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WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
THE REACTIONARY EFFECTS OF WAR

Many men who served abroad will never be themselves again.

The above is an utterance by a Macquarrie-street doctor. That which occasioned it was the opinion expressed by Mr. Hawkins at the Central Police Court, Sydney. He did not consider that a man, having served two years abroad and having been wounded at Gallipoli, was deserving of any special consideration on that account. "Absolutely wrong," was the way in which another of the shoulders expressed himself. "Certainly do not think soldiers are normal after the harrowing experiences they went through.

No, you see, in my opinion, they will never be quite normal. The effects of the war on the minds of the people will be eradicated during the present generation.

How many people share the conviction that a returned soldier is capable of any of the despicable crimes perpetrated from time to time? How often does one hear, "He was a returned man, you know." This remark and a shrug of the shoulders implies, "What else could one expect?"

We do not stand for exemption in any case where a law is broken by a returned man, but it is reasonable to suppose that, if medical evidence was available to show that the war effects had in any way influenced the action, the punishment should be proportionately disdained. It must be borne in mind that an erring returned soldier is not more frequently met with than is the law-abiding citizen encountered.

The unfortunate feature is that if an offender is a digger, the fact is voiced abroad, and little interest is in evidence at the part concerned on the part of the soldier concerned as a cold-footed.

Tell non-members what your League has done and is doing.

What is a den? A den, my son, is a place where wild beasts make their homes. No, I mean a den in man's house. Eddie, interjected the mother, your father's definition applies to that also.

LEARN MOTOR AND TRACTOR BUSINESS.

Returned Soldiers don't need to be told much about the advantages of a little knowledge of Motors or electrical engineering relating to Motor Cars. The Repatriation Department sent me five pupils, and four have made good. I can show you the road to success if you give me a chance. This is the only bona fide Motor School in the West. Write or call.

JOHN D. BROAD.

PERTH MOTOR SCHOOL.

19A St. George's Terrace.

What is a den? A den, my son, is a place where wild beasts make their homes. No, I mean a den in man's house. Eddie, interjected the mother, your father's definition applies to that also.

Tell non-members what your League has done and is doing.

Mt. Lawley-North Perth Sub-Branch

In the absence of the President (Mr. McDonald) who through illness was ordered to the country by his doctor, Mr. Kott was elected to the chair. There was a volley of Pattison's taunts.

The final report of Poppy Day showed that it was a great success.

Mr. Bader, the hon. sec., moved that a scholarship be given, of £30, to deceased soldiers' children, or 3 years' tenure, from the Anzac Day collections, to be subsidised by branch members.

This caused some various discussion, and, after Rabbi Freedman had shown and proved to members that the Soldiers' Scholarship Trust did all that could be possibly done for these children and would do more if necessary arose, the motion was lost, and the following by Rabbi Freedman adopted:—That a Prize Fund be opened with the collections from Anzac Day services for soldiers' and sailors' children.

The State President (Mr. Humphrey) and the State Secretary (Mr. Penny) were given a very warm welcome by the chairman.

The annual election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mr. M. E. Zelbert; Vice-President, Messrs. McDonald and Kott; Treasurer, Mr. C. G. Ferguson; Solicitor, Mr. M. Kott; Auditor, Mr. G. R. Ryder; Committee, Messrs. Waite, Broad, and Brown; Hon. Sec., Mr. C. Bader.

Expressions of best wishes and greetings were expressed by old and new officers.

It was decided that a letter be sent to Mr. M. Kott (banking him for the immense amount of work done for the benefit of soldiers and his own sub-branch. The Secretary was also thanked.

It was moved that—This meeting of the sub-branch realises the fact that there is no soldier on the State Executive of the Empire Exhibition Committee and promises the State Executive of the League all support in its endeavors.

A committee was formed to get together all members and arrange some social functions, and to attend to the renewal of subscriptions.

The Secretary reports that members' subs. are steadily coming in, and all are urged to attend the next meeting, which is held on the first Monday of the month, except when the Monday is a holiday, when the meeting will be held on the following night.

A Fishing and Bridge Tournament will be held at the Soldiers' Institute on Tuesday, March 6th, to help "Not Forgetting." League work along. Good prizes and a good cause. Tickets are 10 each and the organising is in the capable hands of Miss Mary Meares.
who are keeping the branch going look forward to more support from our fellow-diggers.

NARROGIN SUB-BRANCH.
The annual meeting of the Narrogin Sub-branch of R.S.L. was held on Wednesday, 10th inst., and it is pleasing to report that the affairs of the Branch are in a very satisfactory position. There is, of course, room for improvement in the way of membership. A total of 54 is too small for such a progressive centre, and it is hoped the incoming officers will seriously consider ways and means of increasing the number. The balance-sheet shows a credit of £38, which is very creditable considering we had a deficit of £21 from last year. In addition, about £79 was paid out in sustenance, so that the retiring officers are to be congratulated on their efforts. The election of the executive light electric light is held on Wednesday, 10th inst., and it is hoped the incoming officers will seriously consider ways and means of increasing the number.

SUNBICO.
The annual meeting of the Pertib Sub-branch was held recently, where the election of officers was dealt with. Mr. Bechly, the Executive representative, agreed to the hearty vote of thanks, and in replying, said that it was disappointing to note the small attendances at the meetings. There was also an apparent ignorance on the part of the diggers regarding the benefits to be derived. He thought that the branches should be maintained at any cost, and that time would swell the membership of the League.

BOULDER SUB-BRANCH.
The annual meeting and election of officers took place in the Soldiers Rest Rooms at Boulder. Jimmy Cornell was present, and the new members who attended were welcomed. The report and balance-sheet were both evidently satisfactory. Mr. Roy Miller was re-elected President, and it is determined that owing to the healthy state of finance the sub-branch should appoint a full time secretary.

PERTH.
The annual meeting of the Perth Sub-branch was well attended, and the customary election of officers resulted in the election of: President, Mr. T. P. Lennon; vice-Presidents Messrs. P. Beeby and C. J. Cook; treasurer, Mr. W. McGregor. The retiring secretary was re-elected. The question of the Sub-Branch Trading Concern was discussed, as also was the subject of amalgamation.

FREMANTLE DISTRICT SUB-BRANCH.
There is likely to be a great revival in the Return Soldier movement in the Fremantle district in the near future. On the 21/12/22 the members of the Fremantle and South Fremantle Sub-branches held a meeting at the Soldiers’ Institute, and the Secretary, who has been largely absent, stated that the meeting was to discuss the amalgamation question, which has been mooted for a long time. Unfortunately the North Fremantle Branch, which promised to cooperate, withdrew at the last moment. The members present were of the unanimous opinion that amalgamation could be better carried out through the hands of the returned men and their dependants.

A.D.S. Beach has been very keen on the success of the Point Walter Soldiers’ Carnival. He has continually pressed his brother delegates as to the necessity of their attendance at all meetings. Where he was present a good deal of business was transacted.

Stewart has been keen on the success of the Point Walter Soldiers’ Carnival. He has continually pressed his brother delegates as to the necessity of their attendance at all meetings. Where he was present a good deal of business was transacted.

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EXECUTIVE MEETING.

31/1/23.

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Council, R.S.S.I.L.A., held at the Soldiers' Institute, Perth, on the 31st January, 1923.


Apologies: Mr. McDonald was absent owing to illness, and apologies were received from Messrs. Cornell and Isaac.

Minutes.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Employment at Fremantle Prison.

A report was received from M. J. E. Wilson, stating that, as the result of inquiry, he recommended that nothing further should be done, and stated that the North Fremantle Sub-branch, which formulated the complaint, were satisfied with such recommendation.

Trusteeship.

The Secretary reported that Mr. C. L. Harvey had been appointed to give a place to the Trusteeship, but no reply had been obtained. Moved by Mr. Bolton, seconded by Mr. Sexty—that Colonel Collett be asked to accept the position of Trustee to the Executive—Carried.

Solicitor.

