap production of cereal crops are concerned. The reason for this is that we have large areas of open land ideally suited for the use of large teams and heavy machinery. Our labour has always been costly or scarce, and these two factors have forced us, if we are to compete in the world's markets, to rapidly develop along these lines. Our farmers, coming from good stock and unimpeded by traditions and inhibitions, have been quick to adopt these aids to cheap production, thus encouraging machinery manufacturers to persevere in the production of better and cheaper machinery. Our Governments, realising to some extent at least this danger from other lands, are providing the farmer with improved agricultural seeds, and are educating him to give up the haphazard methods of pioneer farming and settle down to intelligent intensive production by using only the best production methods. South Africa is threatening to compete with us in the production of fine wools, America is cutting down the cost of wheat production by adopting Australian methods of harvesting her grain, and Russia, the world's bogeyman, is carrying out a nation-wide scheme of applying machinery to farming in an intelligent manner which, if it is successful, threatens to swamp the markets of the world with grain and animal products at extremely low prices. Tariff walls and trade-treaties may hinder, but will not stop the march of evolution and progress, and we, in Australia, will only be able to support even the sparse population which we have at present, if we use everything which science and invention have given us. We have a wonderful country and we have an intelligent people, and we must take the place in this agricultural revolution of the present age which our forefathers took in the industrial revolution of years ago.

Those of us who are students of history will remember that when machinery was introduced into industry millions of men were thrown out of employment, and it was many years before these men were re-absorbed, chiefly in industry, as the cost of manufactured products was reduced and consumption increased. The hours of labour were cut down from, in some cases, sixteen to eight, or even six, and the actual physical effort required was greatly reduced. To-day, with the aid of wireless, telephones, cheap books, and education, the application of machinery to primary production will be even
The Americans at the Front

General Pershing's contribution to the literature of the Great War has aroused a storm of indignation in England and elsewhere, but, it must be confessed, that his criticisms of the Allied policy and of the British troops are milder than the cabled accounts have led us to expect. His reflections upon the morale of the British troops and his assertion that neither the British nor the French desired to see a victorious American army dictating the terms of peace, were the main causes of the resentment provoked. At the same time the General has been frankly, even scathingly critical, of his own country's dilatory war preparations.

Before the sinking of the Lusitania, it became obvious that America's entry into the war was only a question of time. She had a regular army with a peace-establishment of nearly 100,000 of all ranks, military and naval colleges, and a huge reserve of man power to draw upon. All the experience painfully acquired by the Allies during the first years of the war was at her disposal. It was realised that the Americans would have to buy their fighting experience as the Australians and other Dominion troops had, but it was confidently expected that she would teach the world something about the business side of running a war. It was in the latter field that she failed most signalily. Leonard Mason and other American writers of war fiction show a pathetic uniformity, and a certain amount of unconscious humour, in depicting the chaos that existed in the American base camps, the defective system of rationing troops, and the failure to provide an adequate transport system. With the knowledge that war was inevitable, and with a regular army at her command, there is no excuse for the twelve months' delay that intervened between Wilson's declaration of war, and the arrival of the main body of the Americans in France. When America entered the war, in April, 1917; Britain and France proposed that the American War Department should supply detachments of infantry to reinforce British and French troops, with whom they would be trained. At first the Department seemed to favor this idea, but General Pershing, who was appointed commander-in-chief of the American forces in France, in May 1927, was strongly opposed to the incorporation of American units in the British and French armies. He insisted that America should have a separate army of not fewer than one million men. The suggestion of M. Joffre and Balfour Missions, he writes, were no doubt prompted to some extent by the belief that we would be unable within a reasonable time to build up a separate army capable of operating independently, although it was suspected that this was not the only reason and that the Allies were not keen for us to have an independent combat army. Our belief in the existence of such an attitude on the part of the Allies naturally stirred in our minds a feeling of distrust, which was emphasised by their later efforts to dominate, and which, therefore, continued to be a factor in all our relations up to the end.

Events proved the Allies right in their estimate of the time; it would take America to put even a partially trained independent army into the field. Without reflecting on General Pershing in any way, it may be assumed that commanders like Foch and Haig were quite as capable of appreciating the situation as he was, and that their experience of war was greater. The suggested mixing of American units with British and French troops would have been a valuable training for the newcomers, and would have appreciably lessened the duration of the war. At the same time, such a course would have been a blow to American pride, and Pershing's ambition to command an independent force was, on the face of it, a legitimate one.

"In the midst of the various and opposing schemes of the Allies," he writes, "the idea remained fixed in my mind that the morale of our troops, their proper training, and their best strategical use all demanded their concentration into an American army instead of being allot-
ted beyond our control as replacements in the ranks of the Allied armies. In fact, every consideration dictated that our army should in no sense be in a subordinate relation to the others, but that we should plan from the start to build up our own independent organisation.

Pershing seems to have determined upon his course without reference to the situation and the general needs of the moment. Had America entered the war at the same time as Britain and France, it might have been the best one to adopt, but, in 1917, national pride was a secondary consideration compared with the saving of civilisation. General Pershing admits that an "appalling lack of preparation" by the war department and shortage of shipping were responsible for the tardy arrival of the Americans in France, where their number, in April, 1918, was only 320,000 of whom 180,000 were non-combatants. On the other hand, as Lord Riddell points out in his review of this book in "John O' London's Weekly," the Department was, more probably, overwhelmed by demands for fully enrolled units complete with artillery, etc. Commenting on the severe losses of the Allies during the early part of 1917, General Pershing says, "the real question was whether the Allies could hold out until we (the Americans) were ready." Nevertheless, he persisted in his demand for an independent organisation, and in his opinion that America could contribute more largely to Allied success by the use of the American army as a unit.

