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THE LISTENING POST

The Soldiers' Own Journal.

Official Organ of the W.A. Branch of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia.

Subscription: 3/6 per annum, payable in advance.

Advertisements: Only reliable firms are allowed to advertise in our journal. Rates will be supplied upon application.

All business communications should be addressed to the Manager, "The Listening Post," 70 King-street, Perth.

All other communications should be addressed "To the Editor."

This journal is published monthly on the third Friday, and all advertisements and matter for inclusion must reach our office not later than the second Friday.

October 26, 1923.

COMMENRORATION OF ANZAC DAY

Mother, with unbowed head,
Hear thou across the sea
The farewell of the dead.
The dead who died for thee.
Greet them again with tender words and grave,
For, saving thee, themselves they could not save.

To keep the home unharmed,
Their fathers built so fair,
Deeming endurance armed
Better than brute despair,
They found the secret of the word that saith:
"Service is sweet, for all true life is death."

So greet thou well they dead
Across the homeless sea,
And be thou comforted
Because they died for thee,
Far off they served, but now their deed is done,
For evermore their life and thine are one.

—Sir Henry Newbolt.

One of the most important decisions arrived at by Congress concerned the mode of celebration of Anzac Day. It was considered high time for this matter to be stabilised, so that the sorry spectacle of seeing the day spent by some in high glee and by others for personal profit, would not be repeated.

The 1922 State Congress desired the day to be made a Statutory Public Holiday. This was done, but it was found that the holiday only affected a small section of the community, and did not prevent the hotels from opening up, or the holding of sports gatherings. The day was certainly an improvement on previous years, but it was felt that the sacrifice made by our fallen demanded greater devotional observance. To maintain in the nation the "esprit de corps" which almost matured during the days of stress, it is necessary that Anzac Day be an occasion for remembrance of our glorious dead. Surely the dead demand that we shall give up one day in the year to glorify their name.

The Prender recently introduced a Bill in Parliament modelled on the lines of the Queensland Act, which provides for the closing of hotels, the prevention of race meetings, with a few other minor provisions. Soldier members of Parliament conferred together, and with leading members of the League, their conclusion being that the Bill as submitted, did not go far enough; the result being that the digger member for York, Mr. Latham, introduced an amending Bill, on the lines of the existing New Zealand Anzac Day Act, providing that Anzac Day be considered as a Sunday. At the time of going to press the House had not finalised the matter, but it is confidently anticipated that Mr. Latham's amending Act will be passed.

Congress is deserving of commendation for their decision in favour of the Latham Amendment. If the Amendment as passed those wages men who have to work will receive the usual Sunday penalty rates. The question of pay for wages men, although mentioned at Congress was not pressed, members deciding to place honour before pelf. This matter, however, will no doubt be eventually adjusted by the Arbitration Courts. We hope that an extra holiday will not be created, and suggest that this difficulty be overcome by cancelling one of the less important Statutory holidays.

DEFENCE OF AUSTRALIA.

Address by Senator Drake-Brockman.

At the Perth sub-Branch's meeting on Tuesday, October 9th, Brigadier-General Senator Drake-Brockman, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D.; gave a most interesting address on the "Defence of Australia." Vice-President M. J. Ryan was in the chair, and apologised for the small attendance which was probably due to the Show festivities.

The General handled the subject in a manner which showed that he is giving the question serious attention and placed many highly important facts before the meeting. He showed clearly the necessity of the Australian public taking an active interest in our defence and stressed our present day unpreparedness.

On the motion of Mr. A. H. Priestley, seconded by Lieut. Col. Margolin, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Senator Drake-Brockman. It is anticipated that some detail of the address will appear in our November issue, and it is regretted that the demand on our letterpress, does not permit of a more detailed account at this juncture.

A branch of the British Legion was recently formed in Berlin.

A GRATEFUL DIGGER.

The following letter of gratitude sent to the President of the Boulder sub-branch speaks for itself:

"I desire to express my thanks to the R.S.L. through you and the Boulder Branch of the League for the good work performed in assisting for me the Gratitude due to me from the Public Benefit Fund Board, which they were trying to evade paying me on a technical point. I wish through the Branch to especially thank Messrs. Humphrey and Penny of the Executive for their stirring efforts on my behalf, efforts, which I am glad to say were successful, resulting in my receiving the amount due to me from the fund.

"It is such deeds as this that brings home to me the good work that is performed by the League, which is done so very unobtrusively and without the blowing of trumpets that the outside public rarely hear of it, and then only through the one who benefits by the actions of the League. This letter but poorly expresses the gratitude of one who has not been a member of the League for some time, but who will always in the future be a member wherever he may be. Will the League please accept my very sincere thanks for what they did for me in this matter."
THE POPPY—AN INTER-ALLIED MEMORIAL FLOWER

How the Crimson Flanders Poppy is Slowly, But Surely Bringing the Returned Soldier Organisations of the Allied Nations into a Compact Body Which will Some Day be an Inter-National Congress of Fighting Men.

Born in France, its first impetus from little children, the movement to make the Flanders Poppy the inter-allied memorial flower has spread in two years to America, Canada, England, France, Australia, New Zealand and even to the allied lands of the Orient. To the Returned Soldiers of all these lands, the Flanders poppy has become a living symbol of the souls of the World War dead. The Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia are undertaking to obtain for this humble little scarlet flower its full prestige as a Memorial Day symbol of the reverence in which Australia holds its World War dead. The R.S.S.I.L.A. has recognised in the poppy idea the means of achieving three worthy objects:

1. The perpetuating of the custom of wearing the Flanders Poppy on Memorial Day.
2. A means of providing a relief fund for the local branches of the R.S.S.I.L.A. to meet cases of distress amongst disabled soldiers and their dependants.
3. Lastly, and by no means the least, a means of assisting the women and children of the devastated regions of northern France by purchasing the scarlet immolation poppy at a reason-able price.

The movement to make the poppy the tangible evidence of national reverence for the great war debt has for two years had the unqualified endorsement and support of the British Empire Service League, the British Legion, the Great War Veterans' Association of Canada and the United States of America, L'Union Nationale des Combattants of France, the Returned Soldier Organisations of South Africa, Newfoundland, New Zealand and Australia. Thus we will have an international endorsement and dedication of the Flanders Poppy as the Memorial Flower of the Great War dead.

That the Australian Public realises the beauty of the Poppy idea and the worthwhile objects which may be accomplished, if the plan is not allowed to be commercialised, seems to be an assured fact throughout the Empire.

The present year's observance of 'Poppy Day' by millions who take this means of signifying their reverence for the World's War Dead, and their desire to assist the disabled world war living, seems almost certain to give cumulative impetus to the formation of an international poppy day committee, to supervise the Poppy as a national flower in the allied countries.

The R.S.S.I.L.A. bring their Comrades of the other allied nations in recognising the international emblem by asking the people of Australia to look upon the blood red flower as a token of their sacrifice of Australian fighting men.

As November 11 falls this year on a Sunday, the State Congress has decided that Poppies shall be sold on Saturday, November 10, so that they will be worn on that day and the Sunday.

It is strongly urged that every district should complete its organisation and plan its selling arrangements with the least possible delay. The poppies are now obtainable from League Headquarters, and sub-branches are requested to send in their orders immediately.

Special efforts should be made to obtain a large amount of free publicity, not only in the local papers, but in other ways, such as inducing the proprietor of the houses of entertainment to show Poppy Day slides on the screen for two or three weeks before the day, inserting slips in the programmes and showing posters in the vestibule. Shop-keepers also should be asked to display posters in their window.

The Flanders Poppy was immortalised during the World War in Lieut. Colonel John McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Fields." This little poem inspired some of the people who were working on behalf of the women and children of de-vastated France to have the Poppy adopted by Returned Soldier Organisations in the various allied countries as a Memorial Flower which might be worn throughout the world, that in making these poppies available to the Public a sum of money might be realised from their sale which would be useful to alleviate the sufferings and the deprivations which resulted from the War.

The little silk poppies that will be sold by the R.S.S.I.L.A. on Poppy Day are the exact replicas in size and color of the poppy that blooms in Flanders fields, and were made by the War Widows and Orphaned of the devastated area in France.

IN FLANDERS' FIELDS.

In Flanders' Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scareless heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from failing hands, we throw
The torch. Be yours to lift it high!
If you break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies blow
In Flanders' Fields.

—John McCrae.

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PERTH, W.A.

LIME, CEMENT,
PLASTER,
W. NAILS,
JOINERS' WORK,
SETTLERS' COTTAGES,
Etc.
THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.

Resolutions passed by Women's Auxiliary Branch delegates who attended the Seventh Annual Congress, W.A. Branch, R.S.L., respecting a fuller and more comprehensive organisation of existing Women's Auxiliary Branches at a meeting held in the Soldiers' Institute, on October 5th, 1923.

Present: Mesdames Kent—Williams (Kalgoorlie), Holland (Leederville), M. Namara (Albany), Withal (Kelburne), Gill (Fremantle), Norvell (Subiaco), Manfield (Collie), Stewart (Boulder), Vernon Ogden (Collie).

Visitors: Mesdames Richardson, Robinson, Green (Subiaco), Rabbi Freedman and A. S. Isaac, vice-presidents, W.A. Branch, R.S.L., Mr. J. Correll, president.

"Listening Post."—Resolved "That in order to adequately avail themselves of the offer made by the Proprietors of the 'Listening Post' viz: that copies of the 'Listening Post' would be distributed to members of Women's Auxiliaries on similar conditions to sub-branches of the R.S.L., each Auxiliary collect the necessary subscription—viz. 6d. per annum— from its respective members, and then forward such subscriptions direct to the 'Listening Post.'"