A letter was received from Northmore, Hale, and Darcy, stating that Mr. Darcy, who had been elected Honorary Solicitor, was away in the Eastern States. Mr. Robson stated that he had Mr. Darcy's assurance that he would accept the position.

Organisation.

The President stated that Mr. McAdam would make available a motor car for the purpose of paying a visit to the Group Settlements in the Serpentine district, and further arrangements were left in the hands of the President and Secretary.

Herdsmen's Lake.

The Secretary reported that no reply had been received from letters written to Mr. L. L. Carter, M.I.A., with regard to Herdsmen's Lake, and the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Carter again, pointing out that he had promised to get certain information on the loan estimates being discussed. Further, that this information had not come to hand, and was urgently required by this League.

Returned Soldiers' Preference Association.

The Secretary reported that no reply had been received from Mr. Sleep, and, on the motion of Mr. Bolton, seconded by Mr. Sexty, he was allowed to stand over until the next meeting. A reminder to be sent to Mr. Sleep in the meantime.

Bibrab Lake.

A letter was received from the railway Department stating that the Commissioner was out of town, and the Secretary was instructed to keep in touch with the Department, and make arrangements for a deputation as soon as possible.

BIBRA LAKE.

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THE LISTENING POST.

Immediate Relief (Sorrento).

Mr. Kirke stated that, owing to illness, he had been unable to furnish the particulars regarding Fittin Sorrento, but would send these in to the Secretary in the course of a day or so.

Preference to Returned Soldiers.

A letter was received from the Queensland Returned Soldiers' Association, and the President deferred pending receipt of Arbitration Awards, etc., promised by that branch.

Mr. West.

The Secretary stated that the letter to the Premier with regard to the position of Mr. West was written after conferring with the Secretary of the Maimed and Limbless Association, and also the President of this League, and his action was endorsed.

Invitations.

A letter was received from the Collie Sub-branch for a social evening to be held on 20th January, and a resolution was moved that the President and Secretary should officially visit the branch on that date; also that Messrs. Bolton and Nett should be present if arrangements can be made.

An invitation was received from the Northam Fallen Soldiers' Fund for the opening of the memorial Wing at the Northam Sub-branch on Sunday, 11th February. As the President and Secretary would probably be visiting the Group Settlements on that date, it was resolved that the Executive should be represented by Mr. Sexty.

An invitation was received from the Armadale Sub-branch for a social evening on the 6th February, and the President, Rabbi Freedman, and Messrs. Robson and Cook signified their intention of being present.

Fremantle and District Sub-branch.

An application for registration from the Fremantle and District Sub-branch, which combined the late Fremantle and South Fremantle Sub-branches, was approved.

Official Organ.

A letter was received from the “Listening Post” stating that the Maimed and Limbless Men's Association had included them with the view of making the “Listening Post” the official organ of that body. It was resolved that the proprietors of the “Listening Post” would be in order in accepting matter from the Maimed and Limbless Association.

Postal Arrangements: The Secretary reported that while in Melbourne he had gone thoroughly into the matter of postal arrangements, and had written a letter in which, on behalf of the League, he gave an indemnity to the P.M.G.'s Department, in the event of the Constitution not being amended, to comply with the Postal Act, and his action in doing so was endorsed.

Ex-Service Men’s Rally.

The President reported that while in Melbourne information had been received of an ex-service men’s rally to be held in England in July, and the Federal Executive had decided that Australia should be represented. The Secretary was authorized to approach each State Branch to hold athletic carnivals to try out contestants, the final selection to be made in Melbourne.

PENSIONS AND TAXATION.

A letter was received from the General Secretary stating that, as a result of representations, the Commissioner of Taxation had now ruled that the deduction of £30 for each child may be allowed, as if the child was not in receipt of a pension.

Empire Exhibition.

The matter of the appointment of Secretary for the Empire Exhibition was discussed, and it was moved by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Mr. Sexty, that the Premier be written to and asked the position with regard to any appointments, and also why returned soldiers were not given an opportunity of applying for the position of Secretary to the Organising Committee, and such letter to be signed by the President and Vice-President.

C. J. Dilley.

A letter was received from the Colonial Secretary stating that no position could be made available for Mr. Dilley, and the Secretary was instructed to make arrangements for Mr. Sexty to see the Colonial Secretary on Tuesday, 5th February.

British Empire Service League.

A letter from the Federal President was read stating that, owing to the conditions in the near East, it would be impossible for the League to hold a rally this year, and suggesting that the next meeting should be held in England. Moved by Mr. Sexty, seconded by Mr. Robson—that the Executive is in accord with the proposal; and that the State should be considered when appointing delegates—Carried.

“Australian.”

A letter was received from the “Australian” with regard to an account, and it is pointed out that this Executive had a considerable larger committee, the matter should be handed to the League’s solicitor.

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The President stated that he had conferred with a Mr. Taylor, who was the only recognised amateur in this State, and as he was proceeding to Melbourne he would advise him to the secretary of the Union of amates, as the contests were to be confined to that class. On the motion of Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Bader, a committee, consisting of Rabbi Freedman, Mr. Watt and Bader, was appointed to make arrangements with power to add.

J. E. Veitch.

The Secretary reported that he had been unable to obtain any satisfaction in this matter, namely, the reinstatement of a returned soldier in the Railway Department, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Coffey, Cox, and Isaac, was appointed to interview the Commissioner of Railways, the file being handed to Mr. Beechey for perusal.

War Service Homes.

It was reported that the contracts for lime and stone used in the building of war service homes were placed with a firm who were not returned soldiers, and that returned soldiers were able to supply. On the motion of Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Robson, the matter was left in the hands of the Repatriation Committee.
Medal Ribbons.

A letter was received from the General Secretary with regard to medal ribbons, which had been brought to the office by the State Secretary, and it was resolved that these be made available to financial members of the League on proof being produced that they are entitled to such ribbons, and that branches be notified accordingly.

Employment Bureau.

A report was submitted showing the operations of the R.S.L. Employment Bureau in all States.

The report from the State Branch Bureau and figures for January were also received.

Moved by Mr. Sexty, seconded by Mr. Bader—that Mr. Ankettell be informed that the Executive would appreciate a visit from him at its next meeting, for the purpose of discussing the matter of employment generally.—Carried.

It was resolved also that Mr. Malcolm, the Employment Officer, should be present at the next meeting.

Reports.

Mr. Sexty reported verbally with regard to the matter of A. H. Page and fruit marketing, and the President requested that written reports should be submitted as soon as possible.

Agenda.

It was resolved that the remaining items of the agenda, namely, appointment of an organiser and reports, be the first business for next meeting.

The chairman then declared the meeting closed.

EXECUTIVE MEETING.

14/2/23.

Trusteeship.

A letter was received from Colonel Collatt stating that he was willing to accept the position of trustee, and he was duly appointed.

Herdman's Lake.

A letter was received from Mr. J. Carter, M.L.A., stating that he had been unable to obtain the information required regarding the valuation of Herdman's Lake, and the matter was referred to the Soldiers' Settlement Committee on the motion of Mr. Beechey, seconded Mr. Bolton.—Carried.

Returned Soldiers Preference Association.

The secretary reported that no reply had been received from Mr. A. R. Sleep, and it was moved Mr. Cornell, seconded Mr. Beechey, that a registered letter be sent to Mr. Sleep in the terms of the resolution passed on the 17th January.—Carried.

Country Visits.

Letters from the Premier's office with regard to the issue of passes for organising purposes were received.

Mr. Sexty reported that he had attended the opening of the memorial wing at the Northam Hospital, and the President stated that he and the secretary had visited Mt. Lawley and Armadale sub-branches.

With regard to the visit to Collie, it was resolved that as rail passes could not be provided the League should be represented by the President only.

Emperor Exhibition.

The secretary reported that although he had been in constant communication with the Premier's office, he had been unable to receive a reply to a letter asking for an official list of the Executive and Committee appointments made to date.

The latest information was that the inquiry had been referred to Mr. Scad dan, who was now away from the office owing to ill health.