"There was nothing vainglorious in our attitude," he says, "but no people with a grain of national pride would consent to furnish men to hold up the army of another nation. Misunderstandings and recriminations would inevitably follow any reverse by such a mixed force." Surely a matter of opinion. National pride did not prevent a brigade of Cromwell's infantrymen being sent to "hold up" the French army at Dunkirk, and the men who fought at Minden were holding up the army of another nation. It was this national pride, fostered at the wrong time, which nearly lost us the war.

As there were no prospects of an improvement in the situation on the Western front, Mr. Lloyd George, in December, 1917, again suggested that Americans be used to stiffen British battalions. Britain was prepared to sink her grain of national pride to this extent; and it was pointed out that, if desired, the American reinforcements could later be recalled and incorporated with American divisions.

"Our man power," Lloyd George added, "is pretty well exhausted, we can only call up men of forty-five and fifty and boys of seventeen. France is done. The American soldiers will not be ready to fight as an army until late in 1918. Meanwhile we must keep the fight going. Even half-rationed American companies would fight well if mixed with two or three years' veterans." His opinion was amply verified later on when Americans were mixed with the A.I.F. Even the paranoid President Wilson seems to have been impressed with the necessities of the situation. On Christmas Day, 1917, he cabled Pershing:

"We do not desire a loss of identity of our forces, but regard that as secondary to the meeting of any critical situation by the most helpful use possible of the troops at your command."

Pershing, however, did not think any good reason yet existed for breaking up American divisions and scattering regiments for service among the French and British, especially in the guise of instruction. The integrity of the American forces should be preserved as far as possible. When the Germans broke through the Allied line in March, 1918, General Pershing offered to put into battle every man he could muster. Certain American units were brigaded with British and American troops, but on April 5, Pershing wrote to Mr. Baker, American Secretary of War, asking him to cable to the President, pointing out:

"The urgency of Great Britain's putting into the ranks every possible man to withstand the present German onslaught even if they have to promise to withdraw them in six months, and of their doing so without waiting on us, or counting on us in the slightest degree. He was informed that large numbers of men were held in Britain for home defence."

By the end of April it was arranged with President Wilson, that very month, for four months, 120,000 men consisting of only infantry, should be shipped from America to Europe, provided Britain found the transport. President Wilson and Mr. Baker, however, while expressing their own wishes, left the arrangements to General Pershing's discretion. In a resulting interview with Marshal Foch, Pershing voiced his disapproval of the plan.

"No, I do not consent. I propose for one month to ship nothing but infantry and machine gun units and after that the other arms and services of the rear troops to corespond."

He was still insisting on the formation of an American army. Foch answered:

"Do not forget that we are in the midst of a hard battle. If we do not take steps to prevent the disaster which is threatened at present the American Army may arrive in France to find the British pushed into the sea, and the French driven back behind the Loire, while it tries in vain to organise on lost battlefields over the graves of Allied soldiers."

Pershing was still obdurate when he interviewed the Supreme War Council, M. Clemenceau, Mr. Lloyd-George, and Marshal Foch.

Foch said to him: "You are willing to risk our being driven back to the Loire?" Pershing replied:

"Yes, I am willing to take the risk. Moreover, the time may come when the American army will have to stand the brunt of this war, and it is not wise to fritter away our reserves in this manner. The morale of the British, French and Italian armies is low, while, as you know, that of the American Army is very high. It would be a grave mistake to give up the idea of building an American army in all its details as rapidly as possible." Pershing evidently found it convenient
to forget that more wars have been lost from over-caution than from rashness. When Foch again reminded him that the war might be over before the Americans were ready, he answered—

"The war could not be saved by feeding untrained American troops into the Allied armies, but an American army must be built up. Concessions for the time being to meet the present emergency were all he would approve."

Even Lloyd George's impassioned warning, "Can't you see that the war will be lost unless we get this support," and Clemenceau's remonstrances, failed to move him from this position.

The French reverse on May 27, forced Pershing to acquiesce in the temporary employment of more American troops. It had already been agreed that only American infantry and machine gun units were to be despatched during June, and Britain agreed to provide transport for 150,000 instead of 120,000. On June 1, Foch again demanded that only infantry and machine gun units should be despatched from America during June and July. Pershing was adamant about July. Finally it was agreed that 250,000 troops should be shipped during that month, 140,000 combatants, and 110,000 of classes to be selected by Pershing, the transport being provided by the British. In describing these negotiations Pershing blames the Allies for not providing this transport a year or even six months sooner. Of course, Britain was only using her transports to maintain her forces on two other fronts. Of the Americans who landed in France, 46.25 per cent. were carried in American ships, 51.25 per cent. in ships Britain owned or controlled, and 2.5 per cent. in others. The result of the British transport effort was that in October, 1918, America had close on two million men in France.

Pershing still refused to allow American units to reinforce the British and the French. The Americans who went over the top with the Australians on July 4, did so of their own initiative. Pershing was astonished when he heard of this. "The incident," he comments, "though, relatively unimportant in itself, showed clearly the disposition of the British to assume control of our units, the very thing which I had made such strong efforts, and had imposed so many conditions to prevent."

