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Let's Win the Peace

Historians have long ceased to believe that Nero fiddled while Rome was burning, but the figure of Nero in this role is typical of the leaders of our political parties to-day. While Australia is sinking deeper and deeper into the financial mire, they persist in doing nothing beyond wrangling over formulas, so that many thinking men who are wedded to neither party are beginning reluctantly to believe that democracy is a failure. This may, or may not be so, but it certainly would appear that our Australian democracy has been so hypnotised by people whose qualifications for leadership are uncultured verbosity and a cynical disregard for the interests of the country as a whole that catch-words have usurped the place of principles and class animus that of constructive thought.

True democracy can exist only in such places as the small city states of ancient Hellas, or one or two of the modern Swiss cantons where it is still possible for all citizens to assemble and transact the business of government. In larger states a delegation of responsibility becomes necessary, hence the legislative body and its corollary—the political party. The over-development of the political machine—that spurious offspring of democracy—both in America and in Australia, has made democracy a tyranny more overbearing than the most irresponsible autocracy. It has lulled the voters into an apathy which is only partially shaken off at election times, and has destroyed the initiative of the professional politician to such an extent that he has become the subservient tool of the extra-constitutional junta—which nominates him, rather than the servant of the people whom he professes to lead. While this is so, men of independence and character, the very type of men who should be representing us in Parliament, hold aloof from politics while we go on gaily electing ignoramuses to do the work of experts. Is it any wonder that Australia is in such an unholy mess? Is it any wonder that the nominal leaders, on both sides of the House, footle round after formulas instead of formulating a clear-cut policy that will extricate the country from the mess which they have created?

We have now entered into the second year of our glorious depression, but beyond vilifying financial experts and fostering class bitterness, the futile politicians have achieved nothing: The results of this ineptitude may be seen everywhere. In the face of this official indecision business men have been compelled to curtail their activities and effect economies that might not have been necessary had the Government done its obvious duty six months ago. What happens in one line of business re-acts upon another. The building trade, for instance, is practically at a standstill, while other trades are suffering similarly. It is all very fine for the political cheapskate to talk about a conspiracy to reduce the standard of living; we do not believe that such a conspiracy exists. No doubt individuals are taking advantage of the country's suffering, even as similar individuals took advantage of the war, to amass wealth and acquire knighthoods, but the individual capitalist, like the individual profiteer, is a very hard person to find. We have yet to be convinced that the average employer is not just as honest and just as public spirited as the average worker. "Honour and shame from no condition rise." But we are fully convinced that—all this indecision in high places is hindering both employers and workers from getting on with their work and so ending the depression. The time is over-ripe for a nation-wide demand that the politicians do something to earn their salaries—or get out.

In voicing such a demand, the R.S.L. might, with advantage to itself and to the nation, take the initiative. As a body, we have always kept ourselves free from the taint of political partisanship, and have loyally supported whatever government is in power. At the same time, we reserve the right to discuss questions which are of national importance, and this is one of them. We asserted ourselves to some purpose when the principle of preference was attacked. "Our support to the Gold Bonus agitation helped considerably to ensure that the bonus was granted. Still keeping ourselves free from party entanglements we could, just as effectively, bring pressure to bear upon our political leaders and galvanise them into something like activity. The professional politician has obviously fallen down on the job and it is high time that the digger stepped in and ran the show. It is not suggested that a new party be formed. Quite the contrary. However, determined expression of opinion in each constituency would soon bring the existing parties to their bearings. United action helped us to win the war, so let us fall in and win the peace. Has anyone any suggestions?
The Listening Post
February 27, 1931

State Executive Meetings
21st January, 1931


Apologies were received from Messrs. Philip, Denton and Logie.

Reports.—State Secretary’s Report: Received. Land Committee.—Presented by Col. Olden.—Received.

House Committee.—Presented by Mr. R. E. Tyler.—Received. (Included in this report was information concerning a theft from the Institute of baby clothes, the property of the State Women’s Auxiliary.)

Management Committee.—Col. Collett reported on behalf of the Management Committee, and, arising out of the report, it was agreed, on the resolution of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Nugent, that the management of 6WF Broadcasting Station be thanked for extending courtesies and privileges to the League, and that the Management Committee roster Executive members to carry on broadcasting League activities.

Federal Presidency.—Col. Collett read Telegrams and Eastern States publications in connection with the election of Federal President, and it was resolved, at the instance of Col. Margolin, seconded by Mr. Pady, to draft a short statement for the press.

Regarding Canberra Branch Voting at Federal Congress.—Moved by Col. Margolin, seconded by Mr. Tozer, that the President insist on the production of legal opinion concerning Canberra’s standing and voting power at Congress.—Carried.

Lennox Visiting Committee.—Col. Margolin presented the monthly report of the Visiting Committee.

No. 11 Ward and West Leederville.—Mr. Panton reported having visited No. 11 Ward and West Leederville.

Guildford-Bassendean and Railway Workshops.—Col. Olden reported having visited these sub-branches.

Wellard.—Mr. Bader reported on a visit to Wellard.

Mr. Hawthorn-North Leederville.—Mr. Nugent reported on his visit.

S. V. Barnwood.—On the suggestion of Mr. Pady, it was resolved to send a letter to Mr. S. V. Barnwood, of Claremont Sub-branch, who is an inmate of the Fremantle Hospital.

Federal Correspondence.—Re Poppy royalty and South Australian Branch.—Received.

Waterside Act and Regulations.—Received.

Transfer of Duntroon to Paddington Barracks.—Received.

Armistice Greetings.—British Guiana and South Africa.—Received.

Pension Appeals where diagnosis is in dispute.—Received.

Election of Councillor for next Federal Executive Meeting.—Adjourned until next meeting.

Children’s Hospital Col.—Resolution received from Kulin, Claremont-Cottesloe, Kalgoorlie, and Railway Workshops.

Moved by Mr. Tozer, seconded by Mr. Nugent, that Congress resolution re Children’s Hospital Col. and the scale of charges laid down be enforced.—Lost.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Panton, that the previous resolution stand and that sub-branches be urged to contribute as much as possible, compatible with available funds.—Carried.

A further amendment was moved by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the amounts received be forwarded to the Children’s Hospital and that the Executive report to the next Annual Congress.—Lost.

Ruling.—The State President ruled that donations from the Amelioration Funds to the Children’s Hospital Col. were not in order.

Aged Relief Fund.—A communication was read from the Meredith Sub-branch.

Re Alms.—A letter was read from the Kalgoorlie Sub-branch and the reply was left to the State Secretary.

Resolution 77.—Congress resolution re liability of agents for unjust rates and fees: Legal resolution of Mr. T. A. L. Davy to be conveyed to the sub-branch interested.

Resignation.—Rev. E. H. O. Nye tendered his resignation from the Executive owing to pressure of work due to distress and unemployment in Freemantle. On the resolution of Mr. Pady, seconded by Rev. C. L. Riley, the resignation was accepted with much regret, and it was agreed to notify Mr. C. Longmore, the next elected delegate.

Invitations.—Balingup Sub-branch invited Col. Collett to discuss soldier settlers’ disabilities. Referred to the Land Committee.

Toodyay.—Annual dinner, 26th January. Representative to be arranged if possible.

Waroona, 14th February.—Referred to the Management Committee.

Appointment of Hon. Secretaries.—The following were confirmed:—Mr. Magnat, J. Thomas; Brunswick, S. Bowers; West Leederville, N. Dawson; Mornington Mills, G. Wilson; Kelmscott, F. E. Meecham; Quairading, K. Honey.

New South Wales.—State Secretary advised of the transfer of Dr. Ernest Black, R.A.M.C., to Western Australia. The medical officer had been of great assistance in the preparation of pension appeals. Referred to the Management Committee.

West Leederville.—Sub-branch wrote protesting against the State regulations which debars war pensioners from a Government job on account of their exclusion from sustenance. It was agreed, on the resolution of Mr. Panton, seconded by Mr. Nugent, to appoint a deputation to wait on the responsible Minister immediately on his return from the Eastern States, the deputation to be comprised of the Pension and Unemployment Committee.

Balingup Sub-branch suggested that a Soldier Settlers’ Conference be held in Bunbury to discuss ways and means to remove soldier settlers’ disabilities. It was agreed to ask Balingup for particulars of the disabilities and refer the matter to the Land Committee.

Torbay Sub-branch forwarded a protest against export duty on sheep skins. Deferred until next meeting.

Darling Range Sub-branch forwarded a further protest on the high rates for blood and bone fertiliser. Referred to the Land Committee.

Workers’ Homes Board.—The Premier’s Department intimated that consideration is being given to the League’s request for the appointment of a representative on the Workers’ Homes Board.

Sub-branch Reports received from Quairading, Nungarin, Bullsley, and Railway Workshops.

Membership Drive.—It was agreed that the Secretar y’s request in his next circular for returns, giving the result of membership drive.

Aged Soldiers’ Relief Fund.—It was agreed that the Finance Committee report on the progress of donations to this fund.

4th February, 1931


Apologies were received from Messrs. Tyler, Logie, and Farquharson.

Leave of Absence.—Mr. H. S. W. Parker applied for one month’s leave of absence, which was granted.

Amelioration Funds.—Confirmation having arisen as to the direction in which funds—collected for amelioration purposes may be applied, the State

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PRICES QUOTED ON APPLICATION
Executive rules (subject to any veto or alteration by the Annual State Congress) that such funds may only be expended in relieving distress, of an urgent and personal nature, amongst:—
(a) Persons eligible for membership of the League and/or their dependents;
(b) The relatives of deceased sailors or soldiers.
Grants from Amelioration Funds should not be made to:
(a) Assist persons in any venture of a business nature;
(b) Aid hospitals;
(c) Any unemployment or distress fund to which the general public has access.
It was also decided that the above ruling be circulated to sub-branches.

Duty on Sheep Skins.—A letter from the Torbay Sub-branch protesting against the duty on sheep skins, deferred from last meeting, was considered. After discussion, it was moved by Col. Olden, seconded by Mr. Wells, that in the opinion of this Branch, the export tax on sheep skins places an unjust burden on primary producers, and should be strenuously opposed with a view to its repeal. Carried.

Reports.—The Acting State Secretary submitted a report for the previous fortnight.
Finance Committee.—Mr. C. P. Smith submitted a report of the committee meeting held on the 2nd February. The report was received and adopted.

Employment Bureau.—The report of the Employment Officer for the month of January was received. This report showed that only 22 positions had been found for the month, and that there were 113 unemployed as registered unemployed.

Relief Funds.—The report of the R.S.L. Relief Fund for the month of January was received.

Toodyay Sub-branch.—Mr. Wells reported having represented the Executive at the Toodyay Sub-branch function.

Federal Correspondence.—The Federal Executive forwarded communications on the following subjects:
Federal Presidency.—Received.
War Service Homes and Sewerage Payments.—To be published.

War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunal Itinerary.—This showed that the next visit of the Tribunal would be in September. The Acting State Secretary pointed out that a number of cases were waiting, and suggested that an effort be made to induce the Tribunal to visit W.A. before September. On the motion of Mr. Yeates, seconded by Col. Denton, this action was agreed to.

Armistice Day Greetings.—Resolution 150, 14th Annual Congress.—Received.

Employment Grant.—Received.
Special Pensions to Returned Soldiers 65 years of age or thereabouts.—Referred to Pensions Committee.

Executive Vacancy.—Mr. C. Longmore advised that, he would be unable to occupy the vacant seat on the Executive, but did not wish to forego his right to accept a future vacancy. It was agreed to notify the next on the list, Mr. W. J. Hunt, and defer Mr. Longmore’s request pending legal advice.

New Sub-branch.—Approval was granted for the formation of a sub-branch at Kestrel.

Institutions.—Brunswick Junction, February 23.
—Referred to Management Committee.

Canning District, February 17th.—State President and Secretary.

Southern Cross, February 21st.—Referred to Management Committee.

Appointment of Sub-branch Officials.—The appointment of officials to the following sub-branches was approved:—(a) Maylands, (b) Kimberley, (c) Bassettown, (d) Fremantle.

Group Settlement.—A communication from the Cowaramup Sub-branch was received, requesting the appointment of a committee to enquire into and investigate conditions governing group settlement in general. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Land Committee for its consideration, and report to the Executive.

Commonwealth Health Laboratory.—A communication from the Kalgoorlie Sub-branch concerning the Commonwealth Health Laboratory was received. The letter asked that a Board be appointed to hear appeals against the decisions given by the Laboratory. It was decided to defer the matter, and Mr. Watt and the Acting State Secretary were to make further enquiries and report to the Executive.

Representation, Workers’ Homes Board.—The Premier advised that consideration had been given to the League’s request for a representative on this Board. He said, however, that legislation governing the composition of the Board made it compulsory that it should be a purely departmental one, and that in view of the present parlous condition of the finances it was essential that a senior officer of the Treasury, such as the Under-Treasurer, should be appointed to the vacant position.

Mr. Watt moved, Mr. Wells seconded, that the letter be received, and that negotiations be continued with the Premier.—Carried.

Soldier Settlement Board Representative.—The Premier advised that consideration had been given to the League’s request for a representative on this Board, but he stated that he did not see any necessity for a change. The matter was referred to the Land Committee.

