The policy of the R.S.L. is the policy of this paper.

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March 16, 1923.

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WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
AN OPEN LETTER to the DIGGER

The Prime Minister has, in his speeches, more or less lightly touched on matters affecting soldiers, and has promised that they shall not suffer as a result of the change of Government. He definitely announced the abolition of the Repatriation Department, and that the activities of the department would be controlled by Treasury; also that the War Service Homes would be transferred to Works Department, which latter, had the staff necessary to deal with it.

Nothing, at the time of going to press, had been announced to give a clue as to what Mr. Bruce proposed to do in regard to administration, and the disposal of the matter of returned men. Failure in a few instances is imperative in nearly every huge venture, and it can be safely asserted that the Repatriation Department cannot boast a minimum of failure. The earlier administration of the War Service Homes was chaotic, and it was a relief to the public when the business passed into the capable hands of the Workers' Homes Board in this State. Expressions of dissatisfaction are frequently heard from soldier settlers, but, this, it must be understood, is a phase of reparation conducted wholly and safely by the State Government.

It may be argued that the Repatriation Commission and State Boards are bulky and super expensive, but notwithstanding the heavy cost in this regard, it is well to realise that the existence of these bodies is a valuable and a stable guarantee for equitable treatment.

The League has evinced no small degree of interest in these matters, and a welcome change is to be noticed in the ranks of the returned men. The trouble will not be in vain if it awakens the soldier to his responsibilities and results in a numerical improvement of membership. It is imperative that the soldiers' sentiments should be voiced at this stage, and what is infinitely more important, that they should be voiced by a body representing returned men generally.

The League is desirous of obtaining a property and willing to take up virgin land in any part of the State, should communicate with the State Secretary of the R.S.I., at once. The League is desirous of seeing every soldier who so desires settled on the land, but must have the information asked for above before action can be taken.

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ONE MAN—TWO JOBS

"Wings". When so many diggers are walking the streets vainly searching for employment it seems to me to be nothing short of criminal for so many of the returned soldier fraternity to be occupying full time jobs and in addition to be employed in some other capacity at night—ushers at picture shows, for instance. There are scores of such cases, and I met two men recently whose income from their two jobs each must be in the vicinity of £7 or £8 per week. These things should not be. Greed and selfishness were non-existent in the A.I.F., why the difference in civilian life? I suppose it is because the digger is only human after all, and that in trying to improve his own position he has thoughtlessly and mercilessly trampled under foot has less fortunate comrades who lack the push and influence necessary to obtain some sort of remunerative employment.

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
R.S.L. AND SOLDIER MATTERS

R.S.L. EXECUTIVE MEETING.

Present.
Mr. Humphrey (President), Rabbi Freedman, Messrs. Robson, Cornell, Cooke, McDonald, Isaac, Bader, Beechey, Watt, Wilson, Bolton, Jane, Kirke, and Collett.

Minutes.
Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th February, 1923, were read and confirmed.

Meetings.
The President announced that it was his intention to visit the Fremantle Sub-branch on the 1st March, and North Fremantle on the 5th March. He also intended to be present at the West Swan Grape and Dried Fruit Show on the 3rd, at 3 p.m., and invited members of the Executive to accompany him on this occasion.

Trustee.
The President extended a welcome to the new trustee, Col. Collett, who was present, and cordially responded.

Returned Soldiers Preference Association.
A letter from Mr. A. R. Sleep was received.

Maimed and Limbless Association.
With reference to a letter from the Maimed and Limbless Association asking for a round table conference to discuss the case of J. N. W., and employment of maimed and limbless soldiers generally. The recommendation of the General Purposes Committee was adopted, and the President and Vice-Presidents were appointed to represent the Executive, and to arrange a suitable date. It was also decided that it would be advisable to, if the Employment Officer, Mr. Malcolm, be present on that occasion.

Repatriation Department.
The secretary read telegrams dated the 19th and the 22nd February, which had been sent to Melbourne regarding the abolition of the Repatriation Department, which were endorsed, and a letter from the Federal President, stating that protests from all States had been placed before the Prime Minister, was received.