Full Method of Organisation:—(1) That this meeting is of the opinion that the existing Women's Auxiliary branches should be co-ordinated into one League. (2) That the Executive of the R.S.L. re-draft the rules of Women's Auxiliaries branches so as to provide for a co-ordination. (3) That the proposed redraft amongst other things provide for—

(a) The holding of an Annual Congress of Women's Auxiliary Branches to be held simultaneously with the Annual Congress of the W.A. Branch, R.S.L.

(b) The formation of Governing Executive to consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and one representative, either direct or by proxy, from each Women's Auxiliary Branch.

(ec) The first Executive to be elected at a meeting of Women's Auxiliary Branches convened by the Executive, W.A. Branch, at a suitable time—the representation theretofore shall be two delegates, from each Women's Auxiliary Branch, with a proviso that in the event of any branch being represented by only one delegate only, such delegate may exercise the full voting strength of the branch represented.

(d) That such an Executive, if elected cease to function upon election of an Executive by a properly constituted Women's Auxiliary Congress.

COLLIE SUB-BRANCH NOTES.

Through the medium of this paper, the Collie sub-branch R.S.L. offers its heartiest congratulations to the Boulder sub-branch in regard to its achievement in carrying off the Newdegate Cup. Now that the State Conference of the League has come to an end Collie Branch is only settling down to work. On October 3rd, under the combined efforts of the Ladies' Auxiliary and members of the branch, a very successful concert ball was held in the Soldiers' Hall, which netted the satisfaction of the members. The official opening of activity of the branch has been opened up by consenting, at the request of the Collie Boy Scouts, to become the controlling body in Collie of the Boy Scout movement. For some time past the Scouts of Collie have been disorganised through their leaders leaving the district. Recently a public meeting was called by the Scouts for the purposes of forming a controlling body to govern the movement generally as affecting the Collie district. There was every very disappointing, and as a result the boys appealed to the returned soldiers for assistance. This has not been denied them. The R.S.L. has now provided the Scouts with a special committee, and in addition has placed its hall at the disposal of the boys one night per week. Therefore for the future the Scouts of Collie will be under the wing of the returned men. At a meeting of the branch to be held October 23rd, it is to be given to the advisability of forming a Collie Cricket Association, and that this become an accomplished fact, immediate application will be made for admission to the Collie Cricket Association. It is felt by members of the branch that by the branch securing itself in various local organisations much greater interest will be created and more inducement offered for the returned men of the district to stick together.

LEEDERVILLE SUB-BRANCH.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Friday, 2nd November. This will be concluded at 8.30 p.m. when a royal auction bridge tournament will commence. There will be prizes for this event and refreshments will be dispensed. Members are urged to make a point of being present.

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MT. BARKER SUB-BRANCH.

Since my last report we have had rotten weather; in fact too wet to attempt in solid circles. Our members are so scattered. We desire to hold a meet to try and finalise our meeting date. We are all anxious to have the gathering which will be extended to include all ex-service men in the district, and hope to gather in good numbers.

Ex Army Boy Jack made his debut as caretaker of the Hall and is winning praise all round for his clean and polished appearance of the Club. Our next public club is our annual ball, 24th October. These "stunts" are becoming very popular. They bring diggers together as well as the public, besides helping to popularise the club.

If pleasing to hear so many enthusiastic comments are being made about "Listening Post." Members seem to look forward to the journal, as not only do they see their own district notes, but other districts also. It gives "members in the scattered 14 backblocks a chance to see what is going on elsewhere. Returned men should show more confidence in their Executive, as by doing so they help the movement forward. We have paid a high price to be classed as returned men, and the public must be impressed to repay us. Sympathy is a precious quality, and we don't want one breath of it wasted upon the 'poor, misguided soldier,' but plain unvarnished actions of the typical facts which were promised us in 1914-18.

"THE 'DADS' GET GOING!"

In but few directions either during the Great War, or since the signing of the Armistice have the Eastern States got ahead of the West when our populations form the basis of an achievement, but when it comes to the conduct of a 'Sailors' and Soldiers Fathers' Association they have certainly scored ahead of us. Possibly it is owing to the trouble over the Secretarieship to the R.S.P.C.A. that the "Dads" have got going at last, and it is to be regretted that whereas the other States have had their Associations formed for more years than we have had ours in existence months, our "Dads" here are only just ready to play their part.

Our Association is, however, striving to make up the lost time by their activity, although up to now they have been handicapped by the apathy of many fathers, still, if the R.S.L. members continue to take the interest in the "Dads" they have already evinced by getting as many of their fathers to join up as possible the Association will become a power for justice in the land; a most encouraging feature is the hearty welcome accorded to this organisation.

So far, an influential Council and officers have been elected and application for the opening of one branch has been received, while rumour has it that several applications will be awaiting the next meeting of the Council.

The annual subscription to the Association is 2/6. An enthusiastic badge is supplied for an additional 2/6; applications for membership can be made to any offices or members of the Council, whose names are as follow: President, Mr. T. E. Ford; vice-presidents, Messrs. E. Pyman, W. A. Halsey, Council; Messrs. W. F. Smith, J. Buzza, W. A. Okely, J. Sweeting, T. K. Whitford, J. G. Wyeth, C. B. Othen, E. L. Hancock; Treasurer, Mr. J. Orr, and Secretary, Mr. C. H. Ifill, 68 Lincoln-street, Perth.

At the next meeting recently held in the Perth Town Hall to protest against the appointment of another returned soldier to the position of secretary, the "Dads" may be said to have made their first public appearance, for, at the invitation of the R.S.I., the President and Secretary occupied seats on the platform, while in the body of the hall a considerable number of the members were present.

This Association, if well supported, should have a wonderful support to "preference to returned soldiers," and also (by of immense value) in other directions to the returned man, as it should mean an increase of about 20 per cent. to the political power and status of the R.S.L., and judging results from kindred associations in the Eastern States, this is by no means an over-sanguine statement of probabilities.
South African and Imperial Veterans' Association of W.A.
KALGOORLIE BRANCH

3rd Annual Consultation
MELBOURNE CUP 1923

15,000 at 2/- First Horse, £400. Second Horse, £100. Third Horse, £50
Starters divide £100. 50 Cash Prizes of £2 = £100.

TO BE DRAWN PRO RATA, LESS TAXATION.

Drawn Publicly (Kalgoorlie Town Hall, Monday, November 5th: Results published in "Kalgoorlie Miner" Tuesday, November 6th, "West Australian," Thursday, November 8th. PROFITS FOR BENEVOLENT, PATRIOTIC, AND ASSOCIATION PURPOSES.

PROMOTERS: W. G. Clarke, J. Gribble, R. Christie, C. A. Stevens.

AUDITOR: G. L. Lee. Absolutely no payment to anyone for promoting, organising, or administering funds raised by this sweep.


Two or more Tickets from the organiser Post Free.

G. Schroder, Hon. Organiser, P.O. Box 40, Kalgoorlie.
SEVENTH ANNUAL CONGRESS
W.A. STATE BRANCH R.S.L.

Report of Proceedings

The Seventh Annual Congress of the State Branch of the League was held at the Solomons, Darlington on October 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th, the State President, Mr. H. S. Humphrey, presiding.

Sub-Branch delegates were—
Armadale, G. Devereux; Albany, P. Lambert, Boulder, A. Stewart; Balingup, J. Stallard; Bridgetown, T. Wey; Beverley, H. C. S. Colebatch; Boyup Brook, W. E. Inglis; Bruce Rock, C. S. Colquhoun; Bunbury, Rabbi D. I. Freedman; Claremont, H. Houston; Collie, H. J. May and J. R. Butler; C. H. L. Foster; Dingup, H. A. Fanning; Fremantle and District, J. E. Wilson, A. E. Pady, G. H. Philip; Glenoran, F. Chapman; Jarndup, W. Haynes; Kendenue, A. E. Bates, Kalgoorlie, J. C. Hutchinson, A. S. Isaac, J. Cornell; Koorda, J. B. Cole; Katanning, C. R. Kenny; Kelmscott, E. S. Watt; Leederville, C. W. R. Beechey; Midland and District, F. W. Bateson; Mt. Lawley, A. D. Zerah; Mettatt, J. W. E. Bayliss; Narrogin, J. Barrow; Northam, H. C. S. Colbatch; Nanga Brook, P. E. Webb; Oaklands, E. E. Broughton; Perth, A. H. Priestley; Pilbara, F. W. Atkins; Queens Park, A. H. Bishop; Ry. Workshops, P. Connolly, H. D. Malone; Southern Cross, A. R. Smith; Spearwood, H. C. Parrott; Subiaco, A. G. Green, Serpentine, R. G. Sexton; Tarawong; W. N. Reid; Toodlay, H. Colvin; Traralgon, J. Hart; Torbay, A. N. McDonald; Upper Swan, A. Yeates; Wagin, R. Gladstone; West Perth, Tyler, H. S. Mowday; G. L. Frenneberg, A. H. Morrell; Wiluna, A. H. Wilson; Williamson, C. Holland; Traralgon, J. Hart; Subiaco, Mrs. Norvelle.

The Proceedings opened with delegates standing.

President’s Address.

The President gave his address, which read as follows:

In declaring this, the Seventh Annual State Congress of the Returned Sailors’ and Soldiers’ Imperial League open, I desire to welcome the delegates from the sub-branches of the League, and on the first time in our history, the lady delegates from that very efficient organisation, the Women’s Auxiliaries throughout the State, and to say that it is the earnest hope of myself and my colleagues on the Executive, that delegates will feel that they are in their own home among their own friends.

Delegates will find before them a list of achievements by our Federal Executive, which I think will be a cause of gratification to this branch and its members, especially the medical attention for widows and orphans which has now been extended—after continuous effort on our part—by the Federal Government.

Although our membership to June 30th has decreased, I am firmly convinced that this Branch has no reason to feel that that mortification has set in. Returns made up to the end of August carry our numbers to 4000, so that the increase of membership as predicted by me on taking office, has already materialised.