Sanitary Charges.—The Perth Sub-branch requested the Executive to take up the matter of these charges with the City Council. The Secretary was instructed to make enquiries.

Returned Soldier Fund.—The Maylands Sub-branch stated that the reply received from the State Executive concerning the request that the State Executive should be represented at ex-soldiers’ funerals, whether they be League members or not, was unsatisfactory, and urged that if the Executive could not arrange representation, deputies should be appointed.

Moved by Mr. Yeates, seconded by Mr. Edmonds, that the Maylands Sub-branch be again advised that it will be impracticable to carry out their wish, and that when necessary representation is arranged.—Carried.

Imperial Pensions.—Perth Sub-branch forwarded a communication protesting against the time limit of Imperial Pensions. The Secretary was asked to obtain further information from the sub-branch.

Suggested Broadcast Smoke Social.—With reference to the suggestion of the Balingup Sub-branch that a concert or smoke social should be held in Perth and broadcast, the Perth Sub-branch, to whom this matter was referred, replied that they could not entertain the request. Moved by Mr. Philip, seconded by Mr. Smith: That a committee of three be appointed to further consider the matter, and submit a proposal to the Executive at its next meeting. Messrs. Smith, Bader, and Philip were appointed.—Carried.

Baywater Sub-branch.—The Baywater Sub-branch requested a ruling as to whether they were in order in refusing the subscription of an unfinancial member, who is considered to be a disturbing element. Moved by Colonel Olden, seconded by Mr. Wells: That the matter be referred to the Management Committee to report.
to the State Executive.—Carried.

Councillor—Federal Executive Meeting.—This matter was again adjourned pending advice from the Federal Executive as to the date of the meeting.

Mining and Prospecting.—Moved by Colonel Olden, seconded by Colonel Denton: That a sub-committee be formed with a view to devising methods and means of assisting ex-service men to engage in prospecting in the auriferous tracts of the State.—Carried.

The Management Committee was requested to appoint a sub-committee.

18/2/31

Present.—All delegates present except Mr. C. P. Smith, who tendered an apology.

New Delegate. Mr. W. J. Hunt, recently appointed, following the resignation of the Rev. E. H. O. Nye, was welcomed by the State President.

Reports.—State Secretary's report was received.

Management Committee.—Col. Collett reported on behalf of the Management Committee, which recommended as follows:

1. Mining and Prospecting Committee:—Messrs. Olden, Denton, Watt, Tyler and Long, to constitute this committee.

2. Mr. Nugent was appointed to the vacan on the Pensions Committee, vice Mr. Nye resigned.

3. Next Executive Appointment:—Legal opinion was favourable to the application of Mr. Longmore to retain his seniority at the head of the waiting list.

4. Bayswater Sub-Branch Ruling:—Legal opinion stated that a sub-branch had no authority according to the rules to refuse a subscription from an eligible party. It was decided to convey the information to the Bayswater Sub-Branch.

Land Committee.—Mr. Yeates submitted this report, which contained a recommendation indicating the action to be taken following the rejection by the Premier of the League's request for a representative on the Soldier's Settlement Board. Report adopted.

Finance Committee.—Report of the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 16th February was adopted.

Pensions Committee.—Mr. Watt reported on behalf of the Committee. Report adopted. Reference was made in the report to the possibility of pension reductions and it was agreed that no action be taken at the present time, but that the reference in the report be passed on to the Federal Office.

House Committee.—Mr. Philip reported on behalf of the Committee, and the report was received. The report indicated that further billiard room losses had been incurred during the last month, and it was decided that in view of the circumstances two tables be dismantled and sold.

Repatriation Ward.—Mr. Panton reported on visits to No. 11 Ward, and mentioned that there appeared to be a shortage of medical officers and consequently delays to patients. The matter was left to the State Secretary to make the necessary representation.

Broadcasting Committee.—The report contained a proposal to broadcast a smoke social from 6 WFF for entertainment and propaganda purposes, and was adopted. Messrs. Smith, Philip, and Bader were appointed programme committee.

Visits.—The following reports were received on visits made to sub-branches:—Corrigan, Padre Riley; Bruce Rock, Padre Riley; Perth, Padre Riley; Waroona, Messrs. Farquharson and Nungate.

Messrs. Board of Visitors.—Colonel Margolin submitted the report of the Messrs. Board of Visitors.

Federal Executive Meeting.—The Federal Executive meeting will be held at Canberra on Mar. 21st. Mr. H. E. Wells was appointed Councillor to attend this meeting on behalf of Western Australia.

Federal Correspondence on the following subjects were received:

(a) Record of Deaths.
(b) Preference Promotions, C.P.S. (Copy to West Perth).
(c) Lectures Economic Problems.
(d) Sufficient Funds War Service Homes.
(e) Medical Treatment Staff Nurses.
(f) Use of H.M. Uniforms.
(g) Census to include R.S. records.
(h) Appointment temporary employees, C.P.S. (Copy to West Perth Sub-Branch).
(i) Anzac Day (referred to Anzac Day Committee).
(j) R.S. suffering from TB.

Australia's War Debt.—Correspondence from the Federal Executive read containing recommendations from the N.S.W. Sub-Branch that a special conference be called. The President expressed views that the question was a matter of high policy between Governments concerned, and counselled no action at the present time. It was agreed to reply in such terms.

Federal Presidency.—A letter was read from the Federal President, showing copy of one from Sir Harry Chauvel.

Greetings.—From Sir Francis Newdegate and Mr. S. V. Barwood.

Mr. Barker.—This sub-branch notified that the Great Southern Re-union would not be held this year.

Invitations.—Pemberton: Referred to Management Committee.

Guildford-Bassendean, February 26th.

Kondinin-Kalbarri, March 7th.—Referred to Management Committee.

Geraldton, March 7th.—Referred to Management Committee.

Spearwood, March 16th.—Referred to Management Committee.

Mr. Lawley, March 7th.—Mr. H. S. W. Parker appointed.

Appointment of Sub-Branch Officials and confirmation of the following Hon. Secretaries:

(a) West Swan: Mr. Geo. Tanner.
(b) Upper Swan: Mr. S. E. S. Richards.
(c) Kirup: Mr. J. Lavery.
(d) Manjimup: Mr. H. L. Battams.
(e) Midland Junction: Mr. R. Marsh.
(f) Yandoonoak: Mr. W. Meldrum.

League Premises.—The report by Col. Collett on this matter was adopted, on the resolution of Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Archbishop Riley, and the President was given authority to further proceed with negotiations for the acquisition of suitable premises.

State War Memorial.—The President reported on a meeting held between the Warden and Assistant Wardens. It was agreed that publicity be given.

Institute Accommodation.—The Perth Sub-Branch submitted a resolution drawing attention to the lack of accommodation in the Soldiers' Institute. Mr. Stubber entered as a delegate from the habitus of the building and explained the position of their behalf. It was agreed, after discussion, to advise the Perth Sub-Branch that these concerns that the Executive has for some time been engaged on alterations and additions to the Soldiers' Institute in order to provide for suitable, ample and comfortable accommodation for those who are eligible to use the Institute.

Notice of Motion.—Mr. Edmonds gave notice of his intention to move at the next meeting that the Reading Room be thrown open for reading and writing only, and no card playing be allowed therein.

District Committees.—Brigaderton Sub-Branch advised that action had been taken to form a District Committee, comprising of certain sub-branches. The Secretary had drawn attention to
the Constitution in this connection. His action was endorsed.

Wickespin.—Action taken by the State Secretary in conveying information concerning the formation of this district committee was confirmed.

Unemployment and Sustenance.—The report submitted on behalf of the deputation which waited on the Minister concerning unemployment and sustenance was received. The Minister had agreed to issue instructions that the cards of pensioners who are registered at the Labour Bureau should be marked "Not in receipt of sustenance, but eligible for available work."

(Commonwealth Health Laboratory.)—The results of representations made to the Minister in this regard were reported and it was stated that the Minister intended to discuss the matter when he visited Kalgoorlie shortly.

Leave of Absence.—Mr. Logie was granted leave of absence for the next three Executive meetings.

Art Union.—The Collie Sub-branch applied for permission to conduct a State-wide art union. The State Secretary was instructed to inform Collie Sub-branch of the Executive's attitude regarding such proposals.

Art Union Control.—The State Secretary submitted a report of the recent appointment by the Minister of a Board to control art unions, and the reported function of the Board that it would control and conduct art unions. The State Secretary's report was received.

Cool Storage.—A letter from West Swan Sub-branch concerning cool storage on mail steamers was referred to the Land Committee.

Retrenchment, Trans. Line.—A communication from the Kalgoorlie Sub-branch in this connection was referred to the Pensions and Employment Committee.

Timber Heavers.—A communication from the

The Month

France's Immigration Problem

Anyone who doubts the wisdom of our policy of restricting coloured and shandy-gaff immigration into Australia is advised to consider the present position of southern France, which is slowly, but surely, becoming negroid. The French, like the Dutch in Java, and the Portuguese elsewhere, have never drawn the colour line in their colonies. Such an attitude cannot fail to have a detrimental effect upon racial purity. Add to this France's declining birthrate and the practice which arose during the war of employing coloured French Colonial troops on garrison duty in France. From the coloured soldier to the coloured workman is but a step, and the labour shortage in France has caused an influx of foreign labourers, both black and shandy-gaff, into the southern departments. Already the effects of this influx are noticeable. The harbour quarters of Marseilles have almost lost their European appearance, and even the remains of the white population are for the most part Italian or Slav immigrants, who live in self-contained communities, speak their own language, and are never assimilated by their hosts. France has allowed economic considerations to outweigh those of racial purity, but Australia would be very foolish were she to follow France's example.

General Dawes says a Few Kind Words

When entertained by the members of the American Legion in London, General Dawes, the American Ambassador to Great Britain, said of the American effort in the war:

"We were let down badly from home. We had 2,000,000 soldiers 5,000 miles from the home base, from which came little or no munitions, no horses, a few rifles, little artillery, and not a single aeroplane. Out of every 13 lb. of food eaten by American soldiers, Britain and France, principally the former, supplied 8 lb. Our requests for supplies and assistance were gladly met in every case, even at the cost of sacrifice by their own men. We were even obliged to request anaesthetics, because our men were being operated on without them. They were given without question, even when they could ill spare. It was then that I realised the greatness of the British Government and Army."

The Ambassador's statement is timely, and should prove an effective counterblast to the "history" broadcasted by the hyphenated Americans who rule Hollywood. We diggers, who saw how the American in France soon realised that Uncle Sam, despite his qualifications as a publicity expert, is a congenital muddler, but, unfortunately, the American film propagandist is giving the world a distorted view of the war. One may safely say that for every individual who reads General Dawes's remarks, at least a thousand will have seen rubbishy pictures like "The Great Parade," and "What Price Glory," pictures which were "boosted" by patriotic showmen in Perth, when the British war films were hardly advertised.

One must admire the blunt honesty of General Dawes, but, after the experience
of Admiral Sims, who was hauled over the coals for throwing bouquets at the Royal Navy, we can foresee that “Big Bill” Thompson and the egregious Senator Borah will soon be after the scalp of General Dawes.

Not Cricket

Women have always competed successfully with men in music, art and literature. To-day they are holding their own in science and in the more prosaic realm of business. In the past there have been women who ruled countries with statesmanlike ability, and women who excelled even in war. It is all the more singular, therefore, that since the intrusion of women into the arena of party politics, we can point to no woman who has been an outstanding success. Why this is so, we cannot say, though it appears to us that the woman politician is too prone to neglect matters that are serious and urgent in favour of causes that are merely expressions of sentimentalism or sensationalism, such as pacifism, the pamphering of criminals, and other moonbeams from the larger lunacy. It is only natural that women, who are the chief sufferers on account of men’s drinking habits, should be ardent supporters of the temperance movement, but the intemperate language of many of these temperance advocates alienates sympathy and helps to defeat their own cause.

During the debate in the House of Commons on a Prohibition Bill, Lady Astor said, among many other foolish things, that the English peerage should be called the “beerage,” and that the Australians won the Ashes because they did not drink. The first was a rehash of a joke perpetrated many years ago, in London Punch, at the expense of Lord Bass of Burton. The second was an offensive implication that English cricketers drink to excess. Of course, this is mere twaddle. No man can engage in Test cricket, or in any other form of athletics, unless he is temperate in his manner of living. As Lord Tennyson pointed out, the Australians won because, on this occasion, they had the stronger side, just as England wins when she puts a better team into the field. However, mere questions of fact never deterred the wild propagandist. If sobriety is to take precedence to good batting and good bowling, as the deciding factor of victory, we had better re-name the victors as “The Dry Hashees.”