Empire Conference.
A letter from the Federal President with regard to representation at the Empire Conference was received.

Moved Mr. Robson, seconded Mr. Cooke that this Executive approves of the principle whereby the manager of the team to visit England in connection with the Empire Rally should also be one of the delegates to the Empire Conference.—Carried.

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THE LISTENING POST.

With regard to the representation from Australia, it was moved Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Isaac, that the Federal President and Rabbi Freedman should be nominated from this body.

With regard to the Agenda for the Conference it was moved Mr. Bolton, seconded Mr. Beechey, that all sub-branches be invited to send in any matter for the Agenda, which should reach the Executive no later than the 24th March.

Moved Mr. Robson, seconded Mr. Beechey, that a committee, consisting of the Manager, Mr. McConnell, and Mr. Cornell, should be appointed to consider all matter for the Agenda.

"Listening Post."
The committee appointed to enquire into the matter of postal arrangements, reported and submitted a letter, which it was proposed to send to the P.M.G.‘s department. Moved Mr. Bolotn, seconded Mr. Beechey, that the letter be drafted and sign by the President and secretary.—Carried.

Organiser.
The report of the committee appointed to enquire into the matter of appointment of organisation was received, and it was moved Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Robson, that the recommendation be adopted with the substitution of three months in place of one month for the probationary period. It was further moved by Mr. Beechey, seconded Mr. McConnell, that the conditions of service be left in the hands of the committee already appointed with power to finalise.

Interview With Premier.
A report of an interview that the President, Rabbi Freedman, and the State Secretary, had with the Premier on the 21st February, was received, on the motion of Mr. Cooke, seconded Mr. Isaac, and it was resolved that the Premier be thanked for the concessions granted. Further consideration of this report was deferred to the next meeting.

North Fremantle.
Mr. McCabe, secretary of the North Fremantle Sub-branch, attended the meeting in connection with a letter from him stating that various matters had not received attention. Files were produced which showed that everything possible had been done and the North Fremantle branch had been notified in every instance of what had taken place. Mr. McCabe expressed himself as satisfied, and stated that nothing further would be done with matters mentioned.

Railway Sub-branch.
Mr. Cooke verbally reported on a deputation which had met the Commissioner for Railways in regard to various matters and promised to give a resume of the interview in writing.

Mr. A. F. Hanks.
The General Purposes Committee reported that every effort had been made to secure a pension for Mr. Hanks, and that if he would go into hospital for treatment for three months, there was every doubt a pension would be granted. In spite of all that had been done, Mr. Hanks refused to accept treatment, and had now written stating that he did not wish that we do anything further in the matter. It was resolved that this matter be adjourned sine die.

EXECUTIVE MEETING.

14/3/23.

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive R.S.L. held at the Soldiers Institute, Perth, on Wednesday, 14th March, 1923.

Present.

Minutes.
Minutes of meeting held on the 26th February were read and confirmed.

Visiting.
The President reported that during the past fortnight he had visited the Fremantle and North Fremantle Sub-branches; also the West Swan Grape and Dried Fruit Show, and a fete held by the Ladies’ Auxiliary at West Subiaco. On the motion of Mr. Robson, seconded Mr. Wilson, a vote of thanks was carried for the great interest and time the President had given to affairs of the League.

Maimed and Limbless Association.
A report on the Round Table Conference between the League and the Maimed and Limbless Association was received and adopted on the motion of Mr. Beechey, seconded Mr. Cooke.

“Listening Post.”
A telegram was received from the General Secretary advising that approval had been obtained for registration of the “Listening Post” as a newspaper.

Organiser.
Mr. Bader reported that conditions had been drawn up for the position of Organiser, and that a recommendation of which the Committee had selected four, and from these recommended that the appointment be given to Mr. C. C. Cooke. He therefore moved in accordance, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Watt, and carried.

Moved Mr. Cornell, seconded Mr. Wedd, that Mr. Cooke should not vacate his position of committee-man by virtue of his appointment as Organiser, but that he shall have no vote in or voice on any question affecting the position he holds.—Carried.