Sixteen months after America's entry into the war, Pershing at last realised his ideal of commanding an American army in the field. In the meantime, the French and British troops, on whose morale he had commented so adversely, had withstood the German onslaughts, re-established their line, and were now beginning to hit back with effect. Even more ridiculous, is Pershing's dogmatic assertion that the British and the French were not trained as they should have been in open warfare. The whole peace-time training of either army had been for nothing else. It is true that Kitchener's Army was trained mainly for trench warfare, but throughout 1917 the British troops were trained behind the lines for open fighting. The 5th Australian Division adopted open warfare formation when advancing on Bapaume, early in that year, and from that time onward, all the Australian, and it may be assumed, all the British divisions were trained in these tactics. One might retort, with justice, by asking what experience the Americans had had of open warfare. By the time they went into action as an army, the German morale had been shattered, and here, one recalls an incident of the fighting in the Argonne, when the American artillery bombarded the German position for two whole days with shells that had not been fused.

Pershing seems to have been entirely incapable of appreciating the situation and its necessities. His predominating idea was to form an American army which would be under his command at the end of the war. He alone was responsible for holding back the American troops. His policy placed the Allies in serous and unnecessary peril, prolonged the war unduly, and was the cause of sacrificing thousands of valuable lives.

In its report on the Fifth Biennial Conference of the B.E.S.L., held at Toronto this year, Our Empire states that in a report furnished by the Australian delegation the Conference was informed "that Captain G. J. C. Dyett had retained the Federal Presidency of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League (our Australian member-organisation) for over ten years." A special message was despatched from the Conference to Captain Dyett, congratulating him on his re-election to this important office, and expressing its confidence in the future of this constituent organisation under his presidency.

The action of Conference in congratulating the Federal President was a graceful courtesy, though, to our mind, the concluding phrase leaves something to be desired. Associating our success for the future with the presidency of one man looks like giving advice on something which is purely a domestic matter for Australia.
Military Changes

At the end of the month Brigadier-General C. H. Jess leaves this State to take over the command of the Third Military District. The General, who is one of the distinguished brigadiers of the A.I.F., was born in Bendigo and became a sergeant-major on the Instructional Staff of the Australian Military Forces at the age of twenty-two. He was a captain when the war broke out, and left Australia as Staff Captain to the 4th Brigade. After hard service in Gallipoli and France, he became Brigadier-General commanding the 10th Brigade, in 1918. He was then thirty-four, the youngest Brigadier-General in the service. Since the war he has been District Commandant in Tasmania, and in this State during the trying period of retreatment and rationing. The many friends he made in Western Australia wish him all success and happiness in his new appointment.

His successor, Colonel T. Martyn, was born at Armidale, N.S.W. Colonel Martyn, who commenced his service as an officer of the Royal Australian Engineers, also served with distinction in the Great War. This is Colonel Martyn’s first appointment as District Commandant.

WOMENS AUXILIARIES

At the monthly meeting held on the 16th November, the newly-elected members of the State Executive were welcomed by Mrs. T. C. Wilson (President).

Mrs. Coleman, Assistant Secretary, was granted leave of absence until the meeting in January. Owing to the Motor Trust Fund being handed over to the State Executive for outings and entertainment of soldiers still in hospital, a small committee consisting of Mr. James Marshall, Mr. Titman, and G. Power, was formed to arrange such outings.

Advice was asked by a country branch as to the age when a young girl could join the Auxiliary. The Executive decided the age be 16, but that the age to vote be decided at the Congress next year.

The motions passed at Congress were reviewed, and various actions decided upon to bring them before the notice of the organisations concerned. Mrs. T. C. Wilson was elected to be the representative of Women’s Auxiliaries on the Executive of the Council of Industries.

Reports were read by Mrs. Hopkinson upon the sale of Poppy Wreaths, hospital visiting, and general work for the month.

UNITED AUXILIARIES’ SOCIAL

The quarterly social, taking the form of a Christmas party, was held in the dining room of the Soldiers’ Institute, on Monday, 7th December. Mrs. T. C. Wilson, on behalf of the Women’s Auxiliary State Executive, welcomed the guests who had been invited to bring along their husbands and male friends. The hall was gaily decorated, paper caps and balloons adding to the festive appearance of the gathering. In spite of the high temperature the company entered heartily into the dancing of the barn dance, jagers, and waltzes, their music supplied by Mrs. Power and Mr. Batey. An innovation was the Sir Roger de Coverley. Between the dances (the following artists contributed, and were much appreciated, solo:- Mr. Staflund, Miss L. Somers, Mrs. Oatway, and Mr. Batey (violin). Two competitions organised by Mrs. Wears and Mrs. Marshall evoked great interest, the prize winners being Mrs. Staflund and Mrs. Kettleer.

GUILDFORD-BASSENDAN

The annual general meeting was held on 10th December. The reports showed an active and successful year, the membership rising from 18 to 28. Over 20 families had been assisted with clothing and footwear. Besides a considerable amount of second-hand clothing, 62 yards of material and 2 pairs of footwear in good order had been distributed.

The following are the office-bearers elected for 1932:- Mrs. Grieve, President; Mrs. Chesterton, Vice-President; Mrs. Kirkman, Secretary; Mrs. Trask, Treasurer; Mrs. Watters, Kenderly, and Carter, Trustees.

STATE EXECUTIVE

Owing to the proximity of Christmas, the meeting was held on 14th December, a week earlier than usual.