After considerable discussion it was moved Mr. Beechey, seconded Mr. Bader, that unless a satisfactory reply be given to the representations of the League, in the matter of Empire Exhibition appointments, and due recognition given to the League by representation on the committee, a mass meeting of returned soldiers be held to make a public protest.—Carried.

C. J. Dilley.

Following on an interview which Mr. Sexty had with the Colonial Secretary, a letter was received from that Minister, stating that the previous decision arrived at could not be altered. It was resolved that the Clermont-Cottagebranch be advised, and asked if they desire any further action.

Organisers.

The President stated that he had given some consideration to the matter of appointment of an organiser, with the object of further strengthening the League, and suggested that the services of a collector and organiser be secured. After discussion it was moved Mr. Bolten, seconded Mr. Robson, that this matter be referred to the Management Committee for report and recommendation.—Carried.

R.S.L. Co-operative Trading Company.

Letters were received from the R.S.L. Co-operative Company enclosing cheques for dividend amounting to £50, for the Executive and £70 for the Trustee, on behalf of the branches. Moved Mr. Sexty and seconded Mr. Isaac, that the cheques should be received and amounts allocated as directed by Congress.—Carried.

C.P.S. Sub-Section.

A letter was received from the C.P.S. Sub-section with regard to branch matters, from Mr. Isaac, seconded Mr. Sexty, was referred to the Management Committee.

Federal Executive Meeting.

The President reported on the meeting of the Federal Executive, the minutes of which were placed on the table. He also submitted the Federal President's report on his visit to America, and it was resolved that this should be published.

Sick Leave for Soldier Civil Servants.

The report of the committee was submitted and a letter was received from the Civil Servants' Association, stating that they had been advised that no alteration in the decisions now in force could be made. It was resolved that this matter be referred to the committee previously appointed.

Anzac Day.

The report of the meeting held on the 30th January, 1923, of representatives of the two branches was read, and it was moved Mr. Isaac, seconded Mr. Bader, that the report be received and adopted, and that Anzac Day Committee, consisting of Rabbi Freedman, Messrs. Bader and Beechey, be appointed to carry out the recommendations of such meeting.—Carried.

Letters received from the Upper Swan Sub-branch and the Railway Workshops Branch with regard to Anzac Day, were also referred to the committee.

Resignation.

Mr. E. W. Morris wrote resigning his position on the Executive, owing to absence in the country. Moved Mr. Cooke, seconded Mr. Kirke, that Mr. Morris be asked to reconsider this matter, in view of the valuable service he had rendered, and that leave of absence be granted for the period of three months.—Carried.

Repatriation Commission.

A letter was received from the Federal Executive stating that the nomination was to be called from each State branch, to fill the position of representative on the Federal Repatriation Commission. On the motion of the secretary, seconded Mr. Kirk, it was resolved that all branches be notified of the intention of the Executive to submit a nominee for such representative, and invited to submit a suitable nomination not later than the 10th March, Carried.

North Fremantle Sub-branch.

A letter was received from the North Fremantle Sub-branch, asking for representation to place several matters for complaint before the Executive. The secretary reported that he had at once written to the Sub-branch concerned inviting the secretary to be present, and had received no reply, It was resolved that Mr. McCabe be invited to attend the next meeting.

Amalgamation.

Letters were received from the Midland and Districts Sub-branch and Perth Sub-branch with regard to the amalgamation with other returned soldier organisations, and it was resolved that the Federal Executive be communicated with on this subject.

Loyalty.

The Midland and Districts Sub-branch submitted a resolution delaying the action taken by the Minister for Instruction in Queensland in deciding to discontinue the saluting of the Union Jack by school children. Moved Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Wilson, that as this was a domestic matter, the resolution be forwarded to the Queensland State Branch.—Carried.

Railway Employees.

A discussion took place in regard to the matter of representations amongst railway employees, and Mr. Cooke stated that this matter was already having the attention of the Metropolitan Railways Sub-branch, who were preparing for an interview with the Commissioner.

It was resolved that the Metropolitan Railways Branch be assured of the support of the Executive, and that Mr. Kirke be appointed to represent that body on any deputation.

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY"I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
He was the plague of my life! I promised him all sorts of things if he came on parade again with his face looking like a stubble patch or with his puttees bunched like a second-hand shop. On the training ground I had been so sure that Dessie was handling a pitchfork in a hayfield, when bayonet fighting was going on, Musketry was out of question because his rifle was not in a sufficiently clean state to make the pliers work, and if he was on his own! Every movement was probably about two minutes behind the squad. Altogether he was a proper dud.

As Dessie had never been in the line, I did not know just how he would behave; but out of it he only ever did anything in the line to manoeuvre.

He was not in the line to do what I for him I went o'clock, and that was to assist the anti-aircraft guns. In the training ground you'd have sworn he was prostrate, but out of it he only ever did anything in the line.

Once we had an inspection of kit prior to going up to the Paschendale heights for the stunts, and the C.B. rated poor Dessie frantically.

"Mr. Key, what the — xx 've seen, sir?"

"I've a list of his shortages, and will be able to equip him, sir," replied Key.

"But, man alive, he's filthy! Hasn't shaved, or even attempted to dress himself."

Then he turned to Dessie and ordered him to proceed to the guard tent and await further instructions.

Dessie looked at me and nodded, and off he went. I'd almost forgotten the incident when a bogey in the form of a stretcher bear-ers was heard. I went down to the tent, and found that Dessie wanted to he sure his kit was made up and that he would not be struck off duty. After promising to do what I could for him I went back to supervise the erection of a sandbag break round the tents to minimise the danger of aeroplane bombing.

When the night came I confess to having felt somewhat apprehensive, for it was a pearl of a night. Not a cloud in the heavens, and the big full moon so powerfully bright as to render the stars almost invisible. Soon the drone of Gothas was heard, and searchlights sent up shafts to assist the anti-aircraft guns. In a few seconds a veritable barrage of these rays smote the nerves of the Goths although they were now directly overhead. It's the most unnerving of sensations (next to the bagpipes) imaginable, and it was almost a relief to hear the deepening detonation of the bombs when they were discharged. The word was soon passed round that H.Qrs. had got it, and that the C.B. was seriously wounded. There were about 17 casualties, including 7 officers, and genuine alarm was spread throughout the Battalion for every casualty with the exception of the beloved person of the C.B. His reign had been very long, and it would be safe to say that few of us were the reverse of glad at the happening so far as the C.B. was concerned.

As soon as things had quietened down, a couple of the local peasantry rushed into the camp demanding "damages." The Sergeants proffered a few francs from the rick, and it was the hardest work I have ever tried, to make them agree to wait until daylight to investigate.

"How know we you not go to-night?" the relieving officer asked, and the injured one.

A revolver shot was the reply to this query, and, turning, I saw the smoking weapon was held by a gaardner.

"Spy!" he muttered, pointing to the prostrate peasant, and, in his own language, told the other civilian to take up the body and remove it.

It appears that the whole business of the bombing raid was arranged by the signals of this spy, and that he was seeking information as to whether we were moving up at night or not.

The next morning the Adjutant sent word for the release of Dessie, and it was not long before we were under way for the field beyond Ypers. Our plan of action was carefully discussed, and aerial photographs were issued showing our sector, which included Polygon Wood, of course.

Then we had to agree on a course comprising many angles, in the inner clearing, and was so clearly defined on these photos that we expected our Australian bushcraft might prove handy.

The memorable 29th September came as the day for our big move, and we found that Dessie was not only the keenest in the field, but he was also well prepared for the task. He had a course comprising many angles, in the inner clearing, and was so clearly defined on these photos that we expected our Australian bushcraft might prove handy.

When we kicked off from the tape Dessie was well there, but more unkempt than ever in appearance, with his rifle slung over his shoulder. He worked his way to my side, and shouted through the din of the inferno around that his rusty bayonet would possibly cause blood poisoning to set in if he had the chance to use it. I chaffed back to him that he was transgressing the conventions of decency in using poisoned weapons, and that time onward I saw no more of Dessie for long enough to come.