Retrenchment Loco, Shops.
At the request of the Railway Workshops Sub-branch, Messrs. Connolly and Clay attended, and stated the case of two returned soldier trainees with four years’ service, who had been retrenched from the Loco. workshops. Although six men with no military service were still kept on. After considerable discussion it was resolved that a committee with power to add, consisting of the President, Rabbi Freedman, and the secretary, interview the Acting Commissioner of Railways immediately; also that an urgent wire be sent to the Commissioner at Port Hedland asking him to suspend action until his return, and that the committee should
wait on the head of the Government and also request that the notice should be suspended pending the return of the Commissioner or Minister of Railways.

**Empire Exhibition.**
A letter was received from the Premier’s office asking for the name of a representative for the State Executive Committee, and it was resolved that the name of Rabbi Freedman should be submitted.

**Leave of Absence.**
A letter was received from Mr. E. W. Morris, a member of the Executive, and owing to his being away in the country, leave of absence was granted until the end of April.

**Invitations.**
An invitation was extended from the Kelmscott Sub-branch for members of the Executive to attend an Anzac Memorial Service on Sunday, the 22nd April, and the matter of representation was deferred until next meeting.

An invitation was also received for a smoke social, to be held at the Lyceum Theatre, Mt. Lawley, on the 7th April.

**Employment Bureau.**
The report of the operations of the Employment Bureau for the month of February was received and adopted.

The meeting was then closed.

**MT. LAWLEY-NORTH PERTH SUB-BRANCH.**

The Sub-branch met on Monday, 5th, at Lyceum Theatre, when Mr. Zelfert presided over a very fair attendance of members and friends.

The Branch endorsed the action of the Executive in appointing a Metropolitan League Organiser.

It was considered that for the Imperial Conference agenda paper only matters relating to Repatriation could be discussed, and they therefore have passed this recommendation on to the State Executive.

It was decided that the arrangements for Sunday Service (Anzac Day celebrations) should be left with the Hon. Sec. Mr. Bader, and Mr. Meachem. Much of the preliminary work has already been done, and a large crowd is expected.

Messrs. Zelfert, Watt, and Bader are the responsible ones for the arranging of the school visits which our Branch is noted for.

A grand Smoke-O is to be given free of all charge to soldiers in the Lyceum Theatre on April 7th, when every soldier in the districts will be welcome, whether financial members of the League or not. A good supper and a first-class musical programme is assured.

The 28th Batt. Association will hold a Grand Re-Union and Smoke Social in St. George’s Hall, on Wednesday, March 28th at 8 p.m.
THE LISTENING POST.

BEVERLEY SUB-BRANCH.

After a period in recess during the summer months, the sub-branch assembled in general meeting on Saturday, 3rd March. In the absence of Mr. G. L. Broder, Mr. G. B. Rossi took the chair. The attendance was above the usual, and showed a revival of interest among the members, which it is hoped will be maintained.

A letter was read from Mrs. Phyllis Dean, hon. secretary of the War and Patriotic Workers’ Committee, formed for the purpose of recognising in an enabling and worthy manner work performed on behalf of returned soldiers and their dependants by Mrs. Mary Foster, secretary of the Soldiers’ Scholarship Trust. Several members spoke of the splendid services rendered by Mrs. Foster, and it was decided that a donation of two guineas be forwarded to Mrs. Dean. An appeal was read from the Woooloolo Sports Memorial Committee to carry on the work during the year. In view of the practical way in which the club is brightening the lives of the soldiers and their dependants, it was decided that a donation of two guineas be forwarded.

The Secretary reported that he had been asked by the Secretary of the Roads Board to consider the opening a proposal to break up the gravel path round the Soldiers’ Memorial and to lay them down in grass. The members were against the proposal, and the Secretary was instructed to advise the Roads Board to that effect.

The matter of Anzac Day was deferred to next meeting.

It was decided that the monthly general meetings be resumed.

SERPENTINE SUB-BRANCH.