The King’s Uniform

The action taken by the League to prevent naval and military uniforms from being brought into contempt by being used for advertising purposes, is timely. The acting-secretary of the Prime Minister’s Department has informed the R.S.L. that the matter was taken up with what our political geniuses have left of the Defence Department. It has been pointed out that sections 83 and 84 of the Defence Act provide against the improper wearing of any uniform of the Defence Force. Action was taken recently to prevent the wearing of belts of military pattern by theatre attendants and others. The theatre people have been the worst offenders in this respect. A few years ago, one of those advertising stunts, which involve the degradation of the human personality, and which would be tolerated in no other Australian capital, occurred here. Three or four fellows were hired to stroll round the town, wearing not only A.I.F. uniform, but belts and side-arms as well. The Act distinctly states that the King’s uniform, or any imitation of it, must not be worn by unauthorised persons. While this applies to parts of uniform such as caps, badges, equipment, etc., uniform may be worn on the stage, but regimental badges may not. Recently in a Perth Theatre, a comic comedian, who, by the way, is not a returned soldier, was, during his act, the uniform and the regimental colour patches of a famous battalion. District Headquarters took hostile notice of this, and the comic one was compelled to remove the colour patches. Shortly after the Boer War, the London County Council issued their street cleaners with uniform caps similar in appearance to those worn by H.M. Footguards. Major-General Trotter, who commanded the Brigade of Guards at the time, raised hell and high water until the L.C.C. withdrew the issue. The unauthorised wearing of the King’s uniform or of any part of it, or of wearing it in a manner likely to bring it into contempt, is a punishable offence. If any instances of such breaches of the Defence Act are reported, necessary action will be taken.

The Band Contest

The Perth Sub-Branch is worthy of double congratulation for the manner in which the recent Band Contest was organised and conducted, and for having the enterprise to try to raise funds without having recourse to gambling and other questionable devices. Our own bandmaster, genial George Mellor, displayed great energy and initiative in launching the affair, and we were glad to see that he pulled off the cornet solo championship. This makes our George a champion of champions. It is gratifying to note, also, that the R.S.L. Band were the diagram match winners, and the winners of the aggregate. The Bondi Beach Concert Band is also to be congratulated for coming all this distance to compete in the “A” Grade series, and on so meritoriously winning the “A” Grade Selection Contest. We hope the members of this splendid band will take back with them kindly memories of the West. There is no doubt as to the popularity of band music in Australia. As Dr. Cyril Jenkins remarked, the band is the poor man’s orchestra, but it is a great pity that the general public did not give this worthy effort greater support. Of the ten bands competing, five were conducted by returned soldiers. These were Jas. Compton (Bondi Beach Band), George Mellor (R.S.L. Band), W. Halvorsen (Perth City Band), Len. Barnes (Barnes Concert Band), and Val. Smith (Fremantle Naval Band).

State War Memorial

On the 13th instant a meeting took place between the Hon. Sir William Latham, M.L.C., Warden of the State War Memorial, the President and Secretary of the West Perth Sub-Branch (The members of which are the Warden’s Assistants), and Messrs. Collett, Yeates, Freedman, Watt, Smith, and the State Secretary, representing the State Executive.

The object of the meeting was to discuss various matters relating to the functions of the Warden and his assistants, and the future care of the memorial.

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It was generally agreed that there is still great need to educate the public as to the real purpose of the monument, and that the ultimate object can be considered as having been reached only when it is regarded with the same veneration as the millions of London regard the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

It was pointed out that some people were lacking in respect in that they used the memorial as a vantage point from which to view boat races on the river; or allowed their children to clamber about it and interfere with wreaths placed thereon; or eat their lunches whilst utilising the seats surrounding the Roll of Honour.

It was decided to ask the press to give publicity to the League's point of view, and to also invite the Director of Education to circularise the schools with a view to the children being instructed as to the significance of and respect due to all war memorials.

As a means to an end, it was agreed that the Warden's Assistants should, for the present, detail a minimum of two of their number to patrol the monument during the afternoon of every Saturday and Sunday. These assistants should wear a brassard on the left arm and should also, at the option of the sub-branch, wear medals. It would be their duty to guard the memorial against damage and instruct the public in the desires of the League.

It was decided that the Warden should have recourse to his assistants on all occasions when a ceremony was to take place at the memorial, and that they should also perform such duties in and around the edifice as he may deem to be necessary.

As matters of interest to those present, Sir William Latham, who is Chairman of the State War Memorial Committee, stated that he anticipated that the flood-lighting system would be installed before Anzac Day, that there were still several hundred names to be added to the Roll of Honour, and that when all charges against the fund were known he would issue for publication a complete statement of the receipts and disbursements. He concluded by paying a special tribute to the work of Lieut.-General Sir Talbot Hobbs, who not only designed the State War Memorial, but has spared neither time or trouble in bringing it to its present most satisfactory condition. Sir Talbot's personal interest has been, as we know, of the keenest, and his finished work will be one of which we may all be justly proud.

**Art Unions**

**MINISTER'S PECULIAR ACTIONS**

The State Secretary's reports to State Executive meetings during the past three months have contained references to discussions taking place with Mr. Scaddan, the Minister for Police, on the question of Art Unions, their control and conduct. Members generally know that from this means the League derives revenue to carry on certain phases of its work.

It appears that Mr. Scaddan definitely promised Mr. Benson that in the New Year he intended to obtain the approval of Cabinet to the R.S.L. actually conducting all W.A. Consultations on the basis of a small percentage for organising. In addition, the League would have one State-wide Art Union each year for itself. Subsequently Mr. Scaddan altered his views in favour of the creation of an Advisory Board.

A few weeks ago, however, he told the State Secretary that he considered the Board proposal inadvisable and would suggest that the conduct of Art Unions be fifty-fifty with the League and the Ugly Men's Association. He thought that competition would show good results.

It came as a shock to those in the know, therefore, to hear the personnel of Mr. Scaddan's Advisory Art Union Control Board announced. The State Secretary immediately got in touch with other Cabinet Ministers, as Mr. Scaddan was out of town, and drew attention to the inadvisability of this Board. It is understood that the Ministers denied current rumours and Mr. Davy, the Attorney-General, in the press that the Government had no intention whatever of authorising any Board to conduct sweeps. The Advisory Board, he said, was merely for the Minister's personal advice as to who should and who should not participate in the proceeds of Art Unions.

Strange to say, two days afterwards Mr. Clydesdale, the Chairman of the Board, announced in the "West Australian" the launching of "Golden Eagle" Art Unions on behalf of State charities, with further particulars to follow. This statement confirmed the knowledge which Mr. Benson had previously given to the press, and indicated that there was either a misunderstanding somewhere, or Mr. Scaddan had broken his promises to the League.

At the last Executive meeting the State Secretary reported that, following Mr. Clydesdale's announcement, he made vehement protests to other members of the Cabinet, and at a subsequent Cabinet meeting action was taken to put the matter right. The Deputy Premier, Mr. Latham, later in the day told the press that Mr. Davy's previous statement confirmed the Government's views and he had instructed the Chairman of the so-called Advisory Board to withdraw his advertisement from the press.

It now remains for Mr. Scaddan to extend to the West Australian public what instructions he really did give to the members of the Advisory Board, and if he thinks it worth while, the Minister might also add why he did not fulfil the promises made to the League. The whole thing is most extraordinary, and there is a feeling amongst the public, that everything has not been quite straightforward.

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Soldier Settlement Board
LEAGUE REPRESENTATION

The following report was presented to the last State Executive meeting by Mr. A. Yeates, Chairman of the Land Committee, and action in accordance with the recommendations was agreed to by the Executive.

It will be remembered that, following the rejection by the Premier of the request of Congress for the creation of Zone/Boards, the view was accepted that most of the soldier settlers' needs could be met by active representation on the Soldier Settlement Board, provided for under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act. This Board consists of Mr. E. A. McLarty, C. J. Moran and G. Cook, with Mr. H. Throssell, V.C., as the soldiers' representative. Your Committee understands that all appointees, including that of soldiers' representative, were selected by the Government itself.

The Premier refuses to appreciate the fact that only 2,800 soldier settlers remain on their holdings, out of the 5,300 originally included in the scheme, and Sir James Mitchell appears to be quite ignorant of the work this League has accomplished at its own expense on behalf of both the State and the soldier settler. To quote two instances only, the Commonwealth concession of £796,000 was a direct result of our representations to the Prime Minister, Mr. Bruce, and the grant of £3,000 for Imperial ex-service men resulted from our discussions with Col. Amery, Secretary of State for the Dominions, during his visit to Perth.

Naturally, we, as an organised body, desire to continue our associations with valuable concessions to subdue any tendency for mistrust that monies received by the State for the benefit of soldier settlers may become lost amongst the maze of Treasury figures.

Furthermore, members of the Land Committee, as you know, make frequent visits into country districts for the purpose of investigating the individual affairs of soldier settlers, a duty which naturally should devolve on an accredited representative of the League recognised as an authority under the Act.

Your Committee feels that the Premier's decision in this matter is not quite fair, and has been given with a total disregard to the existing conditions as between the League and the Department over the last five or six years.

As Col. Collett, the State President, and the State Secretary conferred with a number of Members at Parliament House early in December, when action was deferred pending the final appeal to the Premier, the unsuccessful result of which is now announced, your Committee recommends:

(a) That the convenor of the Parliamentarians' meeting be again approached for fixing a date for a further conference.

(b) That the State Secretary prepare a memorandum, traversing the history of soldier settlement over the last six years, and our relations therewith, for the benefit of all Members of Parliament.

(c) That soldier Members of both Houses be invited to join the conference.

(d) That your Land Committee, with the State President and Secretary, represent this Executive at the proposed conference, and that authority be given them to act.

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in accordance with the decisions of the conference.
As the plight of many soldier settlers is known to be desperate, urgent action should be taken towards securing the desire of Congress in this matter.
The next move in this matter is for the League to organise the parliamentary conference at Parliament House.

Federal Presidency

At the request of the Federal President we publish, without comment, the following letter received by him from the President of the Tasmanian Branch:

"In connection with the action of Mr. Fulton, a delegate for this State at the last Federal Congress, in voting contrary to the wish of the State Conference, I have to state that at a full meeting held in Launceston on December 29th last, a resolution was passed as follows:

"That this meeting expresses its disapproval of the attitude of the Bass representative, Mr. Fulton, in voting against the nomination of the State Conference for Federal President, and that the Federal President be informed."

"The Executive expressed, in no uncertain terms their deprecation of Mr. Fulton's action in voting as he did, with the exception of Mr. von Bibra, who belongs to the same branch as Mr. Fulton, and they regretted very sincerely the invidious position you had been placed in by his action.

"I can assure you that the whole of this State regrets what took place and has every confidence in you as Federal President, and we trust that any action taken by another State will not influence you to recede from the position you are in. Personally, I feel the position very keenly, as this State has always tried to uphold the best traditions of the League, and has always had the highest admiration for the way in which you have carried out the difficult negotiations that have constantly arisen during your term of office."

War Service Homes and Sewerage Payments

The following communication has been received from the War Service Homes Commission in reply to representations made by the League:

"With reference to your personal representations regarding action by the Commission to guarantee payments by purchasers who desire to connect their homes to the sewerage system in Western Australia, I desire to inform you that in the absence of funds the Commission has been obliged to suspend action in this regard. The effect of countersigning the application by a purchaser to the Sewerage Authority is to guarantee the payments which may become due in the future, and as in the present difficult circumstances throughout the Commonwealth the Commission might be called upon to make those payments, for which funds are not available, you will, I feel sure, understand the reason for the Commission's reluctant action."

"Hats"

(By F. G. Clifton)

In February, 1915, there were about 5,000 men in Blackboy Camp. One night a terrific storm swept over the camp, with the result that most of the tents were brought to the ground. A large number of official papers were lost. Many of the men lost personal belongings, such as hats, etc., the wind sweeping them away. The day following the storm a contingent was transferred to Rockingham to complete training, and as the articles lost in the storm were not replaced many men were minus hats. After several weeks at Rockingham, a trip was made on the "Westralia" to Claremont, and thence to Swanbourne for musketry training. During the trip large quantities of liquor were consumed, and on arrival at Swanbourne some amusing sights were seen among the men.

On the return journey to Rockingham, orders were given that no man was to be served with drink without the presence of an officer. All went well for a while, when some of the men on the "Westralia" were showing signs of excessive drinking—some who had never entered the bar. Boys will be boys.

Above the bar was a ventilator, and some wag had devised the idea of letting down a "pull through," to which a bottle was tied by the barman. During the trip one of the lads lost his hat overboard, and many had seen the hat go. On arrival at Rockingham the usual parade formalities were gone through. It was indeed an amusing parade. An officer approached the one whose hat had gone overboard:

"Where is your hat?"

"I say — — -"

"To the amusement of all present the reply was: "Lost in the storm, sir."

Sayings of Great English Philosophers

"They do you awfully well here."
"How perfectly priceless!"
"I say — — -"
"It's not done, old chap."

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Our Economic Problems

“RESURGAM” REVIEWS THE ECONOMIC POSITION

I have read with much interest the articles that have appeared under the above heading, and would like to present another aspect of the case.

Mr. F. A. Law’s first article, I take it, was intended to set the ball rolling without being too controversial. Last month he defended the theory of high wages for labour, whereas “Sniper” took the view that we must get back to lower wages, and lower costs, and as I understand them, “Bayard’s” views were similar.

But I should like to point out that the conditions visualised by both “Bayard” and “Sniper” would not cure unemployment, as these conditions have been realised, and unemployment has never been solved. Moreover, both failed to find the real cause through examining effects.

It is suggested that the causes operating to bring about unemployment and depressed conditions are different to those in other countries.

Is it too much to ask “Political Economy” to assign a valid reason for this world-wide phenomenon, which will apply to any country?

Is it likely that the cause is different here to elsewhere? Or would not the same causes give similar effects, here and elsewhere? And the cure in one case prove to be the cure in all?