After the stunt I was working up my roll and recording the various casualties, gleaning information from the different units, but no news could I get of Dessie. This piece of incongruity had just simply vanished, and so I posted him as missing.

Later on I learned that Dessie had become so furious at finding Polygon Wood a shell torn area with nearby a tree butt standing, that he had set out single-handed to settle the contents of a pill-box. The machine guns had practically mowed through his legs, and he had later been evacuated as a casualty.

A few months later, when Fritzie made his big push on Amiens in early eighteen, I received my own issue of "iron rations" and was evacuated. Many more months passed in hospital in France, England, and finally in Australia, and still I had heard no more of Dessie.

Tiring of hospital fare, I one day made my way to Perth and sought out one of the biggest and best known restaurants. The place was packed, and I had much ado to find a seat. Quietly enjoying some refreshments I thought over old times, when suddenly from across the building a stentorian roar sounded:

"Hello the old Sarg."

The voice sounded familiar, and I looked up to observe Dessie on crutches making his uncertain way towards me. Of course everyone in the place watched with interest to my intense embarrassment. Placing a grin on my shoulder, Dessie hailed the crowd:

"One of the whitest—drilled me on Polygon Wood—marched me—goddamn fellow—there old Sarg.—ish stone."

"Hush, man!" I protested.

He then breathed a mixture of Perth, Swan, and Union over me, and muttered he was broke—had I a bob to spare?

Of course he got the cash and departed, and as soon as I could manage I dissolved from the room. Now when I enter a public gathering of any kind, I always make a reconnaissance for Dessie first, to avoid a repetition of this most unenjoyable publicity.

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CHAS. H. CURLEWIS, Manager

Simo: While in Paris I paid 15s. in tips alone. Waiter (assisting him on with his coat): You must have lived there a good many years, sir.

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
SOLILQUY
(First "Monoped")

The other day, while the mercury was registering in the vicinity of 100 deg. in the coolest and most elevated spot in Pardon's environs, a member of the office staff asked me what sort of nib I would recommend him to use, as the heat dried up the ink before he could write two consecutive words. I suggested a "Reserv-er" nib, and the wag replied: "Yes, that brand should hold the ink well!" I imagine, however, that pots would have been more popular than wells—ink or otherwise.

A contemporary in the "Tourista's Isr" tells of a happening in its fair clime. A managing director in one of the leading mercantile houses the other day hit a gentle tap at his door, and, in response to his invitation, a clerk came forward to his table. The story contains there are two things one is never prepared for, and that is twins! The clerk had come to say this double-barrelled astonishment had come his way. He said he did not know whether to be glad or sorry, but at any rate his present salary was only just sufficient to make both ends meet and consequently he was wondering whether, under the circumstances, the firm could see its way clear to celebrate the auspicious occasion by granting him a slight increase. The managing director promised to consult his brother director. He did so, and one generous-minded colleague said that it was an unprecedented happening in the history of the firm, and not only should the advance be approved, but the mother should be presented with a silver cup to mark the achievement.

A few days later the same visitor again presented himself at his chief's office.

"Well, what's amiss now?" questioned the managing director. "No more twins, I hope?" "No, sir," replied the clerk, "but my wife wants to know whether the silver cup is her share of the property or whether it is a trophy to be competed for annually?"

The wryly war between the City Council and the Government is not indicative of indolence regarding interest in maintaining the dignity of the respective parties. The gentlemen who have won their spurs, supported by the taxpayers, challenge and counter-challenge until the community at large anticipates that something will be done to improve the lot of moraists generally. One cannot be wholly pessimistic in those prosperous days so free from strife; yet when a request to keep a written contract is met with an intention to mind one's own business, it is apt to nip optimism in the bud. The Council says, as did all who were left, with the country's promise, a menace to public safety, and asked for attention to be given to repairs. The Government, instead of complying or making a definite refusal, told the Council that its own roadways and footpaths were as bad or worse.

Now, I want to know what right Sir William has to object to fifty (or twice the number, for that matter) members sitting to discuss the question of selling lollies, cigarettes, or even fishing tackle, at the Cave House. He seems to overlook the fact that the profits so derived would pay for the cost of the discussion—in time. Say the discussion only takes half an hour, and that the preliminaries take barely double that time, well, there's only about the equivalent to one member's time for a year taken up—you know how most do a year they too—now, isn't it reasonable to suppose that the profits (if any) would wipe out the paltry few hundred some day?

Burns night was responsible for a few things. Burns would no doubt be flatter if he could see how world-wide the interest in him still is. But of course it takes more Scot to understand a Scot. This expression reminds me that "Scottish" is an English word and is to Scotsman most odious. The Scotch Church and Scots College pall on a Scotman's ears when referred to. The only time when "Scott" does not offend is when it's in fluid form.

A number of "auld" jokes were revived, and many worth telling, many others, a Scottish judge, of great renown, during the hearing of a case, leaned over his desk and asked a young advocate who a certain witness, with a red nose and bleary eyes, was. "He is a trustee of the Water Board, my lord," was the reply. The judge remarked: "From his looks I do not know of anyone to whom I could more safely trust water. The same gentleman was questioning the wretched man about his time, and on asked the latter what he was doing, received the following reply: "Oh, just writing a few verses to keep the ink from the door. How, enquired the judge, "do you read the verses to the wolf?"

THE EMPIRE TRADE EXHIBITION

THE EMPIRE TRADE EXHIBITION AND PREFERENCE TO RETURNED SOLDIERS

The Premier's Hollow Promise.
(By E.S.W.)

The British Empire Trade Exhibition, to be held in London in 1924, will be the biggest exhibition ever held in the history of the world. All parts of the Empire are participating, and are already working on a scale previously unheard of. It is estimated that the expenditure of the Commonwealth Government alone will amount to £200,000.

The States have control of obtaining, preparing, and arranging for delivery of exhibits. From that stage the Commonwealth takes charge.

Recognising that such a huge project would entail much labour, expert and otherwise, the R.S.I. got early in the year and asked the Commonwealth Government for preference of employment for returned soldiers. The reply received from the Prime Minister's Department was to the effect that the Commission approved of the policy, which they stated would be given effect to wherever practicable.

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FEBRUARY 16, 1923.

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

Mr. H. S. Humphrey's Impressions.

A representative from this journal recently interviewed Mr. H. S. Humphrey, the President of the R.S.L., with the request that he state his impressions gained during his recent trip to Melbourne to attend a meeting of the Federal Executive.

Mr. Humphrey stated that he and Mr. Arthur Penny, the State Secretary, arrived in Melbourne on Wednesday, 11th January, and the greeting they received from Mr. Forrest, the Federal Secretary, and others, was most cordial. They had hoped for a spell from travelling after the long journey across, but were promptly saluted by the Secretary of the R.S. and S. Woollen Mills, and at an early hour next morning left for Geelong.

The visit was most instructive and valuable, continued Mr. Humphrey, instructive as showing the value of co-operation amongst soldiers, and valuable in that we secured for our co-operative store the sole agency for W.A. of the excellent woollen goods which are manufactured at this mill.

The Federal Executive meeting commenced at 2.30 on Thursday and continued, with short spells for meals and sleep, until the following day at 6.30 p.m., when the agenda paper of 47 items was completed. The matters covered by that agenda were naturally all of interest to returned soldiers, and the results of our deliberations have been published in the press.

I should like to mention that the President, Capt. Dyett, reported on his visit to America, where he went to represent Australia's returned men at that huge congress of 30,000 returned soldiers and dependents.

Capt. Dyett received an ovation wherever he went, showing that America has not forgotten the Aussie with whom he fought. That remembrance is to be further solidified by the negotiations which are proceeding to form an English-speaking union of soldiers who fought in the Great War.

We were very much impressed by the headquarters of the Victorian Branch and the keenness of its official members, who were responsible for our entertainment.

All States reported a re-awakened interest and activity in League circles.

The impression forced upon us is that our League is a tremendously real and vital element for good in the life of our Australian Nation.