Letters are still being received from both town and country requesting assistance in clothing and footwear. As the supply is exhausted at present, donations of second-hand clothing apparel would be most welcome to the Women’s Auxiliary State Executive.

The Sub-Committee in charge of the arrangements for the outings for soldier patients reported on the splendid afternoon given on 11th December, by the Darling Range Women’s Auxiliary to the Lemnos patients. The men were motored to Mrs. Wallace’s residence, Walliston, where afternoon tea, with cigarettes, chocolates, and fruit as extras, was served. The return trip was by Bickley and Piexse’s Brook. It is hoped to arrange another outing at the beach for other hospital patients in January.

A Woman’s Auxiliary has been formed at Wyalkitchen. 22 members were enrolled at the first meeting - Mrs. S. W. Robinson is President, with Mrs. Carr as Vice-President, and Mrs. Searl as Secretary and Treasurer. Their good work has already commenced in the preparation of Christmas hampers to cheer the needy families of returned men in the district. Lake Grace and Yannnah have also Women’s Auxiliaries now.

Owing to the amount of business and distress cases to be dealt with at present, it was decided that the Executive have no recess but meet on 11th January, 1932.

VICTORIA PARK

On Friday November 27, this Auxiliary held its annual meeting. The attendance was not so good as usual, owing to a great amount of sickness about.

After general business had been dealt with, the election of officers for the coming year took place; office-bearers being:- Mr. Taylor, President (reelected unopposed); Mr. Pate, Secretary; Mrs. L. Coleman and Mrs. F. Matthews, Vice-Presidents; Mrs. Ed. (unopposed); Treasurer; Mesdames Nicol, Barnett and Caldwell, Trustees.

Committee: Mesdames Kanzler, Salmon, Haigh, Oatway, Caldwell, Barnett, Bacon and Colley.

On Saturday, December 12, at 5 o’clock, the new committee is giving the children a Christmas party, and in the evening is entertaining the diggers.

Radio is rapidly becoming an essential in the home. It certainly adds considerably to its charm and attractiveness. Programmes being broadcast from stations in this State have certainly greatly improved in quality during the past year or two. If you are thinking of purchasing a wireless set, get in touch with D. Waterman & Son, William Street, Perth, who are advertising “Champion” sets in this issue (front inside cover), and who can offer terms to suit all purses.
On New Year's Eve a party is to be held at the Masonic Hall, and the music will be supplied by members of the Victoria Park Citizens' Band. The weekly card parties held each Wednesday evening, which have been the means of raising funds for anglorization purposes, are still being continued. They are held at the Broadway Lesser Hall, Albany Road, and play commences at 8.15 p.m.

**BRUCE ROCK**

The Auxiliary held a Pound Day in aid of the local hospital in November, and were successful in their undertaking, although the choice of date was somewhat unfortunate, as the Hospital Committee had already appealed that week for help, with their annual ball and the G.F.S. followed on our heels with a pound day, too. However, a goodly carload of general groceries, vegetables, fruits and eggs were handed over to the hospital secretary. It was brought to the notice of our president that the local State School had neither flag nor flagstaff, and at our November meeting it was decided to write and invite the School Board to meet our committee and discuss ways and means of altering this serious state of affairs.

To this end a special meeting was recently convened and the work is now well in hand.

Last week a very successful social and bridge evening was held in John's Cafe, to assist two members (Messrs. Brown and David) who are competitors in a Popular Girl competition in aid of the Church of England funds. Seven bridge tables on the verandah were in use while music, dancing and competitions held sway in the big room, and everyone voted it a splendid evening, both socially and financially.

The Bruce Rock Auxiliary sends Xmas Greetings to the State Executive and to all Auxiliaries in the State, and wishes them each and all every blessing in the New Year.

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**Imperial Printing Co. Ltd.**

Perth's Particular Printers Returned Soldiers

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**Sub-Branch Notes**

**MUNDARING AND DISTRICTS**

The usual monthly meeting was held at Mundaring, on 20th November, 1931, with President Harry Walker in the chair.

**Poppy Sales**—A very satisfactory report of sales was submitted, and having regard for the financial state of the community, the result of the loyal co-operation of the public in making this appeal, is indeed gratifying. The various ladies' committees, the ladies of the Auxiliary particularly, are to be commended for the zeal they display in this regard.

**Mundaring Memorial**—On Armistice Day, Mr. Mitchell, Head Teacher of the Mundaring State school manifested a true spirit of respectful remembrance very appropriate to the occasion. Under his supervision the pupils of this school cleaned up the ground and gardens surrounding the monument. Acts of this description create a feeling of loyalty and respect among the younger generation, and profound gratitude from returned men and relatives of deceased soldiers. This sub-branch very sincerely appreciates this mark of respect, and conveyed their sentiments to this worthy citizen.

**Sub-Branch Magazine**—Under the editorship of Harry Walker, this official organ promises to be a very valuable effort, particularly for the reason that it will tend to bring members even closer together for their common benefit. The matter contained within its pages will be mostly contributed by qualified talent, and selected to cater for all tastes. Obviously, the serious vein will, of course, be essential, but, nevertheless, look out for the latest in "furphies" on other pages. The launching of the paper should eventuate very shortly.

**Resignation of Secretary.**—"Sandy Mac," otherwise Alex McGregor, our popular and genial Secretary, tendered his resignation owing to medical advice. This, of course, was felt very keenly by everyone, the value of Mac's wonderful work was, and is, well known, and it was a severe knock to his many friends among the diggers.

but it, unfortunately, is unavoidable. Our old friend, "Nipper" Patten, steps back into the breach, and once again fills this position.