A just and equitable distribution of wealth, as a solution, will apply wherever unemployment and its train of miseries are to be found. Let me try and show this to be so.

Few will disagree that real prosperity means that there is an effective demand for the whole of wealth that labour produces. It is effective demand only that keeps labour in employment.

On the other hand, recurring “Industrial Depressions” follow as demand for goods is gradually decreased, and therefore only absorbs a portion of production. The balance in time gluts the markets, necessitating stoppage in production, and further decrease in demand, while increased application of science, bringing greater efficiency and larger output, ensures that only a portion of the available labour is required to meet the needs of all. The rest represents the huge army of workers in compulsory idleness. This is the position of the world to-day.

Obviously, decreasing the purchasing power of the masses is unwise, and must always decrease the demand for the services of labour.

But if we could increase consumption until it balances production glutted markets and unemployment would vanish.

It will seem, therefore, that the purpose of labour is to produce wealth, and its motive to consume it, and it is clear that while these two correspond the relationship is harmonious, and what I should call natural, because there can be no unemployment.

Before a real solution can be offered, it is necessary to find answers to the following questions:

Why does the gap between power to produce and ability to consume continually increase?

How best shall we bring them into correspondence and keep them there?

Standard economists agree generally, that at present all wealth is distributed in three channels — Rent, Interest, and Wages.

The whole civilised world is coming to realise what a tremendous burden interest is to-day, and feel that it serves to enrich the few at the expense of the many, and that it is unjust and unnatural. Indeed, many thoughtful men declare that it is the private appropriation of the economic rent of land that supports and sustains interest, and that the public collection of rent, to be used for social services, would kill interest. This would enable us to abolish all taxation, which is anything but a satisfactory method of obtaining funds for social purposes. The justice and morality of taking rent for community use can hardly be disputed, while the great masses of people would weep few tears if it abolished interest.

Those who draw rent and interest obtain this wealth without mental or manual exertion, consuming only a fraction of what they take; the portion of production taken in unearned increment continually increases as the total output of labour grows. This must necessarily be taken from those who do produce by labour with the result that these always produce more than their wages permit them to consume.

At least it is plainly impossible to balance output and demand without a redistribution of wealth, and we can achieve this by object only by completely eliminating non-producers, which means those who get huge unearned incomes from land and capital. Then interest and taxation would go back into the pockets of the “workers.” Rent, which is the parent of interest, would be a community fund, as it should be, and be utilised for the benefit of all instead of the privileged few.

What I have tried to show is that no matter how we reduce costs, or improve production by greater efficiency and harder work, it would not solve the problem of unemployment. Even if we could double production now there is nothing to prevent other countries from doing the same, and leaving us in the same relative position. It would mean the same intense competition in order to gain those elusive foreign markets.

Incidentally, it is doubtful if industry lives on capital and credit, but rather can only thrive on a continuous supply of good customers. Where these are capital will flow naturally.

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Of course, it is quite clear what Mr. F. A. Law is striving for. He is feeling his way towards "the force that maketh for righteousness." And he feels that in democracy, as we see it, the force is not to be found. He feels, as many of us must feel these days, that to get on our horses and ride into Perth as an effective force of cavalry and unseat the politicians and the money grubbers would be a glorious and cleansing adventure. And, if successful, and pursued with rightous policy, it would become as Napoleon became, the most popular, and, therefore, the most democratic move conceivable in the interests of human justice.

Perhaps these promptings of virile manhood are right. And yet, we must be doubly guarded.

First, we would have to prepare definite economic plans as to what we were going to do when we secured power. Plans that could be put directly and without delay into operation. Secondly, the spirit of the movement would have to be

(a) To have justice above all human attributes;
(b) To pursue fellowship and unity within ourselves in the service of the State;
(c) To adjust self-enrichment as the dirtiest, the untidiest of all human attributes.

All the officers of the movement could be sworn in on the principles subject to the penalty of death, or of the lash.

By self-enrichment, I mean the pursuit of wealth by the power of office, by means of unearned increment, by bribery, by exploitation; in other words, by the acceptance of money without co-relative services.

Very few diggers would object to such principles.

The great question then is that, once having "got there," what is to be our policy? Principles alone will not do. Methods of application of those principles must be practical and effective almost at once.

Here I must ask the reader carefully to peruse Mr. F. A. Law's letter, published in the LISTENING POST of 23/1/31, not by way of ready acceptance, but by way of enlightenment. I hope, in the future, to pick over Hobson's theory of Underconsumption, if I am still in Ausseiland—which, however, is doubtful, as economic stress is likely very soon to drive me out of it. I can put the whole theory of underconsumption in a new light. But, at any rate, we can accept the fact of underconsumption as true, as can readily be appreciated from the fact that at this moment in Britain 5,000,000 men and women are unemployed, while at the same time there is £2,700,000,000 lying idle seeking outlets for investment and unable to find them.

The LISTENING POST rightly dubs this the "Jewish invasion of Britain."

By the way, on a point of "honour to which honour is due," Hobson's economic doctrine was propounded first by Major Douglas just after the war, though his arguments were false, his intuition was accurate.

We, then, having invaded and dominated—either on our horses or on our R.S.L. voters—the State administration at Perth, must apply ourselves to the problems of the falling off of our purchasing power. It presents two phases:

1. The falling off in the farmers' purchasing power owing to the world depression in wheat and wool prices.
2. The falling off in workers' purchasing power owing to unemployment.

Of course, 2 is a consequence of 1, but at the same time a considerable independence of 2 from 1 can be achieved. The worker is further penalised because interest rates being fixed, or where not fixed, increased, has given the non-producer a bigger claim on the producers' labour through falling prices. £1 interest buys as much wheat as £3 interest bought twelve months ago.

Better than fixing a price for gold, or co-relative to it is the necessity for fixing a minimum price for wheat. Where at the sidings shall not be allowed to fall below 3/6 a bushel. A lesser price simply robs the farmer of his toil. It is theft. If the world will not give us this price, then we get what we can abroad and turn it into London Funds to meet our overseas commitments. We have as yet no control there, but we can set on foot at once in conjunction with Canada and the Argentine, and if possible, with Russia, a determination to fix a minimum low price below which we will not sell wheat. If surpluses accumulate, cropping can be restricted, or a year's supply can be laid up in store, and the farmer given one year's holiday. His pay will go on from the sale of the stored wheat.

In any case, come what may, happen what may, no farmer will receive less than 3/6 a bushel for his wheat at the siding. Everything else has got to adjust itself to that fact. If world prices rise, the farmer gets the benefit. This policy will maintain almost all the normal pur-

chasing power of the State, because, tariffs or no tariffs, imports are going to be heavily restricted in the absence of credits in London. Therefore, this money, paid for wheat, will be spent directly in the State to the great benefit of local enterprises. Unemployment will greatly diminish. Such a policy means that we must show our claws to the Jewish domination of High Finance. We shall be a thorn in the side of any domination of international finance with its dirty finger nails pursuing a pacifism of nations to make the world safe for High Finance. A small jab in the seat with the tip of a bayonet will work wonders. If we have to choose between peace and justice we choose justice. That is why we went to Flanders. It is strange that we are built like that, but we remember that we are so built every time we think of those pervading beings who coined money while Aussies lost blood, and now seek to rule us all. By the clatter of our horses' hoofs, it shall never be!

If there should still be unemployment, then credits issued to approved local industries in return for modest interest-bearing debentures will absorb the residue of unemployment.

Abandon hope all ye who look to present-day politicians for statesmanship! Ye shall not find it here.

But look you to your horses and to the R.S.L.

"SNIPER" FIRES ANOTHER VOLLEY

Mr. Law has not taken me to task very much for my criticism of his first article, except that he suggests that I am insistent that to restore general employment,
wages must come down. My argument, as reference to the article in the December LISTENING POST, will prove, was that the wage-earner must give more for his wage if he is to maintain the present standard when the value for his productivity has decreased as it has to-day.

Although very interesting, the discourse on wages by Mr. Law calls for mild criticism, and I hope he will take my remarks as of the constructive type, rather than the destructive, for I admire the great pains he has taken to explain and prove his theories.

Might I suggest that the idea of a wages fund whereby a certain amount of money is allotted for wages has not altogether been exploited. I will agree that increased wages give a better distribution of wealth, but it is obvious that to increase wages at the expense of the profits of the employer there must be a recoil on the workman. Make the employment of labour unprofitable and the whole theory of distribution of wealth breaks down. The employer has no inexhaustable fund to draw on. His fund consists of that which he receives for his products. With the costs of production too high he closes his business or becomes bankrupt, and the theorist is left stranded.

From the reading of many of Mr. Law’s arguments, it would appear that he is more concerned with social economy than that of general economics with which we are faced. With his reference to Hobson’s theory of labour’s receiving so small an amount of the wealth it helps to create, and the injustice of profits being infinitely superior to wages, he unwittingly infers “sweat-

ing.” No one could suggest this as a cause of the present unemployment crisis. Very few people stand for it in British countries, because it is an acknowledged fact that the betterment of the conditions and the good wages of the workers in modern times have increased their general efficiency. However, there is a limit. Let me remind him that it is the lack of profit that necessitates the lowering of production costs, not the desire for greater profits. Mr. Law, no doubt, will agree that the employer is entitled to more than the average wage of his employees for his enterprise, foresight, supervision, management, and risk of losing his capital.

We are apt to-day to take too much notice of the economists of the past and their theories. Ricardo, who has been quoted, lived 150 years ago, and he was regarded by Carl Marx as an unavowed champion of capitalism. Marx, from whom many of the present day theories come, imagined that labour alone was entitled to all the results of wealth production. It must be remembered that conditions are entirely different now to when most of these writers expounded their views, and we ought to be guided more by the modern leaders of thought than by those of the long ago.

Allied with the reduction of cost of production is the lowering of the rate of interest. This, of course, must eventuate. Unfortunately, we, as people, have lost the confidence of the British investor, and due to the law of supply and demand the Australian Governments are compelled to offer interest rates which are exorbitant compared with those of the outside world. Anyone who studies the state of the financial market in London and New York will know that there is any amount of money available at reduced rates of interest. Australian securities are at a considerable discount, and what an opportunity it is for Australia to secure some of this cheap money, to pay our loans falling due, and buy our long term bonds on the open market, thus reducing the interest we have to pay in the future. In other words, borrow as much as we can to redeem the present bonds carrying high rates of interest. It all sounds fantastic, but if we set out to instil faith into the British financial world, it would be capable to accomplishment. South Africa can borrow at low rates of interest. Then what is wrong with us? Let us get down to business principles and sound government, instead of this damaging repudiation and inflation talk, and we will quickly obtain their confidence. With the government off the market in Australia, interest rates would quickly drop here too, because the supply of local money would be greater than the demand.

It has been stated that for wages and interest rates to drop, profits should also fall. Have not profits already fallen? Have not industrial stocks depreciated 50 per cent. or more on the stock market, and dividends been considerably reduced, and in many cases not paid at all? It is difficult to point to any business that is not showing a great reduction in profit.

Finally, let us not forget that we cannot ignore the outside world, for with them we must compete with our exports, and they provide the markets. Then, again, nothing will restore local credit quicker, rectify the exchange problem, and rehabilitate industry than a London loan spent wisely. It is up to us, therefore, to face the question squarely, make whatever sacrifices are necessary, and show we are not defaulters, but prepared to stand up to our obligations.

(Further contributions under this heading have been received from “D.C.M.” and “Bob Shingle.” They will be published in our next issue. Correspondents are requested to write in ink.)

In Memoriam

In loving memory of my dear husband, Albert Sawyer, late of the 51st Battalion, who passed away on February 10th, 1930. Inserted by his loving wife and children of “Crouchlands,” Kojonup.
Personalities

Major Arthur White, of the 32nd, has returned to the Malay States, after spending a vacation of three months in Perth. Prior to his departure he entertained the committee of the 32nd Batt. Association at a dinner.

Rev. J. R. B. Love, at present visiting Perth, although a parson on enlistment, served in the war as a digger with the Camel Corps, and the 14th Light Horse. He won a commission in the field, also the D.C.M. and M.C. He is superintend-ent of the Port-Philip Mission on our N.W. coast, and has travelled Northern Australia on more than one occasion on horseback.

Claude Piesse, well known in League circles, has been appointed on the Poultry and Egg Advisory Board, which has been created by the Minister to advise in such matters. He is located at "Moondoo," West Road, Bassendean (Telephone No. ML 193), and is available to all who may desire his assistance.

George W. J. Wise, who is well-known to Perth diggers, is now a full fledged publican. Formerly licensee of the Clarendon Hotel, he has now taken over the Norwood. George sold his 11th Battalion, and his many friends wish him every success in the new venture.

Mrs. F. W. Walker, who was the official accompanist for the recent Band Contest, is the wife of Ernie Walker, of the 28th Battalion. The manner in which she officiated drew well-merited praise from Dr. Cyril Jenkins, the adjudicator, and from the contestants she accompanied. As a pianist she is in the first rank, and has had a long experience of this kind of work, which necessitates sight reading and sight harmonising from manuscript, and anyone who is used to bandsmen's manuscripts is well qualified to brag about the legibility of a doctor's handwriting. Mrs. Walker has acted in a similar capacity at every band contest held in the State since 1916.