During the year we have had one or two strenuous fights, out of which the League has emerged with honor. The matter of the Secretariat of the R.S.P.C.A. is not yet finalised, but will be before the year ends.

Parliament has the report of the Royal Commission on Soldier Settlement before it at the present time, and this branch is using all its efforts to obtain from the Government a promise that the recommendations of the Royal Commission will be given effect to as speedily as possible.

Our unemployment this year has not been so acute as in previous years, and we have still on our books a number of men, who, through disabilities caused by the war, are not able to follow their pre-war vocations. The Government in conjunction with ourselves and the Maired and Limless Men’s Association are working out a scheme of employment for these men, and they are slowly being absorbed, but the process is slow, and I do feel that private employers should also assist in giving these men a means of earning their daily bread.

We have received most valuable assistance during the year from our soldiery members of Parliament, and I would like here to thank them for the work they have carried out, and one name stands out in my opinion, for special thanks, and that is the name of Mr. A. A. Wilson. This gentleman has spared no effort on every Parliamentary Committee or Royal Commission, which has taken up the troubles of the soldier and his work has been unting and self-denying, and to the utmost value to the soldier, and I think that the thanks of this League are due to him for the noble work which has been carried out.

In closing I should like to thank the State Secretary and his staff for the work they have carried out, and also my colleagues on the Executive for their work, during which I am sure has been one of the most strenuous years of the League’s history. The League must go on, and I feel sure that each delegate here will leave this Congress determined more than ever to see that his sub-branch includes every soldier in his district.

Lady Delegates.

On the motion of Messrs. W. E. N. and J. E. Audley and J. R. Butler, a resolution of welcome to the lady delegates present was carried.

Mr. Cornell (Kalgoorlie) expressed hope that in the near future the Women’s Auxiliaries would be sufficiently strong to have a Conference of their own.

Annual Report and Balance Sheet.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were taken as read and received.

Speaking on the adoption Mr. J. R. Butler (Collie) asked what would be the position of the branch if the expenditure for the last five months was maintained at the same rate, and did not consider the branch could carry on unless greater economy was exercised. Their rate of expenditure was too high.

Mr. Cornell (Kalgoorlie) said the affairs of the League had reached the position that they had to face, and if matters were not altered, the branch would be bankrupt in 12 months. Money had to be got. Assuming they kept their membership at 4000, they would only have £600, after making their payment to the Federal Executive. Last year salaries absorbed £290, which only left £300 with which to meet all other expenses.

Mr. Colvin, (auditor) said the big trouble was that the League was not receiving the legislation, fees. The sub-branches were more to blame than the Executive. He complained that members did not patronise the Soldiers Institute sufficiently. He suggested the spending of extra money with the purpose of increasing membership. The League possessed the money, and the best way to spend it would be to organise a membership drive.

Mr. Bolton (West Subiaco) agreed that extra money was necessary, but hoped it would not be carried too far. He thought if the branch could secure permission to conduct a Consultation, like Tattler, the monetary difficulty would be overcome.

After further debate in which the following delegates spoke, Messrs. Priestley, Maloney, Whitely, Bishop, Cooke, W. E. N. Harvey, Ryan, Beechey, Morrell, Kenny,
and Watt, the Annual Report and Balance Sheet were adopted.

**Preference to Returned Soldiers.**

Narrogin’s motion—that Congress reaffirms the principle of preference to returned soldiers and their dependents.—

Other preference motions were:

Mr. Marshall: “That in view of the difficulties of interpretation, and also on account of its use in many cases in wilful avoidance of giving preference to returned soldiers, the words ‘all things being equal’ be deleted from the definition, and these words be inserted ‘if a competent soldier is available.’”

West Perth: “That the incoming Executive be instructed to inaugurate a campaign to secure the adequate recognition of preference, with the Department in its present form set out in Resolution following.”

West Perth: “That the phrase ‘Preference to Returned Soldiers,’ wherever used in the Constitution, Rules and in ordinary business and correspondence of the League, shall be found to include ‘preference in retraining,’ and that the incoming Executive be instructed to take immediate steps to secure the re-drafting of the Rules in order to make such interpretation effective.”

West Perth: “That the incoming Executive instruct the W.A. Delegate to the Central Executive to take the necessary steps to secure for returned soldiers the right of preference in promotion over all non-returned soldiers.”

Messrs. Harvey (Mt. Marshall) and Bateson (Midland and District) moved and seconded the adoption of the Mt. Marshall motion, which was carried.

The remaining motions were adopted unanimously, with the exception of a motion moved by Rabbi Freedman (Bunbury) “That Congress affirms the principle of absolute preference for returned soldiers in the treatment of employment.”

**Political.**

Mr. Paddy (Fremantle) moved the adoption of the following motion:

“Congress affirms the advisability of having direct representation in both Houses of the Federal and State Parliaments, also in local governing bodies.”

He said he had been instructed to bring the matter forward by a combined meeting of the Fremantle Delegates in the sub-branches. It had to be taken that, while there might be a majority opposed to the proposal, there would also be a lot who believed in it. The matter had been before Congress on previous occasions, but had been defeated. Those who supported the motion believed that the time had arrived for them to secure their own representation in Parliament. They did not care to what party a man belonged, as long as he was bound down to support the two or three planks of the Returned Soldiers’ Platform.

Mr. Wilson (Fremantle) seconded the motion.

The adoption of the motion was supported by Mr. Gardiner, Bishop, W. H. Field, and opposed by Messrs. Zeller, Rechner, Priestly, Yeates, May, Lambert, Watt and Cooke.

The motion was defeated.

After considerable debate the following motions were carried.

Perth: “That where it is definitely proved that any officer of (a) Federal or State Parliament. (b) Local Governing Body (c) Committee or organisation—has opposed preference to returned soldiers, a proper system of opposition to their re-election be evolved.”

Railway Workshops: Congress directs all sub-branches to solicit in writing the views of all parties at the forthcoming general elections, in respect to the question of preference to Returned Soldiers, and instructs each sub-branch not to support candidates, not in accord with the League’s declared policy of preference, and to support those who are in accord with the policy.

**Pensions.**

On the motion of Mr. Beechey (Leederville) it was decided that all matters of the Agenda Paper referring to Pensions be considered by a Special Committee consisting of Mr. McDonald, C. R. Kenny, T. P. Lennon, R. G. Sexty, H. E. Bolton and C. W. R. Beechey.

The subsequent report of the Committee was adopted:

“As the outcome of a letter received from the Hobart sub-branch of the League, asking for your Executive’s endorsement to certain proposed amendments to the Pension Scale. These proposed amendments would grant pensions between £2 2s. and £4 weekly to cases other than T.B., Amputation and Blinded Soldiers.”

This item was considered by the Repatriation Sub-Committee of the Executive. They furnished an interim report to the Executive, and at the fortnightly general meeting on the 26th September, the Executive referred the matter to Congress.

Your Committee suggests amendments on the lines indicated below, and consider that the suggestions should be sent through the usual channels (Central Executive), also that it be placed on the Agenda for the forthcoming Congress, and that your Federal Delegates be instructed to press the State Branches’ wishes.

**Recommendations.**

That the maximum pension be £8 per fortnight instead of £4 2s. 6d. and that percentages under the new scale be so adjusted as not to alter the pensions already in existence. A pensioner to have the right to appeal to the pension under the new scale. This will enable those men or near the present maximum (spine, head or other organic cases) which are not declared to be totally incapacitated, to be placed on the same advantages as at present received by the T.B., Amputation Cases and Blinded Soldiers.

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**Agenda Paper Items.**

Fremantle: “Congress disapproves of the present method of periodically reviewing pensions, and considers that the time is now ripe for a re-constituting of the existing system, with a view to the institution of a greater measure of permanence.”

Your Committee recommend the adoption by Congress with a proviso that such permanency be given effect to after two years without alteration.

Midland and Railway Workshops: “Congress approves of the reviewing and finalization of Imperial pensions by the Repatriation Department.”

Arrangements have been practically finalized between the Federal and Imperial Governments in regard to this matter.

Katanning and Narrogin: “Congress is of the opinion that the local medical officer should be consulted by the travelling board when visiting a district to review pensions.”

Your Committee recommend Congress to adopt this item.

Kalgoorlie: “Congress is of the opinion that in cases where any pension is reduced and then following the result of a medical review is reinstated, such reinstatement should be made retroactive to date of reduction.”

Your Committee recommend the adoption of this item with the proviso that the words “providing the appeal is made forthwith” after the word “reduction.”

**Land Settlement.**

Mr. Cornell (Kalgoorlie) moved, Mr. Yeates (Upper Swan) seconded “That Congress instruct the committee comprising of one member from each sub-branch responsible for a motion under the heading of Land settlement, the Committee to report to Congress at a later date, Mr. Prendergast to be Convenor. Carried.

The report of the Committee was adopted.

The Committee reported:

Members of the Committee were representatives from the following branches:


A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Yeates, Devereux, Stullard, and Prendergast to report on the heading of Soldier Settlement (Mr. McLarty) moved and discussed with him the recommendations of the full committee.

**Recommendations.**

1. That the Government be asked to notify this League of all supplies of produce, etc., required by the Government Institutions, and that, where tenders of any one price be received, the soldier settler shall be given absolute preference.”

Mr. McLarty stated that the Board of Trustees will make representations to the various Government Departments and Tender Boards, asking for supplies to be supplied and that the soldier be given every opportunity for favourable tendering.

2. “That Congress instruct the incoming Executive to see that the matters covered by Item 6 and 13, and all others, with the adoption of the report of the Board of Trustees Commission, be pursued until a Board has been appointed and the matter finalised, and that the payment of pension interest he suspended until such interest has been approved by the newly appointed Board,.
and that any Returned Soldier whose block is listed for forfeiture for non-payment of interest, or for such fault, have the right to appeal to such board prior to the forfeiture being given effect to."