**PEMBERTON**

The above sub-branch held another successful dance on Saturday, 28th November, the Mill Hall presenting a gay appearance with multi-coloured frocks. A feature of these old-time dances is the large circle of dancing couples in the various barn dances, 45 to 50 couples being on the floor at once, and moving along with the rhythm of old-time marching. Mrs. Hodgson, favoured us with "Annie Laurie," and gave as her loudly chanted encore, "Bulwark." Mr. Hodgson gave us "McGinty's Goat," whose sales and troubles caused much laughter. The raffle of a £10 note was won by Mr. E. Hawkins, who had a pleasant surprise. Supper was of the usual tasteful standard, and the ladies' committee are to be congratulated on their culinary art. The weather being rather warm, permission was given by the ladies present for the gents to remove their coats. This was appreciated very much, and helped to make the dance go along with a swing.

**NARROGIN**

At the usual monthly meeting there was a good muster, eight new members joining the League. The Secretary reported that the Sub-branch had published a splendid sales of poppies this year. The reunion was a great success, and also a picture night, which showed a good profit. Congratulations are due to the Secretary for the manner in which he is working for the Sub-branch. Up to date £65 have been paid off the debt, and £30 is being held for the future.

The Women's Auxiliary efforts on Poppy Day reflect credit on the President and Secretary. Narrogin Sub-branch should be proud of the two secretaries, Mrs. Job (Women's Auxiliary) and T. Hogg (R.S.L.). We offer our congratulations to Mrs. Fairhead on winning one of the baskets given to the best sellers in the State.

Narrogin's password is "New Members for the League."

**LAKE KING**

The Lake King Sub-branch foregathered in the local hall for the Armistice Night Reunion. Unfortunately, half an inch of rain fell after sundown, and things in general were nearly as bad as when we were on the Somme. Four men came in 45 miles from the Harlin Hill goldfields and had a muddy journey, but Peter Forbes (1st Gordons) played the pipes as well as ever, and Bill Curry, A.I.F. (as wet and muddy as a horse marine), and Bill Hastings, K.O.S.B., hopped and danced, and Paddy O'Donogue, 10th A.I.F., sang and danced like they did in the exams trained.

Paddy was a guest of the Kaiser at the Armistice. Scotty, Donald, 1st Gordons, sang Scotch and Irish favourites and danced the Highland Fling really well.

The President, Harry Day (Boer War and 16th Batt.) was in the chair. The hard work fell to Chris. Verden, D.L.I. Chris, enjoys doing anything for the R.S.L., and is a social success and good fellow. Bung Powell (11th A.I.F.) and Bob-Harvey (28th A.I.F.) and two visitors drove out from Newdegate, at Chalon Way, and had a swearing time of it, as the five-mile road across Lake King is like greased glass during rain. We believe they are still swearing. Lindsay Anderson, a beautiful singer, delighted the crowd. J. H. Perry, R.A.M.C., walked ten miles through the rain to be present, and then tramped home again.
He ought to get the O.B.E. On the roll call were Reg. Allen (Rifle Brigade), Alex. Watt (7th Gordons), Fred Timmins (R.N.V.R.), Dave Baxter (Remounts), and a dozen visitors.

Harry Smith (11th Battas), our Congress Rep., is still in Perth, in poor health. He was badly wounded at Bullecourt and went to Germany. He was exchanged, but still suffers from that starvation experience.

One of our members, who lives twenty miles away at Mr. Madden, phoned that he could get a message to our stent, and was catching the mail motor to Ravensthorpe, 25 miles, further on, to attend their Social. The rain was of great value to our crops, but although it couldn't dampen the spirits of the old boys, we wish it had not happened on our big night.

## Perth

The usual monthly meeting of the Perth Sub-branch took place on December 8th, the President, W. J. Hunt, occupying the chair. It was disclosed that the finance of the Sub-branch is steadily declining, owing to the present trend of affairs. The Sub-branch purchased for its office a magnificent photograph of the late Sir John Monash, which now commands a place of honour at the front door.

The Christmas tree for members' children and the children of deceased soldiers will take place in the Institute on Wednesday, the 23rd inst., at 2 p.m. The Women's Auxiliary were very much congratulated in connection with this function, owing to their having collected a considerable sum of money by raffles.

The arrangements for the smoke social, to be held on the 22nd inst., at the Institute, are progressing very favourably, and an enormous success is anticipated.

The Secretary made the final report on Poppy Day, and announced the fact that a profit of £12 17s. 7d. had been collected.

During the evening a hearty welcome was accorded to Mr. Morell who was a president of the St. Mary's Sub-branch in New South Wales, and was visiting the St. Mary's. A very good response was given by Mr. Morell.

Nominations were received for office-bearers for the ensuing year, and a very efficient body of men has been nominated for 1932.

The heartfelt congratulations of the members of this Sub-branch were extended to General Jess on his recent appointment and elevation, although the members regret that this will lose for the State a great man who is respected and admired by all ex-Service men.

Refreshments were revelled in at the conclusion of the business.

## Yarloop

There was a good attendance at the usual monthly meeting held on 10th Nov. Those present were Messrs. N. Custance (President), H. J. Harding (Vice-President), L. E. Rogers (Secretary), G. Fisk, P. Regan, F. Treneman, E. Charlton, G. Wilkes, G. Serritt, C. Buttle, S. A. Harding and J. Carroll, V.C.