Many Sixth Brigade diggers will cherish grateful memories of the late Air Commodore Sampson, who was one of the pioneers of the Royal Air Force. When the "Southland" was torpedoed in the Aegean Sea, on September 3, 1915, most of the troops she had on board belonged to the Sixth Brigade. The seaplane ship, "Ben ma Chree," which Sampson commanded, came to the rescue, and picked up several boat-loads of Australians. The "Ben ma Chree" had just set out on an extended tour of duty in the Mediterranean, and the crew had received in advance their Xmas parcels of gaspers and other comfort. They handed these over with all their spare clothing to the stranded Australians.

G. Barrows, whose war injuries have necessitated a trip to town for medical treatment, has made good as a farmer in the Ballidud district. He was a double-gunner during the war. Originally a gunner in the Royal Navy, he had sea experience of warfare, after which he landed and joined the artillery.

One of the wags of the 10th Light Horse, is the evergreen Dennis Michael Ryan. Once when Dinny was transacting official business at Orderly Room, he was asked his name. "Dennis Michael Ryan." "What religion?" was the next, and rather superfluous question. Dinny replied: "Presbyterian. What the hell do you think I am?" Dinny has a fervent admiration for Doug. Sutherland, sub-editor of the "West." Some one asked Dinny: "What does Doug write in the "West?" He doesn't write," was Dinny's scornful explanation. "His job's to punish the bar stewards that think they can write."

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N. W. coast, and the desire to return to the "court", opened the way for Dinny's advancement. As a writer, Dinny was a success from the very start. His work as honorary secretary during the initial years. He is a kindly disciplinarian, who will stand no nonsense, but is ever-ready with helpful advice. "Lorry," was a member of the Cottesloe Council, but pulled out when that august body began to degenerate into a bear-garden. He was a member of the famous 12th Battalion, and in private life guides the destinies of the Wilson, Gray stone people.

Few survivors of the war were more badly smashed up than Jimmie Gibbs, of the 28th, but this does not prevent Jimmie from living up to the ideals of service in peace time. He is the honorary secretary of the local "Soccer" organisation, a job which, for Jimmie, is a labour of love. No secretary, paid or unpaid, could keep his books and records in better order. Jimmie's administrative abil-
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(late 10th L.H.) Sole Proprietor

DIGGERS! YOU ASK FOR PREFERENCE! GIVE IT
J. Gibbs is a prominent member of the W.A. Amateur Sports Club, and of the North Cottesloe Surf Club. The arduous work for which he figures on the pay sheet is in connection with the Customs Department at Fremantle. In mentioning Jimmie we cannot forget his good wife, who served through the war as an army nurse. As every digger knows an army nurse was just about the noblest work of God.

The entertainment of former enemies is becoming a national pastime in the Old Country. Scarborough, which was shelled by the German Navy early in the war, and where there were civilian casualties, was the scene of the most recent “shivo.” At this function, Admiral von Turk, of the German Navy, who, during the war, was in command of the defences of Zeebrugge, and Admiral Blount, who took part in the attack on Zeebrugge, were the guests of the Graham Sea Training School. Admiral von Turk had previously entertained the boys of this school when they visited Lubeck. In his address to the boys of the training school, Admiral von Turk said: “You belong to the sea. You rule the waves and never shall be slaves. You must keep up the honour of your flag and your country.” Next evening Admiral von Turk was the guest of the Officers’ Mess of the Royal Corps of Signallers.

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Superior Treble Twisted Gut Lines, 1/-

Superior Treble Twisted GUT LINES: Garfish, 9d.; Whiting, 1/-

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Heavy Steel Groper and Schnapper HOOKS. 10d. to 2½ dozen

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Platypus RAZORS, hollow ground, fin. blade, xylo. handle, 2/3

HAIR CLIPPERS, with 2 extra combs, 3/6

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Bairds Concession Prices in W.A. Groceries Make Certain Savings
reference to "patrol work," I think it was the hardest and most meritorious sea work of the war, but only those who knew and saw what they had to do fully appreciate their services.

Towards the end of the Somme winter, George Meller brought his newly formed 31st Battalion Band to La Chaussee to play at a diggers' concert, to which the entire civilian population had been invited. As the band had never tackled a selection in public before, George requested that the audience be not too critical. The band, however, acquitted itself well, and was enthusiastically applauded by the diggers. After the concert M. le Maire asked an officer what was the name of the selection that the soldiers liked so much. "The Bing Boys," replied the officer. The old gentleman looked puzzled, then the light of understanding spread across his face, and turning to his wife and daughters, he explained, "Ah, oui. Les Garçons Bang!"

After the heavy casualties at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm, there was a serious slump in band music throughout the 4th Division. One very efficient battalion was cursed with an especially putrid band. The Colonel, the Adjutant, and the Regimental Sergeant Major, all hard-bitten regulars, put their heads together to see what they could do about the matter. They wrangled from the reinforcement depot a number of musicians, including one who had been the conductor of a theatre orchestra, whom they appointed bandmaster. By the beginning of the winter the reorganised band could play "Pack Up Your Troubles" in a way that distinguished it from a waltz. At this time Fritz put out his first feelers for peace. One morning the Adjutant asked the Regimental what he thought of the peace prospects. "Well, sir," the latter answered, "I think it will be a damned shame if they go and make peace just when the band's coming on so nicely."

Not Too Late

"Splinters," the bright little organ of the Nedlands Park Sub-branch, comments trenchantly upon Sir John Monash's reasons for not taking a more active part in R.S.L. matters. "We were, in turn amazed and then confounded," "Splinters" states, "that the Digger Organisation should be placed last." Our contemporary considers it is up to Sir John to drop some of his other activities and lead the diggers in peace as he did in war. "How can it be expected that the private employer will show consideration to the Digger if the Commander-in-

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**Book Shelves and Shows**

**Prisoner of War Books**

*Siibian Garrison*, by Rodion Markovits (Peter Davies).

*The Army Behind Barbed Wire*, by Edwin Erich Dwingler.

*Prisoner Halls*, by Karl Wilke (Hutchinson and Co.)

In common with other aspects of the war, the experiences of prisoners are now being made public chiefly in the form of personal narratives thinly disguised as fiction. In *Siibian Garrison*, Rodion Markovits deals with the treatment meted out by their Russian captors to Siibians and others who were captured during the fighting on the eastern front. The unnamed hero is a one-year volunteer, who might have avoided the war altogether. However, he joined the Honveds and had become an adjutant, a rank equivalent to that of warrant officer in our forces, by the time he was captured. The German and Austro-Hungarian armies allowed special privileges to these one-year volunteers. They were young men of superior education, who had passed a qualifying examination which exempted them from all but one year's service in the ranks. In war-time they were marked down for speedy promotion to commissioned rank. The Honveds were the Royal Hungarian Army. The literal translation of the name is "Defenders of the Fatherland." Theoretically the Hungarian Army was a defence force, pure and simple, and a special law had to be passed before it could be sent beyond the borders of Hungary. The Honveds correspond to our Citizen Forces, and the Austro-Hungarian Army to our Regulars. The latter consisted of Imperial (Austrian) and Royal (Hungarian) regiments, called Common Regiments, because the cost of their maintenance was, to a considerable extent, shared equally by the two countries composing the Dual Monarchy. The Austrian equivalent of the Honveds was the Landwehr.

On the whole, our nameless hero does not appear to have had such a bad time of it. What he suffered was rather on account of Russian ineptitude than of Russian malice. The petty jealousy between Regular and Honved, the awful monotony of prison life at the far eastern end of Siberia, and the gradual disintegration of discipline are the theme of a very interesting story. Incidentally, the Czechs were generally distrusted. They were accused of surrendering voluntarily. They eagerly enlisted in the Czech Legion recruited by the Russians, and after the Revolution, many of the rank and file threw in their lot with the Reds. The Austrians and Hungarians seem to have been treated well until after the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, when they were left to fend for themselves, and make their way home as best they could. The story of the journey across Siberia is graphically told. Kolchak's counter-revolution occasioned further serious delay, and the exiles were forced to settle down where they were and work for their living, until the defeat.
of Kolchak enabled them to continue the journey home.

A more terrible story is that told by Edwin Erich Dwingier, in the "Army Behind Barbed Wire." The hero, this time a German one-year volunteer who has attained a cornet's rank in a cavalry regiment, is also captured by the Russians, but he has had the misfortune to sustain a severe leg wound. The book is a terrible record of suffering, a scathing indictment of Russian callousness and ignorance of the first principles of organisation. Flies, faces, filth, lousiness, and even homo-sexuality play a prominent part in this very disgusting story.

Almost pleasant, in comparison, is the story of "Prisoner Halm," by Karl Wilke. Captured by the French outside St. Quentin during the German retreat, Lance-Corporal Halm's experiences are by no means enjoyable. His experience of prison life is relatively short, but is told with grim realism. A prisoner's life is never a happy one, but Halm's sorry plight is accentuated by the bitterness of defeat, and the repeated delays which occurred in restoring him to liberty. He did not get home until sixteen months after his capture, and if his narrative is to be believed, he was subjected to appalling treatment.

While all three books are well-written and -- very interesting, none make enjoyable reading, which is indeed a pity, for the British and French prisoners of war spent such an enjoyable holiday in Germany.

General Crozier Again

The trouble with many who sheathe the sword and take up the pen is that they will pose, and this tendency towards posing mars, to a slight extent, General Crozier's interesting collection of "Impressions and Recollections," published by T. Werner Laurie, Esq. Nevertheless, we preferred this book to "A Brass Hat in No Man's Land." It is the record of an active, and adventurous life on active service in out-of-the-way places, of a career not undistinguished, and of opinions which, if not clearly conceived, are at least fearlessly expressed.

Brigadier-General F. P. Crozier is a member of an old army family, and his early associations with Ireland, "shoneen" associations though they were, imbued him with a proneness to question authority, even where it did not drive him to the extreme of active rebellion. Unable to attain the physical standard demanded of candidates for admission to Sandhurst, he found an outlet for his military inclinations in commissioned service with a volunteer regiment. The Boer War gave him his opportunity. He enlisted in the ranks of Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry and saw much active service in the field. He obtained a commission in a regular regiment (the Manchesters) and eventually left South Africa seconded for service with the West African Frontier Force. The record of his service in West Africa makes interesting reading, not only as a personal narrative, but as an account of the methods adopted by the British in occupying and pacifying the vast Nigerian hinterland. Ill-health, engendered by this arduous tropical service, compelled him to retire in 1908, to join the reserve forces as a captain. Then followed a short sojourn in Canada, after which Ireland again claimed him, and just before the war he was actively concerned in the revolutionary movement in Ulster.

The outbreak of the Great War turned technically treasonable activities into a wonderful outburst of loyalty. Crozier's battalion went to France, and Crozier himself ended the war as a Brigadier-General. After the war, General Crozier took part in the organisation of the Lithuanian Army. His next experience of alarms and excursions was in Ireland during the Irish Civil War, and he is loud in his protests against what was then called "the policy of reprisals."

His concluding chapter is a series of "Lessons to be Learnt." Though one cannot agree with all General Crozier's contentions—at times he appears to coquet with the forces of disruption—one must admit that he has the courage of his convictions. Like most men who are opinionated rather than thoughtful, he makes ex cathedra utterances do duty for reasoned statements. Incidentally, he reiterates his fulminations against strong drink, and warns readers against "the subtle danger which always lurks behind alcohol when consumed as a beverage." General Crozier's style is clear and direct. His book is well published and well illustrated. It contains three separate portraits of General Crozier, several groups of which General Crozier is the central figure, and photographs of incidents in which General Crozier is playing the leading role.

Whiffs of Chloroform

SOME ATROCITIES COMMITTED IN THE WARD ELEVEN

By "Jo Blow"

DOING THE ROUND

"Hello, Newby. How are you to-day?"
"How's that pain in the hip?"
"Sorry to say, I'm not too gay;"
"The pain gives me the pip."
"Well, Giles, had a good night?"
"How's the pain in the leg?"

"Rotten! Sister. How about a foment?"
"As hot as — er — as hot as you like, I beg."
"Good morning Meadowcroft, how's the poor old tummy?"
"And did you have a good night?"
"I slept like a snake with a rabbit inside it."
"But, gosh, my tummy is tight."

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VICTORIA HOUSE, ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH
The Runner
(By C. R. Collins)

He was a young man, fair-haired and blue-eyed, though these features were almost concealed within the shadows of his bronze helmet. The attic sun had burned his long limbs to a deep copper-red. Indeed, had he removed his heavy cuirass, his light cotton tunic, and the greaves which protected his shins, it would have been seen that the long hours of exercising naked, in the wrestling school, had made this the prevailing hue of his whole body. A god-like figure he was, as he ran with the easy swinging jog-trot of the long-distance runner, along the level road which ran between the bay of Marathon and the mother city of Athens, while the rays of the westerning sun splashed his armour with points of flame. Closer observation would have revealed that his armour was daubed with blood—blood already shrivelling into dry flakes, but the blood of foemen, not his own. The leaf-bladed sword which swung and struck against his thigh as he ran had bitten deeply into Persian flesh on that most glorious of days.