Mr. Penny and myself came away more than ever impressed with the real values of the League, which we believe exists only as long as it is doing on behalf of returned soldiers.

To the man who says that the League is dying because the necessity for it no longer exists, I can now from my own experience give him his answer. The League is very much alive, and the necessity for its continuance is every day more apparent.

THE LISTENING POST.

This year must see a great addition of members to our ranks, for it is only by numerical strength that we can maintain our present achievements and retain sufficient power to successfully fight against any and every encroachment upon our undoubted rights.

In conclusion, said our tall President, I desire to pay a tribute to Mr. Penny. His wonderful grasp of League matters, and his untiring zeal in the cause of the digger, being of great assistance during the trip.

A DIGGER PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Bruce's Rapid Rise.

Returned soldiers generally, whatever be their individual political beliefs, will rejoice in the fact that Australia has the first in the Empire to appoint a digger as Prime Minister. S. M. Bruce, athlete, business man, and diplomat, was during the war, a member of a fighting unit, and though until a certain actively young man, he has reached the much coveted political position of Prime Ministership.

The "Listening Post" has always expressed the opinion that if returned soldiers were fit to fight for Australia they should logically be capable of helping to rule her. Modern warfare demands, besides health and stamina, a degree of brains and skill.

There is little doubt that during the dark war period, Australia was shockingly misgoverned. Gross extravagance and inefficiency held away unchecked, and today Australia possesses an unwanted soviet of the War in the shape of a staggering national debt, which our meagre population of five million people must bear. It may be argued that, in order to resolutely continue the war, a huge expenditure was essential. But the digging of pounds of meat was completely squandered without the slightest attempt at economy or efficiency.

The withdrawal from Australia of hundreds of thousands of her youth obviously had an adverse effect on the government of the Commonwealth. Wise old Greek philosophers maintained that a healthy mind was housed in a healthy body. The healthy men went away to fight, and therefore the healthy brains were fighting, upon whom was thrown the work of government during a time of crisis. Old-timers and has-beens were brought back from retirement and oblivion, and handed the reins of government. Is it any wonder that an era of blundering efficiency ensued?

When the soldiers returned from the job of slaying Fritz, they resumed their places in the life of the country. Many of the most successful farmers, business men, and Parliamentarians to-day, and most of Australia's best citizens, are diggers. They have applied the energy and ability they showed in the War, to civil pursuits. In politics, returned soldiers have also been most successful, for electors are realising that this is the age of young men. The elevation of a returned soldier to the loftiest political pinnacle in Australia is a natural sequence to the events of the last few years.

S. M. Bruce is a young man, being still under forty years of age; and his rise to prominence and fame has been phenomenally rapid. That he will fulfil the most sanguine expectations of his admirers, and show wisdom, discretion, and tolerance in the performance of his duties to the Minister of Australia, is the earnest and confident hope of "The Listening Post."

R.S.L. EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

The State Secretary of the R.S.L. (Mr. W. A. Penny) wishes again to notify employers that a number of ex-soldiers of all occupations are awaiting engagement. It is particularly requested that those able to offer work of any sort will communicate with him. The Bureau is connected by telephone (A2431) and is situated in the Government Gardens, opposite the General Post Office. During January, 113 positions were found for returned men. This Mr. Penny feels could be largely increased if employers would first apply to the Bureau to see if it could not find them amongst the returned men registered, before advertising any vacancy. This would obviate the necessity of employers interviewing a large number of applicants, and a selection could be made from two or three competent men sent by the Bureau.

At the beginning of the month there were still 250 men on the books, of whom the majority are capable of doing any sort of work. As a result of war disabilities, others seek lighter employment, such as caretakers, watchmen, and lifemans. A number of clerks are also on the books, who, it is thought, could be enlisted by employers to advise the League of their wants in this direction.

It is hoped that employers generally will do what they can to place at least some of these returned soldiers, and they are assured of prompt attention being given any communication sent the Bureau.

"Violets": The marketing of soldier produce is no doubt an enormous problem. The Yarloop and District Development League, which is composed largely of returned soldiers, believe that the solution lies in district co-operation under competent management, and is pushing on with a scheme, the full details of which are not yet finalised.

The Man: What would you call her—chestnut? The Woman: Oh, dear, no. She hasn't had it long enough to become a chestnut.

Wife: The doctor has advised me to go South for a month's rest. The question now is where to go? Husband: Go to another doctor.

Have you something to 'help a pore man on his way, mum? asked Hungry Harry. Certainly, said the woman, as she whisked for the dog.

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
A "digger" who is doing good work quietly for the League is the genial Sam Simpson, acting Town Clerk of Collie. Sam takes an active interest in any matters concerning the welfare of the Union Sub-branch, and his kindly assistance and well thought out suggestions are always appreciated by all those with whom he comes in contact. He is just such a man as may be looked to when anything of a critical nature turns up. Although his municipal duties occupy a larger portion of his time, he always squeezes in time to assist when called upon by his sub-branch so to do. Sam has held the position of treasurer to the Collie Sub-branch for a considerable period, and there is no man better fitted for the job. May he continue to be that tower of support to the League he has always been in the past the sincere wish of his Collie comrades.

"Amy": I note the motion moved by Mr. Cooke, at R.S.L. Executive meeting held 20/12/22, concerning a member absent for three consecutive meetings.

"That's the stuff to give 'em". There is no earthly reason why an Executive member, when once having accepted such a position, should not do his bit by attending regularly, unless, of course, prevented by unforeseen circumstances, and then there is no excuse for not sending along the usual explanatory apology. Judging by "Cookies'" motion, the present Executive fully intend carrying out their functions to the satisfaction of all R.S.L. members, and he is to be complimented upon his wide-awake action in this respect.

Before leaving Perth to take a Federal appointment, ex-League Solicitor Brahman bequethed his mantle and legal practice to Max Kott, the Terrace solicitor. Like Brahman, Kott is an ex-digger, and he is a great barracker for and Vice-President of Mt. Lawley Sub-branch.

Maurice Zeffert is the new President of the Mount Lawley Sub-branch. "Morry" is a good speaker, and is fired with enthusiasm for the diggers' cause. He was the original editor of this journal, which position he was forced to vacate owing to pressure of business. The famous 51st Battalion was his unit, and he received multiple wounds at Poelcsteert, near Messines. We expect things to move in the northern suburb.

Edgar Sugden, the popular Agricultural Bank Inspector for the York district, is at present an inmate of the soldiers' ward at the Perth Hospital. Edgar was in the original 11th Battalion, and received his issue of iron ration on the third day after landing, which shattered his left arm. The loss of his arm has not prevented him from riding his motor-cycle over many thousands of miles on bush roads. A genuine battler and an all-round good fellow is Edgar, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Another prominent returned digger in the soldiers' ward suffering from a recurrence of his numerous war injuries is A. G. (Stumpy) Wright, "Stumpy" is a member of the Repatriation State Board, and is always a battler for his digger comrades. He was that badly knocked about by Fritz that perhaps it is a fellow-feeling which makes him kind.

Missed from the meetings of the State Executive, where his sound reasoning was appreciated, is C. L. Harvey, who has accepted a position somewhere in the vicinity of Busselton. Mr. Harvey was also the Secretary of the West Perth (Civil Service) Sub-branch.

Alex. Macachlan, late of the A.I.F. force which captured German New Guinea, can be located at Boan Bros' grocery department. Alex's health is the reverse of robust, due to an overdose of malaria, but this fact does not deter him from conducting two troops of Boy Scouts and acting as Metropolitan Commissioner to that fine movement.

"Billy-O": According to the Perth evening paper, the reason why the necessary capital to establish the Westralian Woollen Mills cannot be collected is because "we have looked to England so long for our supply of manufactured woollen goods that our minds have become prejudiced against local production."