On Saturday, 24th February, 1923, a very successful sports meeting was held, the meeting being held for the benefit of the League Fund. It was opened by the Minister for Works, Hon. W. J. George. The State President, Mr. Humphrey, the State Secretary, Messrs. Merry and Penny, the officer in charge of Group Settlements, Mr. McAdam, and a member of the State Executive, Mr. E. S. Watt, were very welcome visitors, and at the close of the sports programme gave short and instructive addresses to a fair audience of soldiers and ex-Imperial men. Mr. McAdam gave some very interesting information to the group settlers.

The annual meeting held recently was a successful function. President C. W. Lane, presided. The election of officers resulted in the election of Mr. W. Denning; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Bairston and Thompson; Treasurer, Mr. R. Benson; Secretary, Mr. Geo. Jameson. Geelong was elected one of the best sub-branch secretaries in the State, and was elected without opposition.

The branch had the pleasure of welcoming the State President, Mr. H. S. Humphrey, and Trustee Robson. As usual, Mr. Humphrey created a more favourable interest in the sub-branch is satisfied that the League should prosper under the present capable executive officers.

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Sub-Branch Notes

We welcome short contributions, and suggest that each sub-branch appoint one of its members as special correspondent to the "L.P."
Mr. Winchert, the chairman of the War Memorial Committee, and Mr. Bocock, waited on the meeting with the request that the branch forego their permission to use the Recreation Ground on Anzac Day, in favou of handing it over to them for War Memorial purposes. After a lengthy discussion the request was acceded to on certain conditions.

In order to finalize matters in connection with the ‘Dedication of Honour Board’ at railway station, the branch has asked the member for the district to get as a board of enquiry from the Commissioner. This will probably take a week or two, as the Commissioner’s on a visit of inspection to Port Headland-Marble Bar railway, but everything will be in readiness for his return, and the matter will then obtain the publicity it is entitled to.

Arrangements are well in hand for the annual smoker, which should be a success, seeing General Sir Talbot Hobbs has accepted an invitation and signifies his intention of being present, “Zero” for this “hop over” being 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28th, in new Masonic Hall.

NARROGIN SUB-BRANCH.

The monthly meeting was held on 7th inst., the President (Mr. J. Barron, J.P.) being in the chair. There was a good attendance, which is encouraging. Several complaints were dealt with, and necessary action taken. The celebration of Anzac Day was discussed, and a small committee, consisting of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary, were appointed to work in conjunction with other local bodies, in making the necessary arrangements. Information was received that it is the intention of the Memorial Committee to unveil the Memorial on Anzac Day, and that His Excellency the Governor had been invited to perform the unveiling ceremony. A suggestion was forwarded to the committee that, failing the Governor being able to attend, that General Sir Talbot Hobbs be invited. It was decided to again hold the annual reunion on Anzac Night, and that the usual invitations be extended to representatives of public bodies. The arrangements were left in the hands of the President, Secretary, and Mr. J. Chunas. It was decided to hold a special meeting next month, to which the ladies are invited with a view to forming a Ladies’ Auxiliary, or similar body. A committee was appointed to arrange a ball in aid of the Children’s Christmas-tree Fund. Another good roll up of members is looked for at the next meeting on 4th April.

SOLDIERS’ INSTITUTE.

For the information of all returned soldiers visiting town, it is pointed out that the dining-room at the Soldiers’ Institute offers the best value in the way of meals, and there is not another place in town where their wants will be better catered for. The dining-room is open to all returned soldiers, their friends and relatives, and ladies will find that the room is worthy of their patronage. Recently the evening meal has been reduced to 1/-, the midday meal remaining at 1/3.

The management is always willing to do anything possible to meet the wishes of their customers, many of whom have expressed their preference for waitresses in lieu of the present cafeteria system. Accordingly waitresses now attend to the wants of all customers, and it is hoped that the change will be appreciated.

All returned soldiers and their friends should patronise this Institute, as it is to their interest to use on every occasion the splendid building which has been placed at their disposal. Situated in Government Gardens, undoubtedly the best part of the city, with large dining-room, billiard-room, and reading-rooms, it is well worthy of patronage, and it should not be forgotten that by making use of the Institute at all times; soldiers are helping their own cause.