This was an easier task than the one he had performed when he bore the news to sluggish Sparta, that the Asiatic flood, which had engulfed the Greek cities of Asia and Thrace, were now surging round the very temples of Hellas. Western civilisation, although he could not have expressed it in this way, was being threatened at its fountain head. What fools these Spartans were, this people who had turned their State into a parade ground. With them, intensive training was more important than actual fighting. They spent their lives in preparing for war, yet when the war-god knocked at their doors they occupied valuable time in futile debate, and refused to put their army into the field until six days had passed, until the moon was at its full. He had communicated this decision to the rulers of his own city after a run of nearly three hundred miles, over difficult country, over trackless wastes, in four days, and had, nevertheless, been in time to take his place in the battle-line.

"Ho!" he had said to his friend, Aeschylus the poet, "you will be able to write a wondrous epic of my journey."

Knegeirus, the brother of Aeschylus, laughed.

"I fear, Pheidippides," he taunted, "like most young men, you are something of a boaster."

Aeschylus nodded gravely.

"We must first drive these Persians into the sea."

"But tell me," Pheidippides demanded, settling his shield and tightening his sword-belt, "what is transpiring?"

"What transpired in all democracies," Aeschylus explained. "Much talk and little action. Miltiades is for fighting, but the other generals prefer to wait."

So jealous were the Athenians of the power of the strong man that they neglected no effort to curb the power of their commanders. Having overthrown the autocracy of Hippias, the traitor who was now guiding the Persian hordes against his own motherland, they devised the wonderful system whereby their army was led by ten strategi, or generals, with a polemarch, or chief general. Each strategus in turn administered the command for a single day.

It was fortunate for Hellas that Athens, faced as she was with the duty of withstanding the Asiatic horde, was not a walled city. Had this been so, she would certainly have awaited the invader behind her walls, and would have been reduced by famine like the cities of Ionia. Absence of walls compelled her defenders to take the initiative to their own ultimate advantage.

None knew the Persians better than the strategus, Miltiades. He had fought both with them and against them. The revolt which had driven him from his own city in the Chersonese was responsible for his appearance in the army of Athens. A cunning man was Miltiades. The strategus, whom he convinced that decisive action was necessary, resigned in his favour when their days of command arrived, so that Miltiades had been in command for five consecutive days. He had even won over the Polemarch, Kallimarchus to his way of thinking.

All this Aeschylus had explained to Pheidippides while the priests were raking the entrails of the sacrificial animals for favourable omens.

"Are these Persians so invincible?" he asked, gazing down at the serried horde...
which filled the plain, and almost over-flowed into the marches between their flank and the engirdling mountains. Their ships filled the bay and beyond them the sapphire-blue waters of the Aegean shimmered in the sunlight.

"Look! They move!"

The Persians, seemingly hopeless of enticing the Greeks from the elevated plain on which they had taken up their position, were beginning to re-embark their horses.

Men, too, were running from the altars in rear of the Greek position. The omens were favourable. Even before the trumpets sounded the under-officers were arranging their men. Pheidippides took his place in the ranks, thrilling with a pride not unmingled with the pardonable curiosity of a young man about to engage in his first battle. They moved forward at a slow run which gathered momentum as they descended the slope. Ten thousand and they were, but to make the line equivalent to that of the invaders, the centre had been dangerously thinned. The clash of metal on metal, the shouts of triumph, yells of rage, and the groans of the wounded announced that the forces had met. Now the whole plain rocked with the struggles of men locked together in deadly conflict. The virgin sword of Pheidippides slaked its thirst that day. Blows he took, as the dents on shield and cuirass showed, but heavier blows he returned. The lightly-clad Persians were no match for the heavily mailed hoplites of Hellas. They were so densely packed that they could not manoeuvre. Their cavalry, which might have given them victory, had re-embarked their horses, and were therefore useless. The thin Greek centre gave way, but their victorious flanks swung in and beved their way through the close-packed mass of foemen, to the rescue. Everywhere were Persians slain, and many attempting to escape were driven into the marshes, where they perished even more miserably.

Too late, they sought safety in their ships, but the foremost Helianes had already cut their way to the beach. Fiercely the battle raged around the ships. Here fell Kalimachus, the Polemarch. Here also was slain The Strategus, Stesilauus. Kzngeerus, the brother of Aeschius, rushed into the water and seized hold of the poop of a vessel, but a Median axe lopped off his hand, so that he fell into the water and was borne under to his death before Pheidippides could reach him. No fewer than seven ships were taken before the beaten enemy could put out to sea.

Standing knee-deep in the waves, Pheidippides watched their frenzied flight. His question was effectively answered. This Eastern power which had thrown its ominous shadow over the western world was not invincible after all. A hand fell on his shoulder. It was Miltiades himself. "Well, my stout fighter, are you too weary to perform yet another task for me?"

"Name it, Miltiades," Pheidippides replied.

"Go you to Athens. Tell the Archons that the high gods have blessed our arms with victory. Give all due credit to the Gods," Miltiades continued. "That will please the people, especially the women. Miltiades was ever a cunning man. "And tell them that as soon as the army is re-formed I bring it back to Athens with all possible speed."

He was now threading his way through the narrow streets towards the steps of the portico, where the Archons, the magistrates of the city, were awaiting tidings of the battle. Through a haze he saw them, their white robes, their reverend aspect, the gleam of the golden grasshopper badges in their hair. Laboriously he staggered up the steps. He drew himself up to his full height. His sword flashed aloft as he raised it and his shield by way of salute. With a superhuman effort he controlled his breathing long enough to shout:

"Rejoice! The victory is ours."

His knees sagged, and there was a resounding clash as he fell at their feet, dead. The strain had been too great.

**Cobbers Still**

*(By Jean-Dell)*

We've been cobbers from the cradle, though I don't know that we should, For I've often had a rotten deal from Bill;
He got cakes for being naughty, but got cuts for being good, But as our whiskers grew we cobbled still.
Every sweetheart that I snared at school was mine for half a day, Or less than that when Bill came on the scene, For while I was on lessons bent, he'd steal her heart away, And tell her tales by moonlight on the green;
We went to war together then, forgetting every wench, Forgetting all the cuts I got through Bill, For when a bloke's own cobber is a soldier in the trench, The world can never hold a single ill, And what a soldier Bill was! And the Blighties that he got!
(I often wished that one of 'em was mine!)
They didn't seem to stop him, for when things were getting hot I'd always find my cobber in the line. If war is hell, then William has been in there more than once (For choice a soldier wants no second look);
With what he saw he'd surely make each scribbler seem a dunce— If William ever came to write a book! Though I've knocked about a bit, me frame is still all-there, And competent to play the peace-time game;
Poor Bill has got some timber with his dinkum limbs to share— But he beat me for me tabby just the same!
She is beautiful and wealthy, and she thinks the world of Bill, And old Bill, he thinks the world of her, and more, And as a lonely-bachelor I'm cobbers with him still— For he'll never write a book about the war!
UP A TREE

Engineers in Camp at Guildford, 1916

From the W.A. Digger Book, a few copies of which are still available from Sub-Branch Secretaries or the State Secretary
Women's Auxiliaries  
GUILDFORD-BASSENDAN

The annual meeting of the above was held at Bassenden recently. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mrs. Grieve; vice-presidents, Madames Gallagher and Kirk; secretary, Mrs. McKinnlay; treasurer, Mrs. Pendlebury; trustees, Mesdames Faithful, Kennedy and Tuckett.

A number of the members recently paid a visit to the Edward Millen Home. An informal concert was held and a small monetary gift was given to each patient for Christmas.

At the Christmas tree held by the sub-branch R.S.L., the president, Mr. Lewis, presented to Mrs. Kirk a nut bowl in polished banksia, on behalf of the Women's Auxiliary, whose secretary she has been since the first inception of the branch in 1922. Mrs. Kirk has been in indifferent health for some time, and we wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

Twelve months ago Private Albert Sawyer, No. 2718, 11st Battalion, died from pneumonia and heart failure. He was in receipt of a small pension. Since his death his widow, who has two children, applied to the Repat. to have his death accepted as due to war service, without success. She has now appealed to the Tribunal. Mrs. Sawyer states that her husband was badly shell-shocked, and thinks that he would have recovered from the pneumonia, but for his impaired constitution; due to his injuries on service. She is anxious to get in touch with any of his war mates who may be able to help her to substantiate her claim. Her address is "Crouchlands," Kojonup.

Sub-Branch Notes

BUSSLETON

The Sub-Branch held its Annual General Meeting recently, and a large roll up resulted, members coming in, in many cases, many miles to be present. Mr. Harry Willmott was again elected president. Mr. A. J. Smith, who had a very successful term, announced his intention of not standing as secretary, and Mr. L. G. Taylor, Accountant, of Busselton, and a late member of the Needlands Sub-Branch, was elected to the position. The vice-presidents include Menrs. W. Johnston, M. A. Wilkinson, S. Carter, R. Boyle, J. McFadyen, F. Plaistowe and F. Jones. For the posts of Treasurer and Auditor, Meurs. Wilson and Atkinson were elected, and Mr. A. Forster was again elected to be Hall Secretary.

Among the business dealt with was the position of dairy farmers of the district, and delegates from the affected districts are to be invited to meet and discuss their disabilities with the Land Committee. After a vote of thanks had been unanimously passed to the executive and other officers, particularly in view of the greatly improved financial position of the Sub-Branch, the members got together and enjoyed a very successful social evening, at which re-freshments were dispensed and a number of musical items given. The usual reminiscences of "The Big Noise" were treated out, and at "lights out" the parade was dismissed with happy feelings of the re-union of old comrades and new.

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and looking forward with pleasant anticipation to the next.

TAMBELLUP

A well-attended meeting of the above branch was held at Mr. Marky's residence on the 4th of February last, presided over by Mr. A. J. Smith, the newly-elected President. Amongst other items of business dealt with was the audit report for the previous year; the purchase of a set of drums for "The Diggers' Orchestra," and the formulation of a scheme to assist unemployed members of the branch.

Several members who are farmers in the district volunteered to supply additional gifts of meat, vegetables, fruit, etc., and one of the town members agreed to act as distributing agent.

After the business in hand was disposed of, an interesting lecture was given by Mr. J. E. Trathan, on some of the problems confronting the wool-grower, and the "Diggers' Orchestra" contributed several musical items and old army marching songs; the branch mess-orders performed in their usual efficient way, and the happy gathering, which the meetings usually are, was brought to a close.

All ex-soldiers are again reminded that these meetings take place at 7.30 p.m. on the first Wednesday in every month at the place indicated above, and all local diggers who have not yet joined are invited to drop in and do their bit," in the first place to keep up the spirit of the old A.I.F. alive, and secondly, to assist in helping those who are not so fortunately situated as themselves.

BALINGUP

This sub-branch has got into its stride again, and on January 15th, 1931, a well-attended and enthusiastic meeting was held. Farming matters were to the fore again in usual, and a motion was carried asking the Executive to convene another conference at Bunbury to argue over the troubles which have lately beset us. We were the first to suggest a conference of Soldier Settlers, which was held in Bunbury in 1924, I think, and the Annual Conference was the outcome. By the way, have you ever compared the photos of the delegates to the first and last Conference, and noticed the marks the years are leaving on those delegates, who have regularly attended?

Through lack of enthusiasm our meetings dwindled to about four members in attendance, and so the Children's Cot Fund was missed, but we have remedied that by sending £1 1s. We hope other branches will follow our lead in such a good cause. It is a disgrace that only one branch should send a donation in twelve months.

We also decided that contributions should be paid from January 1st and June 1st, subscriptions being 10/- and 5/-, it makes subscriptions easier to collect, and also keeps the yearly crown right. We previously called it a year from first payment.

We suggested a big smoke-off to the Executive, which was to be broadcast—smoke-off. The idea being that all the talking and toast calling be done in Perth. The sub-branches sit in where they can, and as the toasts are called, honour them. Perhaps an hour or so's interval could be arranged for any business to be got through, if any. We haven't had a smoke social for a long time now, because the same old yarns and songs get up every time.

A small delegation is to be sent to the Directors of the Butter Factory, Bunbury, to arrange the working of a scheme suggested to the factory by the sub-branch, whereby clients could get their manure through the factory, paying for it out.
of their monthly cream cheques. Otherwise, it looks as though a lot of pasture will not be top-dressed, to the loss of both farmers and factory.

MT. BARKER

The letter from Jimmy Morgan was that he was booked to sail from England per Hobart's Bay, on 4th February. He had had a very strenuous week of farewells, and was feeling worse than after a re-union, and would be quite ready to settle down on his return. He was queries how the Amelioration Fund was for followers in need.

The Unemployed Relief Committee have had several complaints re the allotment of work being given to ex-service men in preference to civilian unemployed. As this sub-branch is well represented on this committee, it is up to members who hear these reports to emphatically deny this. The ex-service unemployed on the list is one-third of the total, and, to date, the work has been allocated out about one-third at each meeting.

Since the reorganisation of the picture biz, the flickers have about held their own, and this is due to the careful management by the staff that controls.

Film people are giving a free picture for the branch to run for distress funds. It is to be hoped that a good house will result.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due. One member came along with his little wireless, which he could afford, but showed the spirit was there, and that's what is wanted to keep the League going.

Roped in Lieut. Gribble, of the Machine Gun Battalion. He has spent a good deal of his time in the North.

RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

The annual meeting was held in the Soldiers' Institute, Perth, on Friday, 16th January, 1931. The President (Mr. R. Gibson) presided over a moderate attendance. After the ordinary business of the branch was dealt with, the Auditors, and Secretary's reports, and balance sheets (general and amelioration) were given.