The Controller stated that in the matter of penal interest, this is the law of the land, and the Board have no option, but they will lay the matter before the Minister, and in a number of cases, no doubt consideration should be given.

With regard to the forfeiture of blocks for the non-payment of interest, no action will be taken where the charge is default in interest only, until the new Board has been appointed.

3. "That the I.A.B. be requested to forward a full financial statement of accounts to each soldier settler on the Board, at least once in every six months, and that no Soldier's account shall be minuted. (Note Sec. 4, Agricultural Bank Amendment Act, 1922)."

The Controller stated that I.A.B. pass books will be made up at any time at the request of the soldier settler, and the specific items included in the general word "proceeds" will be given. Endorsement under Section 4 Agricultural Bank Act, Amendment Act, 1922, will be dropped.

4. "That provision be made under the Soldiers' Settlement Scheme, and in soldier Group Settlements, for fairly assessing all improvements of a permanent character, effected by the soldier settlers on their respective holdings."

The Controller stated that it is the present practice of the Board to assess fairly any improvements, and to advise them when offering for sale. In the case of the death of the soldier, every opportunity will be given to the legatees to carry on under the same conditions as the late soldier, and a fair period, provided the improvements are not allowed to deteriorate, will be given to allow a sale by the legatees.

5. "That all Group Settlements be open to all Returned Soldiers, irrespective of their conjugal condition."

The Controller advised that this is a matter for the policy of the Government, but no doubt representations will be considered, and as time goes on all men will be given positions in Group Settlements.

6. "That the same privileges and exemptions from rates and taxes as granted to non-soldier group settlers, be granted to all returned soldiers under the Soldiers' Settlement Scheme."

7. "As a special report has been prepared by the representative of Armadale on the question of the resumption of Water Supply Land in that district, it is recommended that No. 9 on the agenda be dealt with by Congress."

The Controller stated that the Board has called for a special report on the question of the Armadale water resumption and the settlers can rest assured that if any damage was done to the holding, it will also be done to the Board's properties and everything will be done to protect these.

8. (a) "That single group settlers be paid the same rate of sustenance as all group settlers. (b) Your sub-committee desire to inform Congress that the preference clause of the Constitution is not being carried out in the appointment of Group Settlement officials."

(a) The Controller informed us that some original Group Settlements paid the single men the same rate as married men. This was an initial mistake, and it would be hardly fair to ask the Board to perpetuate it. (b) The controller of Soldier Settlement would like to have the names of any soldier applicants for positions, and the name of any man awaiting a position, providing he is suitable he will sit once be given a job.

9. "That steps be taken to secure a flat rate on the Railways for manures and farm implements outwards, and farm produce inwards."

Interest. The Controller informed us that the reduction of 5 per cent. by the Federal Government has not yet taken place. The minute it does it will be passed on to the soldier.

Marketing of Produce. ARISING out of the report of the Land Settlement Committee it was suggested that a Committee be appointed from the incoming Executive to deal with the marketing of soldiers' products.

Mr. Priestley (Perth) opposing the appointment of the Committee said he thought if the League proceeded as proposed they would be rushing in where angels feared to tread.

Mr. Yeates (Upper Swan) said he thought a Committee should be appointed from the Executive so as to keep the matter alive. Last year, half the grape...
crop rotted on the vines, or else it was sold at a loss. The vigneron would be of no more worth than the vineyard, unless the "crop" rotted on the vines, or else it was sold at a loss. The vigneron would be of no more worth than the vineyard, unless the
stone fruit growers wanted a jam factory and other primary producers wanted factories, or reasonable opportunities to dispose of their product. If everybody was to try and grow the shallot, the return to the Western Australian dried fruit growers would greatly benefit.

Mr. Cornell (Kalgoorlie) said no useful purpose would result by the appointment of the suggested Committee. He hoped the Government would not be asked to give an indication at the Government on the matter. He moved "That Congress views with concern the present unsatisfactory and inadequate means of properly marketing the Government to take such action as the State's primary products and urges will ensure considerable improvement and directs the incoming Executive to approach the Government in such direction."

Mr. Wedd (Nanga Brook) seconded, and the motion was carried.

At a later stage Congress adopted the following notice of motion:

W. N. Reid (Tarwonga) "That Congress urges the Premier to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Soldier Settlement.

W. A. Meldrum (Yanduna) "Congress is of opinion that it is advisable to declare zones and each zone to send a delegate to act in conjunction with the Executive in all matters affecting land settlement in that particular zone."

The motion of the 3rd day of October it was decided that the Executive consider the matter of clearing land outside the area cleared by the Government under the Group Settlement Scheme.

**Constitution.**

The Leederville sub-branch secured the passage of a motion reading:

"Rule 6 (5) Delete the words 'on the first day of November in each year,' lines 2 and 3, and insert 'not later than the fourteenth day of October in the Annual Congress.' Delete the words '31st day of October' lines 4 and 5, and insert, '13th day after the closing day of the Annual Congress in the next year,'"

Mr. Barlow (Narrogin) moved that the constitution be amended to provide for admittance to League membership of the son of any returned soldier who was ineligible by reason of age for active service in the Great War, 1914-1918, and any person serving in camp at the time of the Armistice. He said that the motion was mainly that of the Armistice. Mr. Priestley (Perth) said the suggestion was not feasible. The only way the people concerned could be joined was by an Auxiliary Association.

Mr. Lennon (Perth) moved, Mr. Wedd (Nanga Brook) seconded, an amendment "That the sons of members of the A.I.F. who were ineligible by reason of age or for active service in the Great War, 1914-1918, and any person serving in camp at the time of the Armistice be encouraged to become an auxiliary of the R.S.L."

Mackers. Cornell and Bateson strongly opposed the motion. The amendment was carried.

After a long discussion on the matter of dealing with defaulting Secretaries arising out of a motion by the Claremont-Cottesloe Sub-Branch, it was decided that henceforth the Executive should be satisfied that any member has misappropriated or fraudulently used the funds of the League, prosecute such member and any member on conviction, shall, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Rules, be expelled from membership by resolution passed at an Executive General Meeting.

The following two notices of motion were adopted by Congress:

P. E. Wedd (Nanga Brook) "That Congress affirms the action of the Executive in inviting representatives from Women's Auxiliaries to attend at Congress, with the right to speak, but not to vote on all questions under consideration, and requests the incoming Executive to amend the rules so as to provide a similar arrangement at forthcoming Congresses."

G. L. Prendergast (West Perth) "That Rule 46 be amended by the inclusion after the word 'delegates' in the 5th line pura 18, "W. A. Brannoch.""

Mr. Stewart (Boulder) moved "That for verification purposes with the Executive office records, a Nominal Roll be kept of returned members in each sub-branch, to be forwarded to the State Secretary by each sub-branch at the close of each respective half-year." He said the object of the motion was to assist the head office of this League in its work. The motion was carried.

Mr. Malone (Railway Workshops) moved "That a definition clause be inserted in the Constitution defining the status of ex-imperial or South African soldiers upon and after discharge from membership of this League."

It was decided that the object was to define a soldier so as to permit ex-imperial and South African soldiers, receiving the same benefit as returned men of the A.I.F."

Mr. Cornell (Kalgoorlie) said the Constitution already provided for the matter.

The President quoted the definition in the Rule Book.

Mr. Bateson (Midland) said the case of a South African Soldier being retained was one the League would fight. He suggested the R.S.L. approach the South African Association with a view to an amalgamation.

Mr. Watt (Kelmoxet) moved an amendment. "That it be a recommendation to the Federal Congress that all ex-service men be admitted to membership."

Mr. Morrell (West Perth) seconded the amendment, which was carried.

A motion by the Railway Workshops Sub-Branch "That the Federal Congress be held every third year," was defeated.

Mr. Barlow (Narrogin) moved that the Constitution be amended to provide "That a member of the Executive shall visit each sub-branch at least once in each year." He said it was the desire of the country sub-branches to see Executive members once a year. He believed if they did so it would mean increased interest and membership.

Mr. May (Collie) said the Executive, while neglecting the country sub-branches were neglecting the portion of the League upon which it would have to eventually depend.

Mr. Zeffert (Mount Lawley) moved, as an amendment, "That the incoming Executive be instructed to arrange for as far as possible for a member of the Executive to visit each sub-branch at least once a year.""

Rabbi Freedman (Bunbury) moved the addition of the word "the disbursements, if any to be a charge on the sub-branch visited." He said the Executive did not possess sufficient funds to enable it undertaking the cost of the visit. If a sub-branch was willing to pay the expenses of a visit for a member of the Executive, it would be mandatory for the visit to be made.

The two amendments were combined and carried as a motion.

**Election of Officers.**

Rabbi Freedman in the Chair called for nominations for President. He nominated Mr. H. S. Humphrey.

Mr. Priestley (Perth) moved, Mr. Ryan (Perth) seconded, "That nominations close." Carried.

Rabbi Freedman declared Mr. Humphrey re-elected unopposed. Mr. Humphrey thanked delegates.

Mr. H. E. Bolton was re-elected unopposed, as League Director on the R.S.I. Co-operative Company.

The election of remaining officers resulted:

Vice Presidents—Rabbi Freedman and Mr. A. Stirling Isaac.


Auditors—Mr. H. Cotin.

Committee—Declared elected in their order: Messrs. Cornell, Beechey, Colborne, McDonald, Bader, Wedd, Watt, Bateson, Zeffert, Harvey, Pady, Cooke, Phillip, Butler and Mellor.

**Allocation of Delegates.**

Mr. Cornell submitted the following report in accordance with Sec. 6 (2) of the Constitution, W.A. Branch.

The report was adopted.

It is recommended that the fifteen committee be distributed throughout the State Electorates as follows:

October 26, 1923.

Margaret; J. Cornell, Carnarvon, Bassoulre, Pilbara, Kimberly.