The balance sheet for the sale of poppies and dance on Armistice Day was published, and showed a satisfactory sum to go towards the amelioration fund.

The question of representation on the local War Memorial Committee was discussed. It is understood that there are two vacancies on the committee at present, and it was decided to request the latter to fill these vacancies from members of the sub-branch.

Mr. E. Charlton spoke of the lack of any tangible reminder in the Yarloop State School of the sacrifices made during the war. It was unanimously agreed to ask the Yarloop War Memorial Committee to co-operate with the sub-branch in the purchase of one of Longstaff's paintings and have it hung in the school. It is thought that a short lecture once a year in front of such a picture would do much to promote the spirit of peace amongst the younger generation.

A social will be held on the 19th December in the Yarloop Hall for the purpose of making a presentation and saying farewell to Mr. E. Charlton, who is leaving the district shortly. Members of the Brunswick Sub-branch will also attend to do honour to their late member, Mr. Clen. Buttle, now resident in Cookup. All returned men are cordially invited to be present.

## Press

Brigadier-General C. H. Jess was a guest of honour at the Christmas dinner of the Press Sub-branch on December 12. In responding to the toast of 'Health', the General took the opportunity of saying farewell to his many friends of the Press. During the period he administered the command of this military district, he said, all classes of the community, and all public bodies had done their best to support those engaged in the work of training our sadly depleted military forces. The press of Australia could be of still further assistance. While full publicity had been given to the utterances of prominent pacifists, and those who favour universal disarmament, not sufficient space was being devoted to military matters and the problems confronting those who are directing the defence policy of Australia. While our defence is ultimately based upon the British Navy, it should be remembered that Australia is a lonely outpost of the Empire, which, in the event of war, must be prepared to undertake its own defence until help arrives from overseas.

The toast of Christmas was proposed by Mr. I. T. Birriss and seconded by Basil Kirk. When Mr. J. Woods, the oldest soldier present, rose to respond on behalf of Christmas, he was greeted with the chorus, "Old Soldiers Never Die." Mr. Paul Daley sang "The Bardine's Song," which was new to his audience and should achieve popularity among the sub-branches. A popular visitor was Mr. Williams, president of the Subicbo Sub-branch, who, with his violin, presided over the community singing. Two yule-log playlets were a novel feature of the evening's entertainment.
# R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH AND UNIT ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

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<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. E. Forte, State School, Albany</td>
<td>F. W. Thora, P.O. Box 34, Albany</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUNBURY</td>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday</td>
<td>C. R. Gillett, Bury St., Bunbury</td>
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<td>BELMONT</td>
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<td>I. H. Sibbritt, Grandstand Rd., Belmont</td>
<td>R. J. Mann, Epsom Ave., Belmont</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAYSWATER</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bayswater</td>
<td>Alt. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>D. Burton, King William St., Bayswater</td>
<td>R. B. Anderson, Roberts St., Bayswater</td>
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<td>BUSSELTON</td>
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<td>H. Willmott, Busseiton</td>
<td>L. Taylor, Busselton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' 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>COWARAMUP</td>
<td>Cowaramup Institute</td>
<td>2nd Sunday, 2 p.m.</td>
<td>A. T. Cooke, Cowaramup</td>
<td>C.W.W. A. Lewis, Cowaramup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTESLOE BEACH</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>Last Wednesday in each month</td>
<td>J. Brown, Cowaramup</td>
<td>W. Berridge, Cowaramup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAREMONT-COTTESLOE</td>
<td>Alternately Council Chambers, Claremont, and Wells Hall, Cottesloe</td>
<td>First Thursday in each month</td>
<td>J. McCone, Cottomasan</td>
<td>A. G. Cook, Cowaramup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARLING RANGE</td>
<td>Parish Hall, Kalamunda Unit, Denmark</td>
<td>1st Saturday</td>
<td>Rev. J. Lawrence, Denmark</td>
<td>Cowaramup, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
<td>T. Brown, Dumbleyung</td>
<td>Cowaramup, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUMBLEYUNG</td>
<td>Dumbleyung</td>
<td>Quarterly, last Sunday in Jan., April, July, Oct.</td>
<td>J. L. Barnes, Cottomasan</td>
<td>Cowaramup, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWAK</td>
<td>Salmon Gums</td>
<td>3rd Friday</td>
<td>J. W. Wegner, Salmon Gums, Thea, Brennan</td>
<td>A. W. Beer, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMANTLE AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, South Terrace</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays (Pension Nights), at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. L. Kirk, G. Croom, Cottomasan</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GASCOYNE</td>
<td>Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
<td>A. H. Salmon, G. Croom</td>
<td>G. C. Dow, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUILDFORD-BASSENDEAN</td>
<td>Council Chbrs., Guildford</td>
<td>1st Thursday, alt. moth;</td>
<td>T. W. D. Smith, Herber Rd., Harvey</td>
<td>A. H. Salmon, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERALDTON</td>
<td>Town Hall, Basendean</td>
<td>commencing January</td>
<td>J. C. Hutchinson, Kalgoorlie</td>
<td>L. J. Ball, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soldiers' Memorial Institute</td>
<td>1st Thursday other months</td>
<td>W. F. Attwood, G. Croom</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARVEY</td>
<td>War Memorial Hall</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>H. L. Kirk, G. Croom, Cottomasan</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALGOORLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>All Tuesday</td>
<td>A. H. Salmon, G. Croom</td>
<td>G. C. Dow, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARRIDALE AND DISTRICT</td>
<td></td>
<td>Every 2nd Tuesday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>T. W. D. Smith, Herber Rd., Harvey</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELLERBERRIN AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>P.P.A. Room</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. C. Hutchinson, Kalgoorlie</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIMBERLEY</td>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>1st Saturday</td>
<td>H. L. Kirk, G. Croom, Cottomasan</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOJONUP</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Kojonup</td>
<td>4th Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. L. Kirk, G. Croom, Cottomasan</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOORDA</td>
<td>Commercial Room, Hotel</td>
<td>Friday, 9 p.m.</td>
<td>H. L. Kirk, G. Croom, Cottomasan</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE GRACE</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>3rd Monday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. L. Kirk, G. Croom, Cottomasan</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE KING</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>Last Sunday</td>
<td>H. L. Kirk, G. Croom, Cottomasan</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERREDIN</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>When and where called</td>
<td>H. L. Kirk, G. Croom, Cottomasan</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOORA</td>
<td>Moora</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>H. L. Kirk, G. Croom, Cottomasan</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, G. Croom, Cottomasan Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT BARKER</td>
<td>Mt. Barker</td>
<td>3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>P. L. Le Crea, Bencubbin</td>
<td>H. King, 9 Morrison St., Maylands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT MARSHALL</td>
<td>Road Board Hall, Bencubbin</td>
<td>Third Sunday, Dec., Mar., June, September</td>
<td>W. A. Clover, Maylands Hotel, Maylands</td>
<td>A. J. McGregor, Mt. Helena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYLANDS</td>
<td>Supper Room, Town Hall, Maylands</td>
<td>3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Walker, Mt. Helena</td>
<td>S. N. McGarrie, Bencubbin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNDARING AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Alt. Mundaring and Mt. Helens</td>
<td>3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Walker, Mt. Helens</td>
<td>S. N. McGarrie, Bencubbin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Paid Rates: £1-1-0 per annum**
### The Listening Post