In the opinion of the writer, this is right off the track. The reason why careful people won't risk their hard-earned cash is because of the fear of local labour disputes. Westralia is the only State where the engineers are on strike for 44 hours a week. Elsewhere, the men are working 48. Who knows but that if the money is forthcoming and the mills started there wouldn't be a strike five minutes later. It's hard to believe. And as strikes play the devil with profits, people prefer to sink money into agencies for importing goods from Japan or America, or in fact any country where there are not quite so many strikes as in Australia.

Those diggers who want to know what good the R.S.L. can do in the future should closely study the following cable, which gives some idea of how ex-service men are already being treated in England. Exactly the same sort of thing can easily happen here, but a strong influential R.S.L. will make the heads think twice before they make a wholesale dismissal of returned soldiers:-- "The recent dismissals of ex-service men who were temporary clerks in the public service (notably in the Ministry for Labour) have led to many demonstrations of protest. At a remarkable meeting of public service men last night all ex-service men agreed to return their war medals to the Prime Minister, including Victoria Crosses, D.S.O.'s, and M.C.'s."

A. MENDELSOHN

LADIES' & GENT.'S TAILOR

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WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
THE "WINGIES AND STUMPIES GAZETTE"

Being a chronicle of the doings of the Returned Maimed and Limbless Men's Association of W.A.

THE SECRETARIES' EXPLANATION.

We are pleased to report that our Association has made arrangements with the "Listening Post" to publish a "Wingies and Stumpies" page, containing information that it is thought may concern and interest our members.

A copy of each monthly issue of this journal will be posted free of cost to our country members, and we believe this decision of ours will be the means of conveying to our members who live some distance from the city some idea of the work and progress of the Association to which they belong. Possibly there may be contained in this journal from time to time some decision on matters of the Association that country members would like to pass an opinion on, and the Secretary invites members to communicate with him on any matter of interest, and he will place their approval, criticism, or views before the general meeting of this Association.

Your Executive trusts that this arrangement will have the full support of the country members of the Association.

Yours faithfully,

STAN. O'GRADY,
Secretary.

The ambition of this Association is to eventually own a hostel of its own, and during the last three months the Executive Committee of the Association have been looking carefully into this matter. A fair amount of financial support has been forthcoming, and we believe that the Red Cross Society will greatly assist us in this matter.

The Secretary has been instructed to give this special consideration, and members can look for an announcement in this paper in the very near future.

It will probably be interesting to members to know that the membership of the Returned Maimed and Limbless Men's Association is 440, and includes every amputee in Western Australia, and during the last twelve months the average attendance at meetings was 72, which probably constitutes a record for any similar body in the State.

No doubt members are aware that in Sydney and Melbourne the Red Cross Society have generously donated a motorcycle and side-car for the use of double amputation cases who can prove to the Society that this gift would be the means of allowing them to successfully fill their pre-war occupation, or fit them for any other suitable calling. In New South Wales over 30 of these machines have been running for the last twelve months, and we are thankful to say no accidents of any description have been recorded. This Association made representations to the local Red Cross Society, and some three months ago Mr. H. Appleton was made the recipient of this gift, and two other members of the Association, Mr. Bacham and Mr. Bunter, have been approved of, and they will be the proud owners of the machines very shortly. It is a magnificent gift to them, and the best thanks of the Association are extended to the Red Cross Society for their help in this and many other matters that the Association has asked of them.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Francis Newdegate, has always been a great supporter and kind friend to this Association, and during the past year, on two or three occasions, has attended our meetings, and otherwise shown great interest in our members.

After returning from his home in England, the Secretary of the Association was granted an interview with His Excellency, wherein matters affecting the limbless men were discussed, and His Excellency conveyed to the Secretary some of his observations on the work and lot of the limbless men in the old land.

Sir Francis attaches great importance to our members going in for exercise. He recommended swimming, and, acting on his suggestion, the Association moved rapidly, and on March 10th, at the Claremont Swimming Club, a team's race between the "Wingies" and "Stumpies" will be held. Likely competitors have been interviewed for this event, and the Secretary asks that any member who likes himself in the briny should communicate with him immediately as he is anxious to finalise the teams.

Lifting driving in the city appears to be the most suitable vocation for our out-of-work members, but these positions are made infinitely harder to obtain by reason of the fact that the firms of the city employ girls and boys under the age of 21 at a salary of 35/- to 42/- per week. These young people, on attaining the age of 21, come under the award of 35/- per week, but, in order to avoid this, they are retrenched on reaching that age and younger people engaged. It is to be regretted, as these young people are eventually retrenched after years of wasted life in a dead-end occupation, and thrown on the unemployment market as unskilled unemployed.

This Association has placed this matter in the hands of the soldier members of Parliament, to have the Machinery Act so amended to make it unlawful for any firm to employ any person in charge of driving in a parcel or lift under the age of 21, and by this means this Association is of the opinion that our members will have a better chance of securing these positions.

This Bill will be placed before Parliament as soon as the next session opens, and the Secretary will publish further information at a later date.

Members are reminded that a circulating library is in full swing at their office in 905 Hay-street, Perth, and a fine collection of books is at their disposal.

A membership fee of one shilling is charged, and the Secretary hopes that members will avail themselves of the opportunity of joining this library.

The Secretary reported to the last general meeting that a member who had been admitted to the soldiers' ward at the Perth Public Hospital had been given notice that he would be transferred to a civil ward, as the reason for his treatment was not attributed to war service. The Association, with the help of kind friends, made representations to the Repatriation Department, with the result that he was allowed to remain in the soldiers' ward, as his disability may be traced to war service.

The chairman introduced at the last general meeting Mr. McKail, who was in attendance by invitation of the Association, and to again demonstrate his artificial arm. Dr. Jeutt was invited to the meeting, but unfortunately was unable to attend. Mr. McKail demonstrated his artificial arm to a very attentive and appreciative meeting, doing all manner of useful experiments with it, although he had not worn it for over three years. Mr. McKail travelled over East some years ago, and endeavoured to place the arm on the military authorities for issue to A.I.F. men requiring them, but he was unable to break through the opposition.

Mr. Greenfield and Mr. Perry demonstrated their Carne arm, and compared them with the McKail arm, and, whilst they appeared to be on a par, the grip of the McKail arm appeared to recommend it as the better one. The meeting decided to follow this matter up with Melbourne, and McKail agreed to leave the arm and the secret with this Association.

A hearty vote of thanks was recorded to Mr. McKail for attending and demonstrating his artificial arm, and the Association promises to do all in its power to have the arm placed before Headquarters in Melbourne.

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
Contributions on any matter of digger interest are invited. These may range from reminiscences of war experiences to current topics generally. No responsibility is taken for the expressions of opinion contained hereunder, and only criticisms of a helpful and constructive nature are desired.

E. St. Ives Bilston writes from Katabung:-Many thanks to "Armies" (Jan."L.P." for his kind words of appreciation. It is refreshing to know that at least one dinkum digger countenances the matter of digger unity in the light it pleases me to present same. When I was a "wee lil' chap" my time-honored, grand old grand-dad used to take me on his knee, and well do I remember how he often told me that a true man's creed was wrapped up in three simple words, viz., "Defend the Right." This I've tried to do, but it is a large order to undertake. I contend that any digger may start at the right end by joining his union and sticking to it, without paying the slightest heed to those disgruntled ones who expect to be lionised by virtue of being permitted the privilege of wearing an A.I.F. badge.

"P.G.R.": Bilston's article in the January "L.P." on "The Gentleman of the Balkans" interested me. The "stringing up" of Armenians photo referred to was, I think, taken at Fessyl. The Turk-Armenian problem seems to me to be similar in some respects to the English-Irish one. Jacko Turk always reckons that he only gives as good as he gets. There is something radically wrong with the Armenian. He is held in contempt by all, and is not trusted by anyone in Palestine or Syria. To use a digger idiom, he is lacking in "guts," and although I don't believe in the inhuman "gentleman" being permitted to slaughter Armenians, I do think that the world is none the poorer for their passing. After all, there is no getting away from the fact of the survival of the fittest.