Mr. Cooke (Metropolitan Railways) moved, and Mr. Stewart (Boulder) seconded, "That the auditors' remuneration be the same as last year, £20/5/" Mr. Whitely (Perth) moved as an amendment, "That the fee be £21." Mr. Malcolm (Perth) seconded. Amendment lost, motion carried.

Mrs. K. Williams (Kalgoorlie Auxiliary) on behalf of the various women's auxiliaries, asked for the right to vote on the election of officers.

The President ruled with regret that it was not possible to grant the request, under the constitution.

Insurance.

Mr. Beechey (Leederville) moved, and Mr. Bader (Bruce Rock) seconded, "That a sub-committee be formed to consider the notice of motion referring to insurance of soldier settlers or soldiers generally, and that the committee be Mr. A. S. Isaac, J. H. Stallard, H. C. Parrott, A. N. McDonald, W. W. Meldrum, A. Yeates, and C. W. Beechey." Carried.

The notice of motion read:

"That the question of insurance of soldier settlers and soldiers throughout the industrial world be considered by Congress with a view to formulating a scheme of general insurance."

Subsequently the committee's report was adopted. It read:

"Your committee recommend that the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act together with form of policy, option available on surrender of policy, table of premium, rates, etc., as set out by the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act of September 1st, 1920, by the Canadian Government, be a recommendation to the Federal Congress for its adoption and an instruction by the Western Australian delegates attending thereon to bring this matter forward."

Anzac Day.

Mr. Bateson (Midland) moved: "That the Government be urged to declare Anzac Day as a sacred holiday, ranking equally with Christmas Day and Good Friday." He said he was opposed to any form of sport being permitted on Anzac Day. He wanted to see the day become the 3rd Sunday in the year.

Mr. Kenny said some people might want to observe the Day as a sacred one in the morning, but not in the afternoon. Mr. Webb (Nanga Brook) supported the motion.

Mrs. Norvell (Subiaco Auxiliary) asked would the League petition to have hotels closed on Anzac Day, if not for all day, for the portion declared a holiday.

Mr. Cornish (Kalgoorlie) said the matter of Anzac Day had to be definitely decided by Congress once and for all. Anzac Day was now a statutory holiday, but another Bill was now before Parliament to prevent race meetings and to close hotels. He could say the majority of the members felt the Bill did not go far enough, the idea being that Anzac Day should rank in status with Sunday. Mr. Latham, the member for York, had moved an amendment following on the New Zealand Act, and which would provide that Anzac Day be observed in all respects as if it were a Sunday, and with the provision of a stiff penalty. Whether they wanted pay for the day or not had to be decided, but he could not find any legislation that said Sunday should be paid for. He hoped Congress would not insist on Anzac Day being a paid holiday. If they did they were asking members to take on an impossibility, and they would drop the Bill. He suggested that the motion be carried and Sunday observance maintained. There were penalty rates for Sunday work, and that would follow for Anzac Day when any man worked. If a man did not work should he be paid?

(Delegates: "No.")

The motion was eventually carried with the provision that the day should rank equal with a Sunday.

Mr. Butler (Collie) secured the adoption of the following motion:

"That it be a duty of the executive to arrange for executive members to visit country sub-branches, more particularly the larger centres on Anzac Day, for the purpose of raising the status of public meetings held on that day. Also for the purpose of assisting such sub-branches to expand the aims and objects of the League at such meetings. That the State Government be approached in respect to granting railway warrants necessary to carry out such arrangement, subject to the expenses being met by the sub-branch concerned."

Organiser.

Mr. Connolly (Railway Workshops) moved: "That the office of State Secretary include the office of State Organiser, and the dual duties so arranged and apportioned by the executive as will permit..."
of a definite portion of each month's service, being devoted towards purely organising work throughout various portions of the State.

Mr. Walker (Kalgoorlie) moved an amendment: "That the office of State Secretary include the office of State Organiser and the dual duties be arranged and apportioned by the executive."

Mr. Bolton (West Subiaco) seconded the amendment which was carried.

"LISTENING POST."

Mr. Green (Subiaco) moved: "That the 'Listening Post' be abandoned as the official organ of the League, and the Constitution amended accordingly." He said he did not consider the League received an adequate return for the money it had spent. He had been told the work could be done much more cheaply. It was an utter impossibility for the paper to be carried on at the present price of £350 a year. In his opinion the League was not receiving a fair return on its investment.

Mr. Fanning (Dingup) seconded, and said his sub-branch supported the motion. He complained that some members of Dingup branch had not regularly received their copies of the "Listening Post."

Mr. Constable (Geraldton) said he could not understand why members did not receive their copies of the paper, 4000 copies of each issue being posted. The "Listening Post" did a lot of good for the League. He thought that financial members who received the paper could do a lot for the League byhanding their copies to unfinancial members. He was absolutely opposed to the scrapping of the paper.

Mr. Bencey (Leederville) opposed the motion. He considered the paper was of great value to the League.

Mr. Sexty (Serpen tine) said that while he was not opposed to the paper he thought they should get something more for their money.

The president read a letter which had been received from the proprietors of the "Listening Post", containing a new offer, to the effect that the paper would be posted at a fixed rate for 4d. per copy of a period of 13 months.

Mr. Isaac (Kalgoorlie) said he had inquired into the distribution of the paper, and found it was most carefully sent out to financial members.

Mr. Zeffert (Mt. Lawley) moved as an amendment: "That the patronage of the W.A. branch be extended to the 'Listening Post' for a further 13 months on conditions as follows: (1) the proprietors of the said organ undertake to post to every financial member of the branch at the cost of 6d. per annum; (2) that capitation payable by each branch to the executive, namely, 4/- per member, be increased to 4/- per member; (3) the executive pay from their capitation the proprietors of the 'Listening Post', the aforesaid charge of 6d. per financial member per annum. That the Constitution be amended accordingly."

He said he was surprised at the opposition by the way the motion was carried.

"Repatriation."

Mr. Zeffert (Mt. Lawley) moved: "That the Repatriation Act be amended to provide for the widows of deceased soldiers in necessitous circumstances, and that grants be limited to the time limit, assistance under the regulations providing for furniture grants, similar to that granted to widows of deceased soldiers."—Carried.

Mr. Ryan (Perth) moved: "That representation be made to the next Federal Congress towards a better and more complete segregation of mental patients." He said in Australia there were about 400 returned soldiers in mental hospitals, about 50 being in W.A. It was strongly felt that all returned soldiers should be cared for by returned soldier attendants in separate hospitals.

Mr. Philip (Fremantle and District) seconded, and said they should stop at nothing to secure the segregation of the men so unfortunately placed as to have to be detained in Claremont.

Rabbi Freedman (Bunbury) said in his visits to Claremont he had come into contact with the returned men who were there, and was happy and as well cared for as all the other patients. In the majority of cases the men looked forward to the visits of their relatives, and he did not think it would be right to remove the patients to a new State, if it be possible and the patients wished to remain where they are.

Mr. Houston (Claremont) said in his opinion, after having worked amongst the returned men, mental cases, all returned men should be segregated and treated in the hospitals by returned doctors and men.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Hutchinson (Kalgoorlie) moved: "That the Federal Government be asked to provide a grant of £10,000 to assist and equip returned soldiers throughout the Western Australian Goldfields." He said the Goldfields had had a very hard time. It was considered in Kalgoorlie the Federal Treasury should make some provision for the gold-mining industry. So far as the gold-mining industry was concerned, it was the only one in the State that had not received an increase in price received by the wheat growers. At the present time the State Repatriation Board would assist an individual or a couple of men, but he did not think the Board would assist a party of ten or twelve men. He believed the Commonwealth Government had made a great profit by buying gold from the goldfields at its pre-war price. He considered it only just that the Federal Government should show some consideration towards the Goldfields. Recently, the Federal Government had made a grant of £10,000 to be expended on road construction. On the Goldfields there were not enough roads to the Goldfields, and if £10,000 of that amount was spent on the Goldfields, it might do a lot of good.

Mr. Connolly (Railway Workshops) seconded, and said, if the Federal Government provided the money asked for, another golden age might be found.

Mr. Tyler (West Perth), thought the State Government should be approached first.

Mr. Hutchinson (Kalgoorlie) said if the money could be obtained it could be placed in the control of the State Government.

Motion carried.

The following notices of motion were adopted:

A. H. Priestley (Perth): "That the Repatriation Commission be requested to undertake the control of the funds to prevent any reduction of the Living Allowance through the recent increase in the Old Age Pension, and that delegates to the Federal Congress be instructed accordingly.

C. L. Harvey (Mt. Marshall): "That the Medical Department (i.e. Examining Doctors) of the W.A. Repatriation Department be investigated with the object of approaching the Federal Government for the removal of such officers if it is considered that they have not administered the Repatriation Act in the spirit in which it was intended to be administered. This motion to be in no way a reflection upon the Repatriation Dept. in W.A., or Medical Officers in Charge of the Repatriation Wards."

War Service Homes.

Mr. May (Collie) moved that the Executive approach the Premier with a view of ensuring that the proviso contained in contract for erection of War Service Homes, namely, that contractors shall give preference to returned soldiers, when employing men to build such homes, be strictly adhered to, and that where such proviso is definitely proved by the League to have been violated by a contractor, it shall be regarded as the War Service Homes Department as a breach of contract, and such contract shall be at once cancelled forthwith. He said in his district, returned soldiers were not being employed on the construction of War Service Homes, when they were available.

Mr. Butler (Collie) seconded. He said it was understood that in the case of War Service Homes, the contractor had to give preference to returned soldiers. If the contractor did not observe that clause in his contract, he should be annulled, or a stiff penalty clause inserted. Carried.

State War Memorials.

Mr. Zeffert (Mt. Lawley) moved that the Premier be reminded of his promise to convene a Conference with the view to...
THE LISTENING POST.