**December 18, 1931**

<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIDLAND JUNCTION</td>
<td>Town Hall Committee Room</td>
<td>3rd Thursday</td>
<td>E. Bateson, c/o P.O.</td>
<td>R. E. March, Harold Road, East Midland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT LAWLEY</td>
<td>Wallish Hall, Grosvenor Rd., Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Col. T. Piastoff, 3 Second Ave., Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>Tel. M319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORNINGTON MILLS</td>
<td>Mornington Mills</td>
<td>Every Alt. Sunday</td>
<td>A. Mackie, Mornington Mills</td>
<td>G. Wilson, Mornington Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANNUP</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>3rd Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Fred Clayton, Nannup</td>
<td>J. Rydings, Box 16, Nannup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NARROGIN</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>2nd Sale Day, Monthly</td>
<td>J. Baron, Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>T. Hohn, Floom Mills, Narrogin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEDLANDS</td>
<td>Broadway Theatre (Lazer Hall)</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>C. G. Thompson, Hobbs Ave, Nedlands</td>
<td>Thos. F. W. Kendall, 12 Grosvenor Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAMPTON</td>
<td>Avenue Bridge Hotel</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Rev. A. Schreuder, Northam</td>
<td>John Rohrs, Northampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>St. Hilda's Hall, Glebe St. (Of View St.)</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>L. J. McDowell, 29 York St., North Perth</td>
<td>G. C. Carlawis, Fitzgerald St., Northam, Tel. 174.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH PERTH</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. J. Hunt, Mary St., Como</td>
<td>H. W. Rigg, 26 Elizabeth St., North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESS</td>
<td>At Luncheon</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday, noon</td>
<td>C. P. Smith, c/o West Australian, Perth</td>
<td>I. E. Sorenson, C/o, Shipping News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PITHARA</td>
<td>Billiard Saloon</td>
<td>1st Saturday, 10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>W. E. Elton, Pithara</td>
<td>H. K. MacLean, East Pithara, Tel. No. 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPANYINING</td>
<td>Yornaming and Popanyinning</td>
<td>1st Saturday in month, alternately</td>
<td>T. Cowan, Yorning</td>
<td>C. J. McGarrigle, Popanyinning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILBARA</td>
<td>Port Hedland</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Ray A. Keating, Port Hedland</td>
<td>A. E. Clarke, Port Hedland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAILWAY WORKSHOPS</td>
<td>In the &quot;Mill&quot;, at Workshops</td>
<td>Alt. Tuesday, 12.5 p.m. from 22nd July</td>
<td>R. B. Gibson, c/o W. J. Lovell</td>
<td>W. J. Lovell, 98 Sixth Ave., Maylands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAVENSTORPE</td>
<td>Miners' Arms Bldgt., Morgan St.</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>H. Stockdill, Ravensthorpe</td>
<td>T. F. Smith, Ravensthorpe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH PERTH</td>
<td>Masonic Hall, Cr. York and Forrest Sts.</td>
<td>3rd Monday</td>
<td>F. J. Aberle, 10 Rose Ave., South Perth</td>
<td>R. Irvine, 66 Hamman St., South Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUBIACO</td>
<td>Branch Rooms, Rokeby Rd., Subiaco</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>S. A. McNamara, Heyzbury Rd., Subiaco</td>
<td>W. A. Wilkins, 262 Hammersley Rd., Subiaco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTHERN CROSS</td>
<td>Palace Hotel</td>
<td>3rd Saturday</td>
<td>S. Hamner, Southern Cross</td>
<td>T. S. Anderson, Southern Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMBEULLUP</td>
<td>Mr. Markey's Residence</td>
<td>1st Wednesday</td>
<td>A. J. Smith, Tambeullup</td>
<td>J. E. Trathan, Box 1, Tambeullup, Tel. No. 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOODYAY</td>
<td>Freemasons' Hotel</td>
<td>Second Wednesday in each month, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Padre O'Hallaren, Fennis St., Toodyay</td>
<td>W. W. Howie, Toodyay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRACING-YELBENI</td>
<td>Traying (2)</td>
<td>4th Sunday</td>
<td>T. C. Thompson, Traying</td>
<td>F. N. Graves, Yelbene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICTORIA PARK</td>
<td>Library Hall, Albany Rd., Victoria Park</td>
<td>Third Friday in each month, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Nicol, 35 Miller Street, Victoria Park</td>
<td>W. G. Thomas, 62 Temple St., Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST PERTH</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Alt. Thursdays, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>G. H. Philip, South Perth</td>
<td>P. L. Ross, Workers' Homes Board, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WUBIN, BUNTING, JINBERDING, WEST LEEDERVILLE</td>
<td>Each place alt., commencing Bunting, March 1st Town Hall, Cambridge St., Leederville</td>
<td>1st Sunday, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>J. Day, Bunting</td>
<td>W. A. Cadwallader, 226 Railway, Tucumcari, Tel. No. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YORK</td>
<td>Place of Meeting</td>
<td>1st Monday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>C. W. R. Beechey, 1 Kerr St., Leederville</td>
<td>M. Dawson, 266 Railway, Parade, W. Leederville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Saturday, Quarterly</td>
<td>T. Sum, York</td>
<td>L. Mossby, York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Diggers |Tell the wife to call at—Shirleys