One big feature of the Secretary's report was a statement that the branch had lost 65 members through the economic condition which had taken place in the workshops during the latter portion of the year 1930. Had the policy of preference been adhered to, this would not have happened, although it was pleasing to note that through continued representation by branch officers, backed by the State Executive, a reward was obtained in so far as having the notices of dismissal of two men withdrawn was concerned.

The bank balance of the General Fund was shown to be in rather a parlous condition, but the Amelioration and Comforts Fund, despite many calls, was stated to be fair. This was mainly due to the efforts of the Women's Auxiliary, which ran fortnightly socials and dances at Perth and Bellevue, and donated 50 per cent. of the proceeds to the branch fund. Besides this, the Auxiliary paid many visits to sick members of the branch.

Referring to illness, let it be said here that, during 1930, sick members of the sub-branch were visited on their fellow members a total of 325 times. This speaks well for the camaraderie of the branch.

When the election of officers came on, the retiring senior Vice-President, Mr. J. Orser, declared Mr. Gibson as re-elected unopposed. As this is Mr. Gibson's fourth term of office, he holds the record. Colonel A. C. N. Olden, who represented this branch on the State Executive, was then asked to voice the appreciation of the members of the work of the President.

Briefly, the Colonel said that he only knew a little bit about the Bible (and he learnt that in Palestine), and the phrase he was going to use applied to the Workshops R.S.L. members—"Hold fast to that which is good." Members were doing this by putting Mr. Gibson back in office, and to show their appreciation of his efforts on behalf of members and the movement generally, he (Mr. Gibson) was asked to accept this. "This" "This" was an envelope of well-need, it need be broadcasted?

After Mr. Gibson (who rose amidst spontaneous hand-clapping) had replied, briefly but adequately, the election of officers was continued, and resul ted as follows:

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. L. Tichbon (re-elected), and C. A. Wells (elevated from Finance Committee); Secretary, Mr. W. F. Lovell; Treasurer, Mr. E. F. Langdon; Auditors: Messrs. R. Reed and G. Branchenridge (both re-elected); Finance Committee: Messrs. A. H. Major, W. R. Hughes, and H. Turner (first two re-elected); Balance of Committee: Messrs. E. A. Smith and D. McMurtrie.

On the adoption of the Auditor's report, the Secretary was presented with a fountain pen.

WILUNA

The first general meeting for the year of the Wiluna Sub-Branch was held on Sunday evening, the 2nd January, at the main office. Owing to the closeness of the weather, the fellows settled themselves out on the verandah.

There were a number of new comers. The President, in opening the meeting, gave them a welcome, and assured them the branch was out to do its best, for them, and that, happily, the mine management was very sympathetic towards the local movement.

The minutes of the special meeting of the 18th were read and passed, thus confirming the election of officers. Mr. Paterson remains as President, Mr. Prior as Vice-President, Mr. Stark as Secretary; Mr. Fimister, Treasurer; Social Committee: Messrs. Paterson, Williams, Stuart, Pettegrow, and Delaney; Distress Committee: Messrs. Spencer and Russell; Hospital Committee: Messrs. Stewart, Lyon, and Devlin.

Various matters of business were discussed and carried. It goes to show how keen an interest is taken by the sub-branch in local affairs, and how rapidly it is taking a place of prominence in the life of the district. Even such matters as postal facilities, unemployment, sanitation, the preservation of a beach to the nearby lake, assistance to pioptors, etc., were intelligently discussed and dealt with.

A resolution was carried that a petition be drawn up to request the establishment of a permanent post office on the mine. With a settled populace and the mine in full swing, the present postal service will be inadequate. A sub-committee was appointed to deal with the petition.

The position of turned down men came up for review. Dr. Mitchell, the official concerned, had paid a short visit, but matters were still in a state of flux. It was carried. That Mr. Benton be wired on behalf of these men.

Arrangements were made for the next 'smoke social, to be held on the 20th of this month.

Prior to the closure of the meeting, the President suggested in future a series of informal lectures and talks should be held. He proposed at some future meeting to speak on his experiences in a munition factory—a great idea, which will lead to some interesting exchange of views. Another topic which would surely lead to some good discussion would be that of war novels.

There will possibly be some development in the idea of staging Sheriff's, 'Journey's End.' We have two halls, and we have already discovered some dramatic talent.

The meeting dispersed after a most useful and interesting evening. Our best meeting so far, and a good augury for the new year.

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GREENBUSHES

The monthly meeting of this sub-branch was held at the Hostel, on Saturday, int. Mr. C. Sells presiding over our largest meeting to date.

In welcoming new members, and an ex-Imperial, and a New Zealander, Mr. Sells hoped that the membership drive would continue until the 100 per cent. objective was reached. With 26 financial members, and a credit balance of £14, the branch is now in a fair position. A district committee is in course of formation, this sub-branch being in favour with proposals set out by Bridgetown.

As members of the State Executive will be in the district on 21st inst., the meeting decided to issue invitations to them for a smoke social, which is being held that evening. All service men in the district are welcome (no corks needed); and a happy evening is predicted.

BRIDGETOWN

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bridgetown Branch of the R.S.L. was held at the rest room in Bridgetown, when 22 members were present. The representatives from Manjimup, Yannah, and Balingup Air Disaster discussion, it was decided to form a District Council, comprising members of the Yannah, Manjimup, Bridgetown, and Balingup branches. The election of a representative as District President, Mr. J. C. Moriarty, Secretary, Mr. R. Urquhart; Delegates: Messrs. Newton, Battams (Manjimup),
UPPER SWAN

The annual general meeting of the above sub-branch, held on January 11th, was typical of its many predecessors in respect of the feelings of good fellowship, which have in no way diminished with the passing years. President, Lin. Thorn, M.L.A., occupied the chair, and, in the course of his report, paid a tribute to the work of the vice-president, Harry Feurill, the secretary, Tom Richards, and the other officials of the sub-branch. He indicated also his intention not to seek re-election, but, in spite of this, he was re-elected and was eventually prevailed upon to occupy the chair for the ensuing year. The secretary, Tom Richards, who has worked unstintingly in the interests of the sub-branch, was unanimously re-elected, and Mr. Harry Feurill was again elected vice-president. The election of other officials followed. Mr. Neil Langman reported an amount voluntarily subscribed to the Children's Hospital, and the result was considered highly satisfactory. The evening terminated with the usual social event and an exciting game of bowls, a feature of which was the judgment of Mr. Steve Noel, who piloted his side to victory. The finale, “Auld Lang Syne,” if somewhat lacking in harmony, was strong in sentiment and fully expressed the brotherly feeling which has always existed amongst members.

SOUTH PERTH

The sub-branch Lilliputian golf craze broke out officially on Saturday, 31st January, at Light Horseman Redshaw's place. The whole of the outfit is of a portable nature, and has been made by President, Harry. Kahn, assisted by Mssrs. Redshaw and Andrew. It includes several remarkably clever hazards, which might well be copied by the permanent midget golf courses.

The second outing was on “Rutile,” a golf course on the Northside, on Thursday evening, 5th February. As a result of these two efforts, and the bonus of the weather, the sub-branch显示出 remarkable growth. The meeting was attended by members of the branch, and some members of the local community.

In order to clear away any misunderstanding, will sub-branches who desire the “Whizz Bang” service as a means of raising funds please realise that a concert party, complete with orchestra, cannot be run on fresh air alone; and that, as the original intention of the members of this group of entertainers was to raise money for sub-branch funds, some fee or percentage of takings must be charged for its services, except, of course, in the case of shows at hospitals and such-like institutions.

The “Whizz Bangs” are due to appear at Osborne Park on Friday, 27th February, and at Ledderville-Mt. Hawthorn in April.

MT. LAWLEY

The monthly meeting of the sub-branch was held in Wallah's Hall on Tuesday, February 5th, and a good attendance of members was recorded. Our President, Col. Flintoff, was in the chair. During the evening some of the unemployment cards were read out, and one or two placed with a little casual work. It is important that every member fill in his card (whether out of work or not). Not many cards have been received to date; and it is hoped they will all be returned by next meeting. After the business of the evening had been disposed of, Mr. McDowell, President of the Sub-branch, gave a very interesting lecture on a visit to the Royal Mint, Perth. He also had some exhibits in the shape of sovereigns in different stages of manufacture, and—wonderful to relate!—some were missing at the end of the evening. He stated that for the past few days he had had the Golden Eagle in his charge, and explained how they arrived at its weight and value. Numerous questions were asked and answered, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer, who said he would be only too pleased to again oblige at a later date.

The next monthly meeting will be held in the same hall on Tuesday, March 5th, when the final touches will be given to the arrangements for the Annual Horseman Social, to be held in Wallah’s Hall on Saturday, March 7th. It is hoped a good muster will be at the meeting, and a bumper house at the Annual Horseman Social.

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YARLOOP

The monthly meeting was held on February 12, the attendance being well above the average, and it is hoped that there will be a further increase next month. Those present were Messrs. A. Watson (president), N. Buchanan (vice-president), L. Rogers (secretary), G. Fisk, F. Trenvan, P. Regan, A. A. Hardry, A. Smith, G. H. Clifton, G. Wilkes, Starritt, C. Collert, Millington, F. Eastcott, H. Eastcott. The following were selected to attend the next meeting of the district council: Messrs. A. Watson, N. Buchanan, L. Rogers, F. Trenvan, correspondence and other routine business having been dealt with, an informal discussion took place upon the unemployment prevalent in the district. The President, who is also a member of the executive of the Yarloop Distress Fund Committee, gave an interesting and informative discourse upon the work being done by that committee towards the relief of distress. Arrangements are being made with the Harvery Road Board to provide work for a certain number on the roads of the district. Mr. Watson is in a position where the usual assistance and every deserving case is assured of his ready sympathy and help.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10.

BAYSWATER

Mr. Bradford is leading in the miniature rifle shooting competition with a score of 97 out of a possible 100. Others in the running are Thompson, Spencer, Ashby, 95; Anderson, 92; Barton, 89; and with one shoot to be fired; Barnes, Swaffer, Lenagan, 72; and Coigrove, 73. The trophies are a gold medal for the best results off the rifle and a miniature cup for the handicap.

It is requested that members try and get aside sub-branch meeting nights and come along. An attendance "roll" will be kept, so as to gain an idea of those attending.

Subscriptions are now due, and those who have not yet paid, please hop over at next meeting. All members who are unable to pay up at once may put in a small amount when possible until sufficient is received to make them financial.

It has been decided to hold a picnic at the river at Bayswater on a Sunday (date to be fixed), so as to give the children a day out and also allow members and their wives to be known to one another.

In order to raise funds for the sub-branch, a raffle is conducted each fortnight for £1; tickets 3d. available from all members of the committee, and drawn at each general meeting.

FREMANTLE

The last meeting at the Institute was so crowded that the committee expected a large attendance. A record number of letters were received, read, and debated. The majority of the correspondence concerned the "W.A. Products Week." This will take place shortly at the Fremantle Town Hall, and all the district councils are co-operating to make it a success. Mr. R. H. Armstrong, MP, is expected to be present. The exhibition will be of local interest as it is being organised by the "W.A. Products week."

It is not very often that a scholarship is offered to the branch, but last week the principal of Girton College, Fremantle, offered to give a scholarship to any child that the branch elects, the only stipulation being that the parents are to furnish the school books. Now, this is indeed a worthy offer and it is desired that any digger who is a member of the branch, and who would like to give his daughter a college education but has so far failed, may apply to the Post that our secretary, and all applications will be dealt with and decided by the president and vice-presidents. The principals of Girton College are to be congratulated on their offer, as it does show affection and loyalty to the diggers, when so many people-to-day have forgotten that there was ever a war.

The balance sheet was read by Arthur Kirby, our able treasurer, and showed the branch to be in good financial health. Morally, the work done in amelioration, and physically, by the assets it holds. There is not the slightest doubt that the auditors, Messrs. Thompson and Griffiths, had an easy audit, the books, receipts, accounts, etc., being kept in workmanlike style by A. Kirby, who is an accountant by profession.

Mr. Wayman, President of Spearwood branch, was a visitor at our meeting. He let us know that on Sunday, March 1, a trip to the zoo would be taken by his branch, and he hoped that we would come along as well. Boats will leave Clifford Street at 9.45 am, and a picnic is expected. Corrigin Claremont will also participate, and it is hoped that last year's number (460) will be exceeded. Hot power, races, fruit, drinks, etc., will be on tap, so a good day is expected. Tickets can be obtained from Secretary C. Walker.

OSBORNE PARK

At the fortnightly meeting, presided over by Mr. Bob Corlett, vice-president, in the absence of Mr. Harold Nugent, a letter was received from Waroona Sub-branch, asking the assistance of the members of the branch in the form of plans, etc., for the building of a hall at Waroona, the Waroona members having used in the Waroona branch, and decided to set aside a building fund for which the concert was in aid of.

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The site of the fat lamb for export should be a Shropshire, Dorset Horn or Southdown. The mother of the export lamb should be a Longwool Merino crossed ewe, if available. If crossbred ewes are not available, mate the Merino ewes with a Longwool ram.