TATTERSALL'S CLUB

Perth Hospital Sweep

To be Run on the BELMONT PARK RACE COURSE on SATURDAY, DEC. 15, 1923.

25,000 at 2s. 6d.

DRAWN PRO RATA ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER, 14, 1923.

IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE PERTH HOSPITAL.

Under the Supervision of the Following Committee.—Mayor of Perth, A. Clydesdale, Esq., M.L.A., H. W Mann, Esq., M.L.A., T. Lalor (Chairman), and Committee of Tattersall's Club and other influential Gentlemen.

FIRST Horse, £500.  SECOND Horse, £100.  THIRD Horse, £50. Other Starters divide £50. Non-starters divide £100. 5 Cash Prizes at £20 each.

50 Cash Prizes at £10 each. 50 Cash Prizes at £5 each.

Tickets obtainable from the Committee, from all Business Places, and from E. KEARY, Hon. Treasurer, Tattersall's Club, Perth. Applications for tickets to be sent by post must be accompanied by two stamped and addressed envelopes, one for reply and one for result.

discussing the early erection of a State War Memorial,' he said it seemed to him a disgrace that not a State War Memorial existed in Perth. The Premier had already expressed his approval of the proposal, but—had promised to call a meeting, but nothing had been done. Archbishop Riley last Anzac Day had referred to it in his address at the Cathedral. He hoped the Executive would press the matter.

Mr. Watt (Kelmscott) seconded, and said the matter was a very vital one, and should be carried through. They must have a big, inspiring memorial in Perth. He was afraid the Premier kept them waiting a long time in regard to his promises to them. The motion was carried.

General.

Other resolutions adopted by Congress:

Consultation.—Mr. Bolton (West Subiaco) 'That Congress assembled realising the urgent necessity of carrying on the activities of the League, and the need for funds for such purpose, approves of the desirability of requesting the Government to permit the League to conduct a cash consultation each year. That a delegation from this Congress wait upon the Premier with such request, and that the Executive be instructed to take steps to press this matter.'

Kendenup Inquiry.—Mr. Bates (Kendenup) said until they got Federal action in the matter they at Kendenup were returned soldiers at Kendenup. He thought Congress would move in the matter, and the Executive act later if necessary. He moved 'That Congress discuss the advisability of the State Executive acting in conjunction with the Federal Executive, with the object of having a Royal Commission appointed by the Federal Government to inquire into (a) the distribution of the Kendenup Fruit Packing Company, and the Dedman's Kendenup W.A. Development Company Limited. (b) The administration and financing of these companies. Particularly the registration in Western Australia. (c) The liquidation of these companies.'

Mining Vote.—The Pilbara sub-branch moved 'That Congress appoint a deputation, including the Pilbara Sub-branch delegate, to await upon the Premier to request that a specific fixed sum from the mining vote be allocated to the North-West for boring and testing known lodes at reefs below the first plane. The motion was carried, and the Rabbi Freedman and Messrs. Tyler and Atkins were appointed to the deputation.'

Poppy Day.—Mr. Bateson (Midland) moved that greater uniformity be observed in selling Poppies on Poppy Day. He said that while the collectors in Midland commenced to sell poppies on last Poppy Day they were met with the statement that poppies had been bought in Perth on the previous afternoon. The sub-branch wanted uniformity in the sale of poppies.

The Canteen Fund.—Mr. Watt (Kelmscott) moved that Congress is of the opinion that the balance of the funds held by the Trustees of the A.I.F. Canteen Fund Trust, should be paid into the R.S.I.L.A. Amelioration Funds to be distributed pro rata amongst the State Branches, in proportion to the number of enlistments of the A.I.F., and that the A.I.F. Canteen Funds Act be amended accordingly.

'That the Southern Cross Sub-Branch wishes to place on record its appreciation of the manner in which its representative on the Executive, A. Stirling Isaac, has discharged his duties during his term of office.'

J. R. Butler (Collie) 'That it be an instruction to the incoming Executive to arrange as far as practicable with sub-branches that the dependants of deceased soldiers be entertained annually on Christmas Eve.'

W. Malcolm (Perth) 'That it be an instruction from Congress to sub-Branches to use every endeavour to secure employment for returned soldiers, and failing the filling of a vacancy from the local returned men they immediately communicate with the State Secretary.'

Mr. May (Collie): 'That it be an instruction to the Executive that where a returned soldier who is a member of the League ignores the Branch to which he belongs, and communicates with the State Secretary direct on any matter, a copy of such communication be forwarded to the sub-branch concerned.'
For LIGHTNESS
BRIGHTNESS
&PURITY

SWAN BITTER

No Preservatives.
No Chemicals.
Same Price as all other Beers.

(Collie) "That it be a recommendation from the W.A. Branch, R.S.L. to the Federal Executive that representations be made to the Imperial Naval and Military Authorities to recognise the applications from any State Branch of the League on behalf of ex-Imperial Soldiers and Sailors for War Medals on the written assurance that the Official Discharges of Authorities to "That this Congress protests against the removal of returned soldier fruit barrows from Perth streets."

C. J. Cooke (Metropolitan Railway): "That this Congress instructs the incoming Executive to co-operate with the named and Limbs Men's Association in its endeavour to secure a greater degree of permanency in respect to the issue of tram and railway passes."

A. E. Pady (Fremantle): "That the incoming Executive be instructed to give consideration to the matter of girls being employed in positions which could be suitably filled by returned soldiers."

(Mt. Lawley) "That the League's Certificate of Merit be awarded to Mr. Dan Dwyer, of Mount Lawley."

Reports.

Mr. Bolton, League Delegate on the R.S.L. Co-operative Trading Co., said the Company had made a profit of £2533 in its year's operations. The turnover was good, and the business was increasing.

Mr. C. E. Harvey reported as chairman of the Propaganda and Social Committee, on the activities of the Committee for the year ending September 30th, 1923. Messrs. Harvey, Zeffert, Butler, Bunder and Philip were elected as the P. and S. Committees.

During its sittings Congress was addressed by His Excellency the Governor, General Sir Talbot Hobbs, General Drake-Brockman, Major Raper, Mr. Henry May, President, Maimed and Limbs Men's Association, and Mr. Ford, President of the Father's Association.

Congress concluded with the usual vote of thanks and the singing of the National Anthem.

TO AUSSIE-LAND.

Dear Land that bred the Aussies,
I've seen you and now I know,
Why the hero-men you sent to fight,
All worship their Homeland so.

I've seen your far long reaches,
Great sunlit land of trees,
Your sweeping undamed bushland,
The wattle which scents your breeze.
I've seen your wondrous harbours,
Your caves and mountains blue,
The stations of your back-blocks,
Your splendid cities too.
Your graceful, stately Melbourne,
Fair Queen of the Southern Sea,
And mighty, sparkling Sydney,
Its peerless scenery.
Your sunny flowerimg Brisbane,
Your dainty Albany,
And every town— For I love them all,
Scents the dearest town to me.
I love each State I've travelled,
Oh, North, South East and West,
Wherever I go, and wherever I am,
Why I love that spot the best.

For the Digger scattered o'er you,
Is just the same dear pal,
Whom I found across the ocean,
When he touched at far Natal.
And now he's back in a city,
Or home once more in the wild,
He's just the same brave Aussie,
The giant with heart of a child.
He's proved his name a synonym
For all that is true and great,
For chivalry to womanfolk,
For loyalty to a mate.
For bravery in battle,
For taking man at his worth,
For supreme of sordid brand of class,
For love of land of his birth.
Great land that bred the Diggers,
Fair home that they bled to save,
You're eternised by the deathless deeds
Of the glorious men you gave.

Longreach, Queensland, September 9, 1923.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT COM-
MISSION REPORT.

Parliament Approves of Recommendation.

During the month Digger, Arthur Wilson's motion that immediate effect be given to the recommendations of the Commission was passed by the House, and the Premier on a later date stated, in reply to a question by Mr. Wilson, that the necessary administration is being put into operation.

We give three hearty cheers for Arthur Wilson, and his pals on the Commission.

N. BLACK & CO., Wholesale and Retail FISH MERCHANTS.

Remember, this is run by Returned Soldiers. Manager, J. GUNN (of 28th Batt), late Returned Soldiers' Fish Supply.

481 Wellington St., Perth. 38 Market St., Fremantle. Head Office, Perth City Markets.

PHONE A172.

We deliver Fish to any part of the State.

Fresh Fish Twice Daily.

CATERERS TO ALL THE LEADING CLUBS AND HOTELS IN PERTH.
October 26, 1923.

PERSONALITIES

Apprently things are slack at this time of the year in the Badgeree district, as our old friend ex-artilleryman, Chas. E. Stoneman was seen in Perth recently. Looking as brown, as fit and as hard as if on Active Service, Charlie is in need of no man's sympathy.

With many years of experience as a farmer, some few years in business and no mean period of active service to his credit, J. V. Lowe, ex. 11th Battalion, has taken up a lieutenantcy under Jimmy's Group Settlement scheme. His copious stores of all-round knowledge is being hired for the benefit of the Settlers on a Settlers' Group — Jundaupway, we think. His friends, in the metropolis will miss him, and wish him the best of luck in helping the scheme to a successful issue.

We are pleased to note another ex A.I.F. member is launching out on his own account. Frank (Sandy) McLean, late adjutant, 28th Battalion, who was with Ceci Dent Ltd., is commencing business at Colonial Mutual Chambers as a Land and Estate Agent, Sworn Valuator, etc. This journal wishes the popular "Sandy" every success.