704 HAY STREET, PERTH

Leading Frock Shop
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTILLERY COMRADES' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>Brig.-Gen. A. J. Beazley-Brown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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, 195 Seventh Avenue, Maylands</td>
<td>Geo. E. Catermole, M.C., 329 Charles St., North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. E. D. Duckley, 86 Angove St., N. Perth</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James, 19 Marion St., Leederville</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, Leederville</td>
<td>R. W. 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 Perrin, 43 Douglas Ave., S. Perth</td>
<td>F. L. 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 Leederville</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. Dobbs, 26 Second Floor, Economic Chamber, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Major G. Rosevear, M.C., St. Leonard's St., Cottesloe Beach</td>
<td>R. W. Perry, c/o Repat. Department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Farming Machinery

AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURERS LEAD

(Contributed)

The farmer wants good tools of trade, and he wants to be able to buy them as cheaply as if they could be imported free of duty. The Australian farmer is in the happy position that he can buy cheaper than he could under free-trade conditions and, in addition, he gets a type of implement which is unequaled for his purposes. The Australian implement makers provide him with cultivating, seeding and harvesting machines which are exactly suited to his needs, and which have strength and durability, equaling the best produced in England, and excelling the products of any foreign country.

The proof that the Australian farmer has the advantage in price is obtained by comparing local prices with those prevailing in countries to which implements are admitted free of duty. It was recently shown that at Durban, in South Africa, prices of comparable items were some 28 per cent. dearer than in Melbourne. Information has now come to hand from the Argentine Republic in the shape of printed price lists issued by the Argentine Agency of one of the largest implement manufacturing firms in the United States. These lists give the prices quoted to farmers for delivery at Buenos Aires of a lengthy list of machines and implements as used in that country. Many of these are directly comparable with Australian-made items, and the following tables show the comparison in price.

Nine lines have been selected which are largely used in both countries. In Australia the total cash price of these nine items is £602 9s. 7d., while in the Argentine they cost £796 11s. 7d.—a difference of no less than £194 2s. or 32 per cent.

These figures, plus those recently published with regard to South Africa, are indisputable proof that the measure of protection extended to the farm implement trade in Australia has been well justified. It has given the consumer the machines he needs at less than the cost of importation under free trade, and in addition it has provided work and wages for some 5,480 Australian artisans, who in their turn are customers for everything produced by the Australian farmer.

PRICES OF FARM IMPLEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA

Net Cash Prices to Farmers for delivery at Melbourne

Prices taken from the Price List of a leading Australian Manufacturer, dated December 1931:

| Four Sections Diamond Harrows, x 80-teeth | £602 9s. 7d. |

PRICES OF FARM IMPLEMENTS IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

Net cash prices to farmers for delivery at Buenos Aires

Prices taken from the Price List of a leading U.S.A. Manufacturer with Branch House in Buenos Aires, dated September 1931:

| Four Sections Diamond Harrows, x 80-teeth | £796 11s. 7d. |

They set opposite each other in the crowded teashop. One was a burly individual, and the other a diminutive little man in a bowler hat. They had been steadily munching for a quarter of an hour, when the little man suddenly tapped the other on the arm. "Do you think you could pass me the sugar?" he asked timidly. The burly one scowled. "P's-m-pot!" he muttered. "I've been moving pianos all my life." * * *

The head of a big motoring concern was rating his new secretary. "Look here," he said, flourish- ing one of her epistolary efforts, "you haven't the remotest idea of spelling. Do you know you have spelt 'pneumatic' 'newmatic'?" The young lady was not without some resource. "I'm sorry," she said, drawing herself up haughtily, "but the 'k' on my machine is not working."