NOT IN A HURRY.

An old Scotchman, David Gordon, was seriously ill, with scant hope for recovery. He had been wheeled into making a will by relatives, and those were now gathered about his bedside watching him laboriously sign it. He got as far as “D-A-V-I—then fell back exhausted.

“D, Uncle David, D,” inquired a nephew.

“Dee!” ejaculated the old Scot feebly, “I’ll see when I’m ready, ye avaricious wretch!”

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**STATE PRESIDENT’S VISIT TO COLLIE AND CARDIFF**

(From Our Collie Correspondent.)

The State President’s visit to the Collie and Cardiff Sub-branches has done much to create interest in League activities. Possessed of a disposition that allows him to step right into the trend of feeling of any gathering of “diggers,” he immediately gave the go-ahead for launching the return men comprising the aforementioned branches.

Arriving in Collie February 17th at 9 o’clock p.m., he was met by Secretary Harry May, who had adjourned from the usual Saturday night picture show for this purpose. Mr. Humphrey, directly he discovered this, insisted upon their returning to see the remainder of the show. One can imagine the interest there would be for a traveller to go direct to a picture show after spending practically a day in the train. However, as said before, the President has the happy knack of adapting himself to circumstances, and consequently the only result must be his increasing popularity among the “diggers.”

Mr. Humphrey was early at the following morning, the Collie Sub-branch Treasurer, Mr. S. Simpson, having placed this car at the disposal of the former for the purpose of visiting the Cardiff Branch, some nine miles away. A hall was made at the newly-erected R.S.I. Hall at Collie, in order that the President might be introduced to the “Busy Bee” of R.S.I.-ites, who were putting the finishing touches to the hall by way of paint, etc. Incidentally, the President of the Collie Sub-branch was unable to accompany the party to Cardiff on account of having to supervise the instalment of the electric light at the hall.

This formality over, Mr. Humphrey was whisked away to Cardiff in the company of Mr. W. P. Griffiths, Treasurer Fremantle Branch, and the Secretary and Treasurer Collie Branch. A great reception was met with at Cardiff. Out of 20 returned men at this centre, 18, all financial members of the League, were there to meet their President.

The day was exceedingly hot, and not the slightest idea of the Cardiff chaps realised the fact that the drop of something cold would be appreciated by the visitors. However, judging by their hospitality they must have anticipated a terribly hot day indeed.

For two solid hours everyone sat around the table and listened to the advice of Mr. Humphrey on the doings of the League. Many had questions waiting to be hurled at our worthy President, all of which were duly answered to everyone’s satisfaction.

When at last final leave was taken, the President was assured by every member of the Collie Branch of continued loyal support towards the League. Mr. Humphrey’s opinion of this Branch may be imagined when he exclaimed on his way home to Collie: “If only every district in the West would pull together like the Cardiff chaps, what a League we would have!”

However, to continue, the Collie Branch had made arrangements for Mr. Humphrey to have a trip down the Collie River, and accordingly 4 p.m. found our worthy visitor, in the company of Collie “diggers,” aboard the “Borexia” For upwards of two hours he was shown some of the beauty spots of Collie along its river, and the fact is noteworthy how little is known of this splendid scenery to be seen along this stretch of water, known as the Collie River.

The following day arrangements were made, courtesy of the Amalgamated Collieries, Limited, for Mr. Humphrey to see for himself the workings of a coal mine both from the surface and underground. Under the guidance of “Digger” J. A. Howie, manager West Collie Coal Mine, the State President was able to come in contact with many returned men working underground, who well appreciated his efforts to meet as many of them as possible. As a witness of this Mr. Humphrey’s only regret was that he was unable to visit all the mines in a like manner for a similar purpose.

When again reaching the surface Mr. Humphrey expressed his opinion that he had not been equal to the task of running his eye over the forlorn great height, understood in a moment the cause of such a remark.