Our Mr. Barker correspondent writes: — During the month we have lost three good diggers from "Take" Barker. Cyril Wright who shone at cricket and toe-ball has migrated to Subiaco. It is Sandy's gain. Ernie Gleed has gone to Midland to try his hand in the shops. We hope Ernie has a better job than he had driving the old black horse for "Johnny All Sorts." Les Riches has gone among the timber at Newdegate. He was trying his luck at apple growing, but things didn't come Leslie's way so back to work he's gone to get some more "Sugar." Les was King of the Sports here and President of the branch for four years. He may return to the dishes. We wish him luck and hope he'll return wiser and "cashed up" to the hilt.

We are always pleased to record the success of any Digger venture. When Warrant-Officer J. T. Tandy, of the 16th Battalion, shed his khaki he started in a modest way to manufacture soft drinks for the thirsty public. After a few initial setbacks his business commenced to expand, the public being quick to note that his brew did not have the usual decaying effect on their footwear. Over 20,000 bottles of Tandy's Returned Soldier Drinks were consumed at the recent Royal Show. May the business continue to grow!

The mystery concerning the disappearance of Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation (Cpl. A. G. Farr) remains unsolved. Before George Linwood, who was a 16th Batt-tie, left this State a few months ago to take up an appointment in India, he was feted by a host of friends. It was a big shock to these people to read recently of George's death in India, the result of an accident. A stirring gentleman gone west.

F. W. Crossley thinks an Inspector's life is one of ardent slavery. To get "Cross" in the business commenced to expand, the Dodge bus through the dust, one would imagine the Soldiers' widows were after him — of course, Cross was once, many years ago, a member of the 7th Battery, A.F.A.

Recently wedded, genial Roy McLean, now of the Midland Junction Workshops, late of the A.I.F. For some time Roy was Scoutmaster of the Highgate Scouts, but matrimony came first and Roy, perchance, changed his name. Always smiling, the subject of our par is one who helps, the old world along with a theary word for everyone.

Willie Wilson, Scotchman and ex-Sergeant of the 28th Batt., seen around town, looking well and smiling. Bill was for some time a prisoner of war in Hunland; he also deservedly won the Military Medal in France. On returning from the scrap he succumbed to the charms of a father of a bonny son. Good luck to you young Westralienne, and is now the proud and the family, Bill.

AGRICULTURAL BANK PERSONALITIES.

The enthusiastic Secretary of one well-known branch of the Service in P.S.T. circles, is setting a lead to his fellows by advertising his section's existence and importance, and we commend our friend of Agricultural Bank for his sincerity in the cause.

Cpl. G. C. Clark, late 28th Batt., and son of the Rev. Clark, of North Perth Rectory is a brother Inspector working in the same district, as Fitz. G.C. has had to leave some good "coin making concerns," owing to his being constantly reminded of his issue so cheerfully received from the Boche. We hope the depot of "old Tom White" will catch him up. We must wish him good luck.

Col. R. F. Fitzgerald, late boss of the 24th Batt., has taken up duties as Agricultural Bank Inspector in the North East District. Fitz has recently been trying his hand at extracting "booze" from Papuan herbage. However, he thinks Aupan is the best old place after all, and has returned to assist Jimmy Mitch, in his "Development policy."

TATT'S CLUB CONSULTATION.

To Assist Perth Hospital.

Members of Tattersall's Club have organised a sweep on a race to be run at Belmont Park on 15th December, in order to assist the Perth Public Hospital to retain its sphere of usefulness. Tickets can be purchased from all leading businesses, or from Mr. Fred Keary at Tatt's Club for a modest 2/6. First prize will be £500, second £100, third £50, and there are numerous other prizes. The drawing is to take place on Friday, December 14th, under the supervision of leading citizens.

THE GIRL FROM DURHAM.

We are in receipt of an interesting letter from Miss. Ethel Campbell, in which she states that she is looking forward to meeting her digger friends in this State. She also sent the appended verse for publication. Miss Campbell left Queensland at the end of last month, and after visiting Tasmania and South Australia it is expected that she will, after spending a day at Kalgoorlie, arrive in Perth on the 17th November, leaving again for South Africa on the 25th November. The itinerary has not yet been arranged, but it is expected to include a trip down the South and South-West lines.

Cafe-au-Lait

The Ideal Afternoon Tea Biscuit. Flavoured with Rich Coffee and New Milk. Soft and Sweet :: :: :: Baked by Mills & Ware
IMPRESSIONS AT CONGRESS

(By "Spot")

Another R.S.L. Congress has come and gone. The results of the deliberations have not yet been formally announced although certain definite results have been recorded by the Land Settlement Committee. It is not, however, with Congress itself that this article will deal—that can be left to others for review.

A certain philosopher once very aptly observed that the future is what the inhabitants thereof make it. So with the R.S.L. Congress. There were to be found men—and yes, women, too—of all viewpoints and opinions, of all trades and professions, of all denominations and beliefs, but all at one in their desire to further the returned soldier movement.

For the first time in the history of the R.S.L. the women, who did so much during the war, and who continue to assist years after its termination, took part in the proceedings. They had little to say, but their presence and influence will have far-reaching effects.

Delegates certainly made an interesting study, from the most loquacious to the most taciturn.

President H. S. Humphrey, of course, meets primary attention. He makes a fine chairman. Scrupulously impartial, yet firm, he held the respect of all delegates, until the announcement of his re-election for a further term as State President was popularly received.

One wonders how matters would have gone without Jimmy Cornell, M.L.C. Although we are told that no man is ever indispensable Mr. Cornell appeared to be so in his capacity as convener of the Congress. In that capacity, when the gathering got a bit off the road, it was Jimmy who smoothed things over, and led the way back to the narrow track. He is an acquisition to the League, brainy, conscientious, and an entertaining and witty speaker.

Rabbi Freedman (Bunbury), as usual made many effective points. His most interesting speech was while discussing the work of the organizers, Mr. Cooke. "I am Bunbury, the Rabbi said, and he continued in a most melodramatic tone, "Some time ago, I was dead. By the efforts of Mr. Cooke, I am now very much alive!"

Mr. C. J. Cooke, did good solid spade work, but was unusually quiet.

The most pleased man at Congress was Arthur Stewart, who, as delegate for Boulder, was handed the Newcage Cup to take back with him. Mr. A. M. Smith, also attended as delegate of the Boulder Ladies Auxiliary and she closely followed the proceedings throughout.

Messes. Peter Bedford, A. H. Priestley and ex-President Harry Belmont were among the most eloquent of the delegates. Both Mr. Bolton and Mr. Bedford made their best efforts on the proposal to run an R.S.L. Consultation. Harry strenuously supported the idea, and Peter just as vigorously opposed it, "on pious grounds."

As befits a past State President, A. H. Priestley was solid in his argument and he freely expressed his opinion of the more important matters. Messrs. T. Carl Belding and Bill Malcolm, of the Perth team, were somewhat silent, M. J. Ryan and E. S. Whitley were both effective, the former particularly in moving for the segregation of returned soldiers mental patients.

E. S. Watt was somewhat quiet and studied, and E. B. Watt. His claim to fame was a garrulously conceived "bull." It was a late sitting with delegates just a little weary. Stan Watt began to dilute on the pithy platitude of a "war widow whose husband had deserted her."

Delegates forget their weariness and the chinks of laughter lasted for some minutes.

Subiaco's representative, Mr. A. G. Green did solid work and shone in launching the "L.P." and he received support from H. A. Fanning (Dingoe).

This paper prefers to express no opinion as to whether the "L.P." should be the official organ or not, except to say that the men running this show are giving of their best to provide an influential organ for the League. Certainly no ill will is borne, in fact we think the two gentlemen concerned are to be commended for having the courage to take the controversy straight-out the dissatisfaction. Also, it gave our champions an opportunity to reply to and dispose of the arguments used against this journal.

J. R. Butler (Collie) was captiously critical of the financial side of the annual report, and Jimmy will always receive close attention from his hearers.

Harry May, of the same sub-branch, is a quiet, but effective speaker, and he as one of the hardest and most enthusiastic workers of the R.S.L. Collie should be proud of him.

To the Fremantle trio—J. E. Wilson, A. E. Pelly and G. H. Philip did good team work and were duly rewarded by the latter two gentlemen being elected to the new executive.

M. Marshall was well represented by C. J. Harvey, who usually appeared to speak more in sorrow than in anger. To give expression to his remarks Cecil always "said things advisedly."

Mr. C. R. Kenney, of Katanning, was an unobtrusive delegate, but his work for the League, is well known.

Possibly, because they represented sub-branches which were well received by both A. N. MacDonald (Kalgoorlie) and W. N. Reid (Tarwonga) were seen, but not heard.

West Perth had a strong team in H. S. Mowday, G. Pendergast, and A. H. Morell. The latter two speakers made very fine speeches.

C. W. R. Beechey, the champion of Leeettle, was a great worker as usual, and made many telling speeches.

F. W. Bateson (Midland) showed himself to be a solid and conscientious worker, as did Messrs. H. D. Malone and "President" P. Connolly, of the Railway Workshops Branch.

Harold Colvin was of great assistance when discussing the balance sheet, and his speeches generally were well received.

Carl Belding's one speech on Anzac Day celebration was a telling one.

Mr. Lawley sent an able representative in their President, Mr. M. E. Zeffert. Morrie's power of speech in debate was an eye-opener to those who had not previously held him in such high regard.

Armadale sent an able delegate in Gordon Deveraux.

Mr. J. G. Hutchinson's (Kalgoorlie) speech on the mining question was one of the finest heard at Congress.

J. Rechner made the shortest and most telling speech on the political question: "If you desire to wreck the League," he said, "enter the political arena."

Mr. H. C. Colebatch as usual spoke a word and commanded great respect. He should follow in his father's footsteps and enter the political arena.

New Vice-President Stirling Isaac retained his popularity and did good service in looking after the ladies.

Messrs. Lambert (Albany), Houston (Claremont), Bates (Kalgoorlie), and H. C. Parrott (Spearwood) all made telling speeches.