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<th>Secretary and Address</th>
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<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. E. Potts, State School, Albany</td>
<td>F. W. Thorp, P.O. Box 34, Albany</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUNBURY</td>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday</td>
<td>C. R. Gillott, Bury St., Bunbury</td>
<td>A. E. Murray, Stephen St., Bunbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>BELMONT</td>
<td>Belmont Hall</td>
<td>27th May and every 4th Tuesday</td>
<td>T. H. Sibbritt, Grandstand Rd., Belmont</td>
<td>J. J. Mann, Epsom Ave., Belmont</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAYS WATER</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bayswater</td>
<td>Alt. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>D. Burton, King William St., Bayswater</td>
<td>R. B. Anderson, Roberts St., Bayswater</td>
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<td>COLLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' Hall</td>
<td>Tuesdays before pension day</td>
<td>A. E. Rolfe, Throssell St., Collie</td>
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<tr>
<td>COWARAMUP</td>
<td>Cowaramup Institute</td>
<td>2nd Sunday, 2 p.m.</td>
<td>A. T. Cooke, Cowaramup</td>
<td>C. W. A. Lewis, Cowaramup</td>
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<td>COTTESLOE BEACH</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>Last Wednesday in each month</td>
<td>Cowaramup</td>
<td>Cowaramup</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLAREMONT-COTTESLOE</td>
<td>Alternately Council Chambers</td>
<td>First Thursday in each month</td>
<td>G. Brown, &quot;Scotia,&quot; Fairlight St., Cottesloe Beach</td>
<td>W. Burridge, 33 Mason St., Cottesloe Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>DARLING RANGE DENMARK</td>
<td>Parish Hall, Kalamunda</td>
<td>3rd Saturday</td>
<td>B. L. Vinden, Kalamunda</td>
<td>A. G. Cook, 12 Dalgety St., Cottesloe</td>
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<tr>
<td>DUMBLEYUNG</td>
<td>Dumbleyung</td>
<td>Quarterly, last Sunday in Jan., April, July, Oct.</td>
<td>L. A. Weeks, Dumbleyung</td>
<td>H. G. Penrose, Kalamunda, Denmark</td>
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<td>DOWAK</td>
<td>Salmon Gums, 1st Friday, Dowak, 1st Saturday</td>
<td>Every two months, alternately, commencing Salmon Gums Friday, December 6th, at 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Theo. Brennan, Fothergill, St., Fremantle, C. R. Cornish, <em>a</em></td>
<td>Gerald Andrews, Dumbleyung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMANTLE AND DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, South Terrace.</td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
<td>Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td>C. C. Walker, 132 Hampton Road, Fremantle</td>
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<td>GASCONEY</td>
<td>Gascoyne Hotel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, Gascoyne Hotel</td>
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<td>GUILDFORD-BASSENDAEN</td>
<td>Council-Chbrs., Guildford</td>
<td>1st Thursday, alt. months, commencing January</td>
<td>W. Bagshaw, Geraldton</td>
<td>H. L. Kirke, 6th Avenue, Bassendean</td>
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<td>GERALDTON</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bassendean</td>
<td>1st Thursday other months</td>
<td>A. H. Salmon, Geraldton</td>
<td>Alfred J. Knight, Harvey</td>
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<td>HARVEY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Memorial Hall</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>T. W. D. Smith, Herfort Rd., Harvey</td>
<td>T. G. Addy, 49 Campbell</td>
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<tr>
<td>KALGOORLIE</td>
<td>War Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Last Tuesday</td>
<td>C. D. A. Donaldson, 11 Hinesmo St., Kalgoorlie</td>
<td>St. Kalgoorlie, Tel. 290, Charles S. Smith, P.O., Karridale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARRIDALE AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>Every 2nd Tuesday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. Flanagan, P.O. Kuderup</td>
<td>Geo. W. Mans, Kiallerberin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELLERBERRIN AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>P.P.A. Room</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>G. L. Ogilvist, Kellerrbyin</td>
<td>A. B. Cryer, Broome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIMBERLEY</td>
<td>Bydome</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>E. de B. Norman, Broome</td>
<td>V. B. Sewell, Kojonup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Derby reps, J. Graham and S. Waycott)</td>
<td>1st Saturday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>L. J. Parker, Koorda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOJONUP</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Kojonup</td>
<td>4th Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Rocha, Mallingup</td>
<td>H. H. Palham, Lake Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOORDA</td>
<td>Commercial Room, Hotel</td>
<td>Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. C. Chappell, Koorda</td>
<td>P. A. Law, Merredin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE GRACE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>J. Collinson, Laker Grace</td>
<td>J. P. O'Neill, c/o Shell Co, Moora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERREDIN</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>When and where called</td>
<td>E. Logan, Merredin</td>
<td>P. R. Gillam, c/o W.A.R., Mt. Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOORA</td>
<td>Moora</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Dr. W. S. Myles, &quot;Gardner St., Moora</td>
<td>S. N. McKenzie, Bencubbin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT BARKER</td>
<td>Mt. Barker</td>
<td></td>
<td>T. G. Southon, &quot;Merryup,&quot; Mt. Barker</td>
<td>R. Waddington, 6 Normanby St., Maylands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| MAYLANDS                    | Friendly Societies' Hall, Maylands  | 3rd Wednesday, 7.10 p.m. (not pension week) | L. A. Halliday, 114 Guildford Rd., Maylands | \*
| MUNDARING AND DISTRICT      | Alt. Mundaring and Mt. Helena       | 3rd Friday, 7.30 p.m. | H. Walker, Mt. Helena                            |
### The Listening Post

**February 27, 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><strong>MIDLAND JUNCTION</strong></td>
<td>Town Hall Committee Rm.</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>F. Bateon, c/o P.O., Midland Junction</td>
<td>R. E. Marsh, Harold Road, East Midland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOUNT LAWLEY</strong></td>
<td>Wallish Hall, Grovehook Rd., Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Col. T. Flinton, 3 Second Ave., Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>L. G. R. Challen, 49 Fourth Ave., Mt. Lawley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MORNINGTON MILLS</strong></td>
<td>Mornington Mills</td>
<td>Every Alt. Sunday</td>
<td>W. J. Poulton, Mornington Mills</td>
<td>E. W. Robinson, Mornington Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEELANDS</strong></td>
<td>Broadway Theatre (Lasser Hall)</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>J. Tozer, Neelands</td>
<td>W. A. Duffield, 53 Tyrell St., Neelands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTHAMPTON</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>K. J. Jones, M.C., Northampton</td>
<td>Rev. J. C. Lund, Northampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH PERTH</strong></td>
<td>Avon Bridge Hotel</td>
<td>1st Wednesday in the month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>L. J. McDowell, 20 York St., North Perth</td>
<td>H. W. Rigg, 26 Elizabeth St., North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PITFARA</strong></td>
<td>Rosemount Hall, Fitzgerald Street</td>
<td>3rd Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>F. L. Warner, Red Forest, Kelkian</td>
<td>L. W. Brockway, Nungarin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POPSYNINGNIN</strong></td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute, Perth</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. F. S. E. Buchanan, Belmont</td>
<td>Geo. S. Mellor, Soldiers’ Institute, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PITFARA</strong></td>
<td>At Luncheon</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday, noon</td>
<td>C. P. Smith, C/o West Australian, Perth</td>
<td>L. T. Birdwistle, C/o The Western Mail, Perth. Tel. B5558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PITFARA</strong></td>
<td>Billiard Saloon</td>
<td>Alternate Months, commencing Feb. 1, at 2.30 p.m.</td>
<td>W. E. Elston, Pitfara</td>
<td>H. K. MacLean, East Pitfara. Tel. No. 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POLARIS</strong></td>
<td>Yoramming and Popsynning</td>
<td>1st Saturday in month, alternately When called</td>
<td>T. Cowan Yoranning</td>
<td>G. J. McCarriag, Polysynning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PIBARRA</strong></td>
<td>Port Hedland</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ross A. Keene, Port Hedland</td>
<td>A. E. Clarke, Port Hedland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAILWAY WORKSHOPS</strong></td>
<td>In the “Mill” at Workshops</td>
<td>12.5 p.m. from 22nd July</td>
<td>R. B. Gibson, 62 W. J. Lovell</td>
<td>W. J. Lovell, 29 Railway Ave., Maylands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH PERTH</strong></td>
<td>Masonic Hall, Cr. York and Forrest St.</td>
<td>3rd Monday</td>
<td>H. K. Kahan, 69 Douglas Ave, S. Perth</td>
<td>M. H. Mundy, Cr. Dyson and Vista St., South Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBLICO</strong></td>
<td>Branch Rooms, Rokey Rd., Subiaco.</td>
<td>Every Thursday</td>
<td>W. A. Wilkins.</td>
<td>F. G. Shand, 244 Hammersley Rd., Subiaco.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTHERN CROSS</strong></td>
<td>Palace Hotel</td>
<td>3rd Saturday</td>
<td>J. Keightley, Southern Cross</td>
<td>T. S. Anderson, Southern Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TAMBELLUP</strong></td>
<td>Mr. Markey’s “Residence” Freemasons’ Hotel</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 9th Sunday in each month, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. J. Smith, Tambellup</td>
<td>A. L. Collins, Tambellup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOODYAY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Patrice O’Halloran, Fennis St., Toodyay</td>
<td>W. W. Howe, Toodyay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRAYNING-YELBENI</strong></td>
<td>Traying (2) Yelbeni (1)</td>
<td>4th Sunday</td>
<td>F. C. Thompson, Traying</td>
<td>F. N. Graves, Yelbeni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VICTORIA PARK</strong></td>
<td>Library Hall, Albany Rd., Victoria Park</td>
<td>Third Friday in each month, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Nicoll, 11 Miller Street, Victoria Park</td>
<td>W. G. Thomas, 62 Temple St., Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WAROONA</strong></td>
<td>Mr. Hair’s Office</td>
<td>1st Friday, 8.30 p.m.</td>
<td>V. Walker, Waroona</td>
<td>R. H. Roberts, Waroona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEST PERTH</strong></td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Alt. Thursdays, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>R. E. Tyler, Taxation Dept., Perth</td>
<td>P. L. Ross, Workers’ Homes Board, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WUBIN, BUNITINE, JIBBERERING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Sunday, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>J. Day, Bunting</td>
<td>W. A. Cadwallader, Wubin (Tel. No. 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEST LEEDERVILLE</strong></td>
<td>Each place alt., commencing Bunting, March 1st</td>
<td>1st Sunday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>C. W. R. Beechey, 8 Kerr St., Leederville</td>
<td>M. E. Dawson, 266 Railway Parade, W. Leederville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YORK</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Saturday, Quarterly</td>
<td>T. Sten, York</td>
<td>L. Mahoney, York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**The Best Bar - Bar None**

**PLAISTOWE’S NEW WORLD CHOCOLATE BAR**
Deserters
(By "Bindy Boo")

We all have our recollections more or less, and sympathies for those of our comrades whose resolutions directed them to search for the better 'ole, especially when all was black on the Western Front. When times were rather trying, the reference to voyaging home to Australia in a rowing boat was frequently brought up. We all would have done anything, committed all the crimes punishable by army regulations or civil law in order to be assured of a return home. The chap who deserted certainly had 'guts of some order—well knowing what to expect when the bogey man gets him. To my own personal knowledge I recall one individual who was arrested by the police—who else would molest an Aussie!—devoid any unit particulars, no pay book, identity disc or private papers. He was sent to our batt—a tip for all the odds and ends—but of what use was he to us? He would not work, but spin he certainly could! Living a comfortable life in the "Peter," gambling with the guard and his fellow inmates, he used to put away a fair amount of bullion until he could finance a trip to the gay lights, and would ultimately, return broke, and commence his toils of commerce over again. This bird did not belong to us. Nobody knew anything about him, and what eventually became of him is a mystery.

Whoever got him, serve them damn well right.

Another of our crowd who could speak German very well, walked over to the other side one night. He was a sergeant, and we were well rid of him. Official records say he was taken prisoner—official records are like that. It needs courage to pay calls on the enemy. Give Fritz his due, he was an excellent soldier and a marksman of the Bisley order. However, this sergeant of ours is now back in Australia full of stories about prison life in Germany, but, somehow, to those who know the circumstances, he is beyond the pale. I remember another of our members who slipped off to Ireland—he had not even seen France. Obviously a man of vision. Once in France, escape would be more difficult, and certainly a little dangerous.

Then again, why desert when a little lead-swinging may possibly keep the firing line a safe distance away? One individual of my acquaintance left Australia with the original Light Horse Regiment, and returned after the Armistice. He certainly paid his unit a friendly visit occasionally, yet, somehow, disappeared when things were getting brisk—a man of judgment, acumen, and strategy. He wears the maximum of service medals, and never-saw action.

W. F. Morris, in his book, "Behind the Lines," fired this outburst on absconders and malingerers. He deals with a British officer—I don't think he came from Oxford, as is customary—who, under somewhat forcible circumstances, deals his fellow officer a fatal blow. On the spur of the moment he makes good his escape. A foolish move. He is sandbagged by Kelly, an Aussie deserter and leader of a gang, numbering some, thirty odd. He joins this party, whose home is abandoned dugouts in the devastated area. Event follows event, and he ultimately wins through and marries the girl. The scheme of things is altogether different from most war books, although Sergeant Grisha had quite an agreeable little adventure with some deserters.
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Tennis Practice-Room

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