The evening found the Soldiers’ Hall well filled with Collie “Diggers,” all eager to meet our State President, the function taking the form of a smoke social. Numerous toasts, interspersed with musical items—all returned soldier talent—were honoured, and upon Mr. Humphrey rising to respond everyone joined in, giving him such hearty applause as is due for his untiring energy on behalf of all returned men of the West.

Mr. Humphrey then traversed minutely the doings of the League. He explained what is likely to occur through the change of leadership in the Federal Government, and how the President felt that the returned men could look forward to getting a fair deal from Messrs. Bruce and Page. He outlined proposals the Executive were at the present time giving careful consideration to, including all returned men, including a scheme for marketing the returned soldiers’ settlers produce. He told of the doings of the League in the State of the affairs, and that the doings of the League in the State of the affairs, and what was being done for the promotion of its object.

Many matters concerning individual “Diggers” were handed Mr. Humphrey for attention upon his return to Perth.

Later in the evening the State President, in behalf of the South Fremantle Branch, presented Mr. A. H. M., an “illuminated address” as a token of esteem and appreciation for services rendered the aforementioned Sub-Branch, in addition to which Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. A. H. M. to accept an illuminated address as a token of esteem and appreciation for services rendered the aforementioned Sub-Branch, in addition to which Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. A. H. M. to accept an illuminated address as a token of esteem and appreciation for services rendered the aforementioned Sub-Branch, in addition to which Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. A. H. M. to accept an illuminated address as a token of esteem and appreciation for services rendered the aforementioned Sub-Branch, in addition to which Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. A. H. M. to accept an illuminated address as a token of esteem and appreciation for services rendered the aforementioned Sub-Branch, in addition to which Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. A. H. M. to accept an illuminated address as a token of esteem and appreciation for services rendered the aforementioned Sub-Branch, in addition to which Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. A. H. M. to accept an illuminated address as a token of esteem and appreciation for services rendered the aforementioned Sub-Branch, in addition to which Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. A. H. M. to accept an illuminated address as a token of esteem and appreciation for services rendered the aforementioned Sub-Branch, in addition to which Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. A. H. M. to accept an illuminated address as a token of esteem and appreciation for services rendered the aforementioned Sub-Branch.

Mr. Humphrey also presented the League’s President Certificate to Mr. H. H. Stutchbury, a former President of the Collie Branch.

Both recipients responded, and assured all present that their services were always at the disposal of the League. Mr. Griffiths, Treasurer of the Fremantle Branch, gave an interesting account of the activities of his branch, which was well received by those present.

Mr. E. G. Williams, President of the local Branch, very ably officiated as Chairman of the gathering, and by his genial manner made everyone feel thoroughly at home.

The Rev. J. A. Jefferys, late Secretary of the Collie Branch, and now located at Northam, was toasted by the State President, who eulogised the good work Mr. Jefferys had done on behalf of the League. Mr. Jefferys, in a happy speech, thanked those present for their kindly expressions of goodwill, and hoped that the Collie Branch would continue to grow and remain united amongst themselves for the benefit of the League generally.

The evening was brought to a close with all hearts well disposed to return home to Collie—brought to a successful conclusion.

The next day Messrs. Humphreys and Griffiths were farewelled at the railway station by Messrs. Williams, Simpson and May. Both the former acknowledged that their stay had been full of interest, and that they had made up their minds to again visit Collie at the earliest possible opportunity.

HOW ANZAC DAY SHOULD BE OBSERVED

The correct observance of Anzac Day was decided by the last State Congress, when it agreed to adopt the following resolutions passed by the Federal Congress:

1. "That Anzac Day be known as Australia’s nation day, and be observed only on April 25th, and that it be gazetted by Commonwealth and State Governments as a Statutory Public Holiday.”

2. “That the day be observed in such a manner as to combine the memory of the fallen with rejoicing at the birth of Australia, and the present welfare and the future prosperity of the Commonwealth.”

3. “That the morning be observed in strictly solemn manner, and the afternoon be devoted to sports and carnivals of a national character, designed to inculcate in the rising generation the highest national ideals.”