The one man who actually achieved results was Mr. A. Yeates (Upper Swan), who, as chairman of the Land Settlement Committee, was able to right many cases of hardships brought forward by sub-branches.

To attempt to name all delegates individually would double space than can be spared, so the writer must content himself with remarking that each and every delegate did good work on behalf of the glorious movement we all have at heart.

Jack Michael & Jack Brown
(late 11th Batt.)

Conduct one of the few "dinkum" Returned Soldiers' Fruit Barrows in Perth

They are to be found facing BOANS Ltd., in Wellington Street

MELBOURNE CUP CONSULTATION

We again remind Diggers of the Melbourne Cup consultation being conducted by the Kalgoorlie branch of the South Australian and Imperial Veterans' Association. All profits go to benevolent, patriotic and association purposes. Don't send your money out of the State when desiring a little flutter. An advertisement in this issue will inform you whom you can purchase your tickets from.

October 26, 1923.
The "Wingies and Stumpies" Gazette
Being a chronicle of the doings of the Returned Maimed and Limbless Men's Association of W.A.

Personal.
Show week was responsible for the appearance of a number of country members in the Metropolis; among the visitors were noticed our members, Messrs. William Sturman, from his farm at Yandanooka; J. W. Thompson and E. J. Brown, from Amphion, and E. S. Healy, of the Kendenup State school.

For the past two years Mr. Rowland H. Peake has been grafting like a nigger on his holding at Westonia, and in spite of his severe handicap in the nature of a wooden pin, he has executed a prodigious amount of work. His efforts were responsible for clearing over forty acres ready for the plough, cutting down three hundred and fifty acres of timber ready for burning off; and he can also lay claim to having erected a five-roomed house. We regret that these good results should have been achieved at the cost of our member's health, but such is the unfortunate case, and Mr. Peake has had to give up. The Association has obtained a position at Albany to which Mr. Peake proceeded early this month. Now, what of those who claim an amputee's usefulness is negligible?

Our last mail bag from overseas brought word from our touring member, Percy Mann, who for the past four months has been "doing" Great Britain. His account shows that he leaves for home next week feeling greatly improved in his health, and the members of the Association will be looking forward now to the pleasure of welcoming Percy back home.

Mr. Pat Hanna, under whose direction the brilliant company, the Famous Diggers was controlled, was extremely good to this Association during his stay in the State and on many occasions members were the guests of the company at their performances. Members will be glad to learn that the "Diggers" are delivering the goods to packed houses in Adelaide.

Social.
The latest recruit to the ranks of the beneficent is Mr. Victor Hooper, a well known and popular member of this Association, who was married last Saturday week. We wish "Vic" and his wife good health and happiness and may all their troubles be little ones.

Swimming Club.
Readers will remember that last year this Association formed a Swimming Club, and many fine Sunday mornings were spent at the Claremont Baths, and towards the end of the season members of the club numbered over thirty. This is a pastime that is extremely beneficial to our members, and it is pleasing to note the eager interest taken in the club last year which culminated in the teams' relay race by members selected from that club. For the coming season great things are expected and already interest is running high. It has been suggested that we should affiliate with the W.A.A.S.A. as a separate swimming club, and at the last meeting of the Association Mr. Alex Stewart was appointed organiser, so members can look forward to something big this year. Any interested tenacious member desiring to join the club is requested to send his name to the secretary immediately.

Badges and Passes.
Members are notified that the secretary has still a number of unclaimed Association badges and railway passes at his office, which should be secured at the earliest possible date.

Hostel.
The executive committee is still devoting its closest attention to the acquisition of a suitable building for the use of members as a hostel. The intention is to procure a place at which meetings could be held, and where accommodation could be arranged for reading room, lounge, billiard tables; also beds for single members requiring them at a nominal fee. Grounds are required, too, for outdoor games such as cricket, tennis, bowls, etc. We believe that with a continuance of luck we shall be able to make an interesting announcement in this connection soon. Readers are advised to watch for the next issue of the "Listening Post".

Weaving.
Lying at the Association's office is a hand weaving loom complete with heddles, etc. It is made of solid oak and there is also about 30 lbs. of yarn for disposal. The loom and yarn were imported from the East a few weeks ago with the object of affording an avenue of employment for our members. Owing to the serious nature of the disabilities of our out-of-work members, it was found to be impracticable. In the circumstances we are desirous of disposing of the outfit and invite inspection at 906 Hay-street. Readers are requested to pass this information on.

Employment.
Readers will remember that we published in the columns of this journal an outline of a scheme for absorbing unemployed members in clerical training in Government departments. The scheme which was suggested to the Premier (Sir James Mitchell) by the League and provided that our members should be given employment and trained in some position in which they would be able to acquire a clerical experience, and on completion of such training they were to receive first preference in the service. The Association concurred and the experiment was set in motion. Unfortunately, however, it has borne little fruit and only three members appear to have been absorbed. The president and secretary have been instructed to again wait on the Premier to secure the advancement of the scheme. We desire in passing to express our appreciation for the practical assistance rendered by the Premier (Sir James) and we are grateful to the Government also; if the departments would only carry out instructions our grumble would cease.

The annual Congress of the State branch of the R.S.S. and I.L.A., which has recently been concluded, was attended by the president of this Association (Mr. Harry May) by the courtesy of the State executive of the League, who were responsible for the invitation. With the power to speak, but not to vote, Mr. May impressed his hearers over the vital question of employment. We appreciate the spirit which prompted the League to comply with the request of our members.

B.B.I. Conference.
About two and a half years ago a resolution was passed through both Houses of the State Parliament granting railway concessions to members of this Association, particulars of which are generally known to those by whom the privilege is enjoyed. Through the courtesy of our friend the Premier, these concessions although not of a permanent nature, have been renewed after some slight difficulties had been overcome; yet it is contended that the matter should be placed upon a permanent basis. The men who have suffered the loss of a limb, or limbs, in their country's service (many of whom subsist on their meagre pensions) should at least be franked over the tram and metropolitan trains. We see no reason why the Government should fail to give sympathetic consideration in this regard and it is our intention to approach the Premier as soon as possible to this end and that country members may also receive some concession.

Rail and Tram Fare.
About two and a half years ago a resolution was passed through both Houses of the State Parliament granting railway concessions to members of this Association, particulars of which are generally known to those by whom the privilege is enjoyed. Through the courtesy of our friend the Premier, these concessions although not of a permanent nature, have been renewed after some slight difficulties had been overcome; yet it is contended that the matter should be placed upon a permanent basis. The men who have suffered the loss of a limb, or limbs, in their country's service (many of whom subsist on their meagre pensions) should at least be franked over the tram and metropolitan trains. We see no reason why the Government should fail to give sympathetic consideration in this regard and it is our intention to approach the Premier as soon as possible to this end and that country members may also receive some concession.
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EDITOR'S PAGE

A movement is afoot on the part of the South Australian League Organ Proprietors to institute a Commonwealth journal in lieu of the State journals at present in circulation. It will be seen that the project is unlikely to meet with support in any of the States with the exception of South Australia, for while it is distinctly interesting for each branch to be kept posted with the activities of its fellow branch, the disadvantages are too numerous to be overlooked. Moreover, with the existing exchange of branch organs, each State is already acquainted with every branch's movements, and the projected Sole Official Organ of the Commonwealth must even discount this seeming advantage. To elaborate on the objections to such a course would prove tedious, and it will suffice to show that when any sub-branch news was reproduced, where any advice was published of a proposed event, the news would have lost its attraction, and the projected event would have become an accomplished fact by reason of the period which had elapsed.

We are embarking on a further year of our agreement with the League in our capacity as advertisers of the movement and its activities to all its members; and in passing would invite any members who are not receiving the journal to acquaint their sub-branch secretary of their full postal address and to see that the advice is forwarded to the central administration. There is no reason why every member should not receive the journal, and we can safely assert that if the advice is received at our office, the member will receive his issue.

The Conference had occasion to discuss the question of renewal of contract for the ensuing twelve months, and there were two dissenting voices in the assemblage; these two delegates had, for some unknown reason, developed an antipathy in regard to this Organ. Fortunately for the movement and its aspirations, which both depend on publicity and propaganda generally for existence, the vast majority conceived the wisdom of maintaining a journal for the League's own purposes.

The "West Australian" newspaper, with scant consideration for the prestige of the League's Official Organ, published in detail all the dissenting remarks, and refrained religiously from the publication of such clear-minded and reasonable utterance as those of Mr. Zefferl, M.P., Lawley's President. We desire to place on record our appreciation of our supporters' efforts and to express our intention to prove worthy of their expectations.

The President of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has published his reply to the League's letter in which he was requested to follow the dictates of public opinion, of justice and of equity. He stated that he was not given a fair hearing at the mass meeting of protest, which was reported in our August number, and that the positions of staff had been reviewed already. The President of the League, true to the principles evolved in the Preference Policy, has taken a firm grasp of the cudgel and has taken Mr. Duffell to task. Mr. Humphrey's reply shows that every faculty has been given to the Society's principles to retrieve the lost public sympathy, by netting in accordance with the public's wish. He reiterates the fact that Mr. Duffell was given an excellent opportunity to vindicate his motives which were called into question and concludes with a cheering inference that the measures to which the League can proceed are by no means reached. Having progressed so far in a vital principle, no retrograde move can be countenanced, nor can we relinquish active pursuit to a successful issue.

The South African Empire Service League members prior to the holding of their Congress in August last referred to one another as "comrade." Delegates at the Congress considered that Bolshevism had given the title a new meaning and decided that in future the plain old English "Mr." be used, and that the appellation "Comrade" be abolished. One delegate stated that the word "comrade" smacked of deceit and had a deleterious effect on the increase of membership of the organisation. Men would not join to be rewarded with a term of approbation. "Let us," he concluded, "be on a footing of equality, but not of allegorical comministic equality."

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late A.I.F.)

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