"Violeta": "Camelo's" "Varia" ("L.P." Jan.) reminds me of an experience in the same town. My regiment had pulled up about one mile from Tripoli, and some of the inhabitants politely welcomed us and asked us when the black Australian diggers were coming to camp there. Some wag had evidently been stretching their limbs.

"Paleface": For once W.A. was ahead of the Commonwealth. We have had our Bruce Rock for long enough, but the rock of the Federal Parliament has only recently acquired the title "Bruce."

"Violeta": E. St. Ives Bilston is a batter for the League, but it is a well-known fact that the R.S.L. is losing members, and it is well to analyse the reasons. I was a member of the Perth Sub-branch, and the Secretary did not even bother to try for matters which I wrote about. The little things not attended to are often the cause of a lost member. We are only human, and secretaries should understand a little about humanity. I will quote two examples, the miniature badge stand, and the R.S.L. Co-op. Stores. I have searched the pages of the "L.P." each month in my efforts to find out what they are selling, but to date have failed to locate their advertisement. Knowing Mr. Bilston personally, I know him to be genuine, more genuine than many in official R.S.L. positions. Let those in charge interest themselves in the rank and file, instead of trying to get the rank and file interested in them, and the membership will increase by leaps and bounds.

(Note.—Cannot understand the reference to the miniature badge stand. Perhaps "Violeta" will explain.—* *)

"Paleface": There is no need for me to name the weekly I desire to refer to, if I say that the newspaper in question is especially addicted to that class of journalism which seeks to make fun of the mistakes of other journals. In the latest issue of the newspaper the following passage appeared:

"Amongst the guests (at the Napier-Hetherington wedding) were Sir Talbot Hobbs—uncle and aunt to the bridegroom—Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, etc."

No doubt Sir Talbot will be amused to learn that he appeared as Mr. Dudley Napier's aunt; but the journal should be careful, because not all people are as forgiving as our digger chief.

"Camelo": Most lovers of literature and poetry follow no scheduled course of reading, preferring to read at random. To the cultured mind the classical works of the genii of the ages are an ever welcome source of instruction and delight. Ninety-nine per cent. of published writings bear the stamp of mediocrity, and many readers, including myself, are driven to the hunt of the unknown, prefer to wade through this desert in the hopes of finding a wonderful oasis. I have found a gem which is vivid and unusual, and I want your readers to share it with me. It was stuck away in a corner of an English periodical and was written by Muried Stuart:

LADY HAMILTON.

Men wondered why I loved you, and none guessed,
How sweet your slow, divine stupidity.
Your look of earth, your sense of drowsy rest,
So rich, so strange, so all unlike, my sea.

After the temper of my sails, my lean,
Tall masts, you were the lure of harborhours,
A sleepy landscape warm and very green,
Where browning creatures stare above still flowers.

These salt hands holding sweetness, the leader led.
A slave, too happy and too crazed to sea
Land-locked, brine and honey in one bed,
And England's man your servant and your fool.

My banquetting eyes foresaw my waiting ships:
I was a silly landsman at your lips.

"S. E. T. Richards": On behalf of my Association, the North Lake Brown Progress Association, I crave a little space in your journal to give publicity to the importance of the water supply in this district. We have no permanent water supply, and of the three Government tanks two are out of commission and the third has barely a week's supply for the whole district. The nearest permanent water supply is the Goldfields Water Scheme, from fifteen to thirty-five miles away. The shortage is due to the lightness of the winter rains and the lack of summer thunderstorms.

We are in a similar position to the settlers of 1914 who were forced by the water shortages to abandon their properties. The majority of the settlers who returned soldiers, and are determined to hang on as long as possible. We are in communication with the Premier on the subject, with the object of having water sent to the nearest rail head.
THE LISTENING POST.

PAGE THIRTEEN

February 16, 1923.

"Z.Z."

The Society columns of the local press continue to publish dozens of puff pars about Mr. and Mrs. Swank who have left the U.S. Wheelbarrow on a trip to the Eastern States. To read the 'pars one might imagine that the peregrinating folk are to be commended for rushing to the Eastern States because they have something to spend. The worst offender is the "Sunday Times," a paper which constantly (and monotonously) laments because the East sucks so much cash from W.A. We would request the editor for blurring contemporary that it would be more in keeping with its vaunted policy of boosting W.A. if they were to coldly ignore all those would-be smart folk who make money in the West and spend it in the East. To make the practice less fashionable would be to retain more money within our own State.

"Camel": Colonel T. E. Lawrence is perhaps the most remarkable and romantic personality of the war. He was an Oxford undergraduate and was engaged on archaeological studies in Arabia for a number of years when war was declared. So popular was he among the Arabs, that he granted an interview with them, that he was practically solely responsible for the adherence of that powerful oil-throat army under the Sherif of Meecia. During the whole of the war he remained with the Arab army, being the right-hand man of Sherif Emir Feisal. He dressed as an Arab, and so well did he speak the language that most of his time was spent in secret service work among the enemy. He was in Damascus many times when our line was scores of miles away, and perhaps his most famous stunt was the blowing up of the train which was conveying Djemal Pasha to Jerusalem in 1917. I met the Colonel once in peculiar circumstances. We, the Imperial Camel Corps, were camped near Rafa, and were training our camels and organized for a march which we expected to carry out in conjunction with the Arab army. I was in charge of the line guard, portion of whose duty consisted in keeping away from the camp the thieving Bedouins. A dirty-looking Arab came near the lines and would not leave, so we pelted him with camel dung and clods of earth until he left. Later in the day we were ordered to see that everything was in order, as the famous Colonel Lawrence was going to inspect the camels. When the General arrived with the Colonel, we found him to be our dirty-looking Arab. He was a good sport and laughed at the morning's episode. He had just arrived after a trip of over 100 miles through enemy country.

"Z.Z."

A writer named Dalley has been inspired to attack the Federal Executive, particularly Dyett particularly. His articles have been published in "Smith's Weekly," a Sydney journal whose rise to a 150,000 weekly circulation has been phenomenal. Dalley charges that Dyett opposed to the National Government—in other words, that the Federal President hung on to the coat tails of William Hughes. Dalley's complaint seems to be that Dyett, instead of getting concessions and privileges by peaceful penetration should have demanded same from the Government using a "blow and deliver" method. That's the oddity: Dyett has not been in Sydney, and whatever methods he used in the getting of them don't matter very much so long as the work was done. And there's a little doubt that they were done. Dyett has been able to get practically everything he asked for—everything reasonable, at all events.

"Z.Z.": Into the State Secretary's office the other day there flitted a scared sent from Fritland. The writer declared himself to be President of an ex-soldiers' organisation in Germany, and he appealed to his "comrades" in "fortunate Australia" for money to buy plum puddings and Christmas cheer for needy Fritzes, or, as we would say, genuine, the writer shows an abundance of cool cheek in expected aid. On the other hand, the letter may not be genuine. Even if the owners of the R.S.L. were overflowing with cash and ready to give it away, it would have been a poor policy for them to go in Australia, there is no guarantee that any cash sent would be used for the purposes indicated. Anyhow, the State Secretary sent the scared to Melbourne, and the desperate-looking request for cash in the waste-paper basket under the Federal Secretary's office table.

EMPIRE RALLY

Ex-Service Men to Compete.
Notable July Event.
Selection of Australian Representatives.

In connection with the ex-service men's rally which is to be held in London in July next, the State branch of the R.S.L. has received additional particulars to those already issued. The chairman of the sports and entertainments committee (England) states:—It is the custom of the British Legion to hold an annual rally in London. For the 1923 event we have secured the great Stadium, which is part and parcel of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. Although, of course, the exhibition is not to be ready until 1924, the Stadium is to be ready by March 1923, when it will be opened by His Majesty the King. The building, when completed, will be great in dimension and beautiful in design. It is to be 50 per cent. larger than the old Empire stadium. There are no funds available for staging the exhibition, and the R.S.L. are anxious to co-operate to make the Stadium, and therefore indirectly, the exhibition, a success. We have decided, therefore, to make our rally for 1923 Imperial in nature, and we are determined to present a shield to be competed for by Empire ex-Service men in a relay race. The teams for this race will consist of four each. The first competitor will run half a mile, the second a quarter of a mile, and each of the remaining two 220 yards. As Lord Haig said in his cable, he earnestly hopes that you may be able

to send over a team of four for this great relay race. But it may be that it is not practicable for you to send so many, and in that case you could make up the numbers on this side. For instance, suppose you can only send two competitors, then you would surely be able to find two to represent your Dominion who will be living in England at that time. There will be several other events which will be published in the Imperial ex-Service men. There will be a mile and a half hurdle race and a 220 yards. I can assure you that everything will be done by the sports and entertainments committee to make your competitors feel at home.