4. “That the leaders in all proceedings on Anzac Day should, as far as possible, be returned sailors and soldiers.”

5. “That the flag, when flown on Anzac Day, be flown from the top of the flagpole or mast as the case may be.”

It was also agreed that permission be given to take up collections on Anzac Day, provided that they are taken up for amelioration and memorial purposes only.

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**THE LISTENING POST.**

March 16, 1923.
Do politicians ever keep their promises? At the luncheon tendered by the League to the newly-elected Prime Minister, it was intimated that 'preference' would be the guest's slogan. Whether through fear or good wishes one cannot yet determine, but Bruce bade the League shun politics. In the face of his remarks that the soldier who suffer under the new Ministry, he destroys the soldier's own department with one fell swoop. If Treasury Officers administer the business instead of returned men, the prospect for soldiers is dubious.

There is that about the wingies and stumps which calls for admiration. Although their disabilities in most cases render standing arduous, at the opening of each meeting they are honored, silent respect being paid by members standing. It would be a fitting practice for all organisations, especial such as the organisation governing the country. Like more thoughts were bestowed on the dead by politicians, perhaps fewer promises would be dishonoured.

I was travelling in a suburban train, first-class of course, for this soliloquys is vastly remunerative, and in my carriage sat a Jew. Shortly afterwards a second Jew got in the carriage. You will infer quite correctly that "Monoped" is not a Jew. Just as the train was about to start, a gentleman got in the compartment. The feature about the business was that the Jews told stories, and that, they were all about Jews. An example worth repeating — although a chestnut to many - went in this way: A Jew was in the dock before a judge, and after the Jew had explained the circumstances leading to his arrest, the judge said, "Why didn't you, that is the combustible and so save all this bother?" "I couldn't," gesticulated the Jew, "my hands were in ze handcuffs."

The same little fellow was fond of recounting jokes in general, and on another occasion when he travelled in my company, he told a story about the "Wareham" Investigation Court during the War. There was one witness before the court who was being cross-questioned. The culprit under suspicion had been discovered in a hut calculated to accommodate about 50 men at most. It went something like this:

"How many were there in the hut at the time when you were arrested?"
"About 500, sir." (Gasps from the court.)

"What were you doing?"
"Oh, playing bridge, or pontoon, or one of those nautical games." (Court convulsed.)

"Might I ask if there was any money in motion?" (This from the "stone-broke" field officer.)

"Oh, maybe a bob or half a note — but nothin' as you'd call money."

At this stage the court adjourned to collect its shattered wits.

**WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."**
A SOUVENIR

(By Jas. Pollard.)

“Givers a pipe er terbacco, Johnnie!”

“You go to h— and get a Christian pipe when you get there; then perhaps I'll fill it for you.”

How O'Grady was to obtain a “Christian” pipe when he arrived at his destination was, apparently, beside the point; neither did Johnnie pause to consider the appropriateness of the request. The pipe was to be accomplished. Perhaps—but, that is neither here nor there.

Johnnie’s remarks were entirely justified. Billy O’Grady’s Dutch pipe was a stupendous affair, and a “pipe er terbacco” meant the best half of a two-ounce tin. That pipe was a continual source of wonderment to the men of “A” Company; how O’Grady managed to smoke it was beyond comprehension. Ten times the size of an ordinary “brier,” with a huge outstanding curve and still huger bowl, its weight and awkwardness were readily apparent. Furthermore, it was sumptuously, almost elaborately, mounted to the solid silver. No Billy O’Grady was—well considerably under average height, and cut a somewhat ludicrous figure when smoking. As Dick Marchant, who was said, after watching Billy for fifteen minutes straight, it was “as good as the pictures” —which was really quite an adequate expression, and no more foolish than many others.

That Dutch pipe was unique! No man in the battalion had ever before seen a pipe of such huge dimensions; and not a few of them secretly coveted it although professing contempt because it had once been the personal adornment of an execrable and properly Hun. It was the “finest ‘souvenir’” that had ever come to the battalion, and many and various were the ways in which the men attempted to part Billy O’Grady and his Dutch pipe. But their efforts only served to endanger the man more to his prize.