The competition will arouse very great interest in England, and will be witnessed by thousands of people. It will undoubtedly be the event of the year, and the R.S.L. is determined that Australia will be kept well to the front. As there has already been a try-out of all the best athletes in Australia will be held in Melbourne at a date to be fixed, and we are determined to get the best possible season for Australia in peace the prominent position held during the war. It is left to each State to select of its best, and from these a team will proceed to Melbourne to compete with athletes from other States for final selection.

A committee from the State branch is engaged on the details, and assistance has been promised by prominent athletes and sports organisations. Further details will be announced in due course, and all who are willing to help are asked to communicate with the State secretary of the R.S.L. Soldiers' Institute, Perth. It is proposed to hold other events at a general sports meeting, and to include bicycle races and professional running, and possibly a treasuring race, if arrangements can be made, but it may be mentioned that all eligible to compete in the rally must be ex-service men and must be amateurs. In this connection advice has been received from Mr. G. Taylor, a prominent runner, who is at present in England, stating that the decision given by the Melbourne Amateur Athletic Association is that under the heading of amateurs anyone can be accepted who has not raced for money or raced against professionals, and that there is no need to affiliate with any amateur association.

The R.S.L. is determined that the State branch shall be represented in the events to be contested in England and has every confidence that there are amateur athletes who are quite good enough to participate. It is desired that all who propose to enter for the various events should communicate at once with the State Secretary and send in his name and particulars. It must be borne in mind, however, that the contests are confined to amateurs, that is to say, those who have not raced for money or competed with professionals.

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Just in Passing

The Editor

discourses on current
digger topics

"Uneasy lies the head that wears a
crown." Those amongst us holding high
positions have full cause to know how
well this applies, even where no emblem of
office adorns the head. Colonel Pope
is placed in a position requiring the
utmost tact, and every trick of diplomacy
is needed to successfully carry on this big
job of Commissioner of Railways.

On the one hand there is a strong
extreme faction made up of unions with
a meagre sense of justice or patriotism.
Frequently they are responsible for pla-
ing abnormal powers into the hands of
their executive officials, which often re-
results in chaos of a State-wide influence.
Secure in their own billets, these officials
prolong the strife as long as they can
blind their members to the true state of
affairs. Never once in the history of
strikes has "the game been worth the
candle."

On the other hand, the Commissioner
has a section of the community, far larger
numerically but not bound together in
unity, to whom justice and patriotism are
as second nature. These people regard,
as do the Government, that active ser-
vice has rendered its participants eligible
for a preference wherever practicable.

The disclosure of the fact that Colonel
Pope has a tendency in the latter con-
nection has earned far more for him than
he can imagine, and his action is endorsed
by this journal.

For some time the daily papers have
been issuing progress reports and de-
tailed accounts of Princess Mary's son
of the King and Queen and even of
school children's rejoicing and holidays;
but the lady's husband is left in the
background! The boy is like his mother,
and she is the recipient of all the con-
gratulations and presentations. This
journal, which is the official organ of the
State Branch of the Returned Soldiers'
League, takes this opportunity of ex-
pressing, on behalf of all diggers in this
State, the interest and pleasure felt here
at the advent of a nephew to the digger
Prince (we can hardly offer him advice),
and we congratulate not only the mother,
but the father also—and from what we
can gather few others seem to have
worried about Viscount Lascelles' senti-
ments in the matter.

Hail Prime Minister Bruce! The illu-
rious name of Bruce is once more
famous in happenings historical. It is
gratifying to the Soldiers' League to
learn that Mr. Bruce has had service as
a soldier. He was in the van at Gallipoli,
and was severely wounded at Suvla Bay.
His decorations include the Military Cross
and the Croix de Guerre.

Mr. Hughes will ever be remembered
by returned soldiers.

Answers to Correspondents

P.G.R.: Your continued interest is
a pattern for returned men. J. Stew-
art: Regret report not included.—writ-
ing. J. H. May: Only State President
going—did our best—writing. R. S.
Guthrie: Regret too late for January
issue. Included in this number.
Thanks. N. L. Skewes: Thanks. Re-
port contained herein. J. C. Clunas:
Pleased to hear from you again. Keep
us in touch with your branch doings.
Mrs. A. Baxter: Letter received. Mat-
ter attended to. E. St. Eves Bilston:
Notes much appreciated. Your rhyme
kept for next issue. Your letter 13th
inst. just to hand. Your remarks are
frank and generous.

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REGIMENTAL HISTORIES
Government Offers Help.

Realising that a general desire existed for A.I.F. Regimental Histories, three years ago the Government authorised the Unit History Scheme, and the Trustees of the Anzac Book Fund offered certain monetary assistance to committees. Many units have taken advantage of the scheme. The time for receiving applications for the Anzac Book Fund grant has been extended to June 30th, 1923, after which date none can be received.

The objects of a Unit History are, firstly, to provide a thoroughly accurate narrative for the benefit of those who belonged to the unit; secondly, to keep alive the tradition; and, thirdly, to enable the relatives of those Australians who died to have some knowledge of the fights, journeys, and other incidents in which their son, brother, or husband took part. The conditions upon which the assistance mentioned below will be given are as follows:

Each unit wishing to take advantage of the scheme will form a committee, consisting of at least three of its members, who shall include where available:

(a) C.O. of Reserve Battalion or Light Horse Regiment, etc.
(b) One or more other C.O.'s of A.I.F. Battalion or Light Horse Regiment, etc., if they are living.

(c) A member of the Unit elected by members in each State to which the Unit officially belongs or has belonged (i.e., if in the graduation list of the A.I.F. it has been specified as belonging to those States).

Any persons (civilian or military) who are interested in the unit, may be asked by the committee to join.

The Committee, having agreed in writing that a unit history shall be written, will apply formally to the Secretary for Defence (Unit Histories), Defence Department, Melbourne, to have the benefit of the Unit History Scheme.

The Government will provide access to the necessary records (provided that they are not in use for the National Histories at the moment); supply official photographs and draft the maps required; while the Literary Organiser will advise regarding printing, etc.

The Trustees of the Anzac Book Fund have agreed that when a unit lacks funds an advance of 50/- out of the Fund may be made to the committee, to enable it to circularise former members and to pay any other preliminary expenses.

Thus substantial assistance is offered, and the Government Scheme enables every unit to undertake the publication of a story. There should be no risk of financial loss: the amount to be expended on the book being in accordance with the number of copies ordered in response to circularisation.

Histories of the following units have already been published with the assistance of the Government Scheme:—5th Battalion, 21st Battalion, 24th Battalion, 27th Battalion, 28th Battalion, 30th Light Horse Regiment, 3rd Pioneer Battalion.

Histories of the following units are being prepared for publication:—1st Battalion, 10th Battalion, 13th Battalion, 14th Battalion, 19th Battalion, 20th Battalion, 50th Battalion, 6th Light Horse Regiment, 7th Light Horse Regiment, 9th Light Horse Regiment, Mesopotamian Units.

Several Histories, including 22nd Battalion, 38th Battalion, 41st Battalion, 48th Battalion, and 3rd Light Horse Regiment, have been published without the aid of the Government Scheme.

It is hoped that every unit will decide to have a record of its war service compiled and published, with the assistance that is offered by the Government and the Anzac Book Fund Trustees.

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