The battalion was “under canvas” near Dranoute; the usual Flemish village—one church, two houses and three estimators—which is just by way of being an irrelevant digression.

It wanted “two days to pay-day,” consequently O’Grady was “broke” besides being without tobacco. Two days before pay-day O’Grady was generally given a very wide berth. To-day Billy had traversed the length of tents foraging for the wherewithal to enjoy a smoke—without, however, meeting with the least success. In front of the bottom tent he encountered Johnnie, whom he knew only by the good humour he had been awaiting O’Grady’s coming, with the calm, cold patience of a stoic.

Dick Marchant, sitting near the tent-flap, swearing over a rifle which held the broken half of his put-up through, and a too-pompous, too-loading, too-fieaniletter thereon, looked up, smiling sweetly.

“Nuthin’ doin’, Billy—an’ anybody we’ve only enough for three cigarettes, an’ then we’ll ‘ave ter go ‘umin’.”

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O’Grady grinned and hastened to agree. "Well, the first thing I seen next morning —when I looked out the trench, this was ‘ere Dutchman—and he passed the lovingly—’s meangun on the face of an ugly old Fritz in the opposite trench. I was thinking of the cigarettes I ’ave to smoke all week wen I seen ’im—an’ then I reckoned I’d better go the Billie—grinned sheepishly, for his serious tone had brought a smile to Johnnie’s face.

“Course I ‘ad to wait till dark—an’ it was terrible the way he played about through the day! Three times he disappeared, and once jampacked me. But ’e came back again, an’ always to the same place. ’E was doin’ some sorta sentry-go, an’ reck’un the “ours ’e’d been on an off I guessed his first night-shoot would be from ten till twelve. Along about ten I goes to Jerry Nixon and we ‘ave a little talk. I goes around to the other Lewis-gun crews, an’ about ten minutes after, they all opined that the ‘un did a big sheff.” Billy stopped again to re-light his cigarette, and in the ensuing silence the far-away rumble of gun fire crept in upon them.

“Jerry Nixon was a relish sport,” Billy went on presently, “‘By cripes! they had a little war all through the evening, an’ they left me white—’O’Grady grins at the quip, and his pipe goes alive. ‘I gives ’em a few minutes ter draw them Fritzes away from the place I was goin’ to, an” then I steps out. ‘Arright, ’e says, dark, an’ I sneaks across left right. Left me rifle beind, but I took Jerry’s revolver, an’ me bayonet along.” Again he halted, and a dancing light come into his eyes. The faintest trace of a long disused brougue crept into his voice as he proceeded.

“Say, boys!” and he spoke softly.

“Twas feine! No one at all wid him, an’ when o’clocks me head over the parap’ eto’ grates at me like a fish out o’ water!” Begorra, Dick! Oi tuk the head planters, an’ about the A Souvenir .. TWO on g’5/w fik’n noipe, for it is suckin’ it ’e was, an’ O’d been grinnin’ me boy’nit all day!”

Billy stopped, and puffing at his weed furiously, the while he cooled down. Johnny’s face was wreathed in a beatific smile of enjoyment.

“Go on, man!” he almost yelled.

“Och! ye amadun! ’Tis an impish curl that ye are!,” and then he laughed a little, war all through his voice, his voice was once more under control.

“I had to go down into the trench, after the pipe, an’ the flinin’ thing was stuck! So I ’ad to bring the head an’ all. Billy laughed, an’ a smile appeared at the corner of the two friends. They saw in their minds’ eye the utterance of a picture of Billy O’Grady parading across No Man’s Land, swinging a German’s head on the end of a giant pipe, and they laughed louder.

“Tis not all, me friends.” And once again Johnnie listened to the little coterie of Killarney’s fairies. “Comin’ back I ran clane into another pair; an’ be the
Howley Mother av Mike! there was skin an' 'air flyin' all ways for a while. Twas flabbergasted, they were, an' O' killed the first one wid a shot from me gun. 'E wint down wid a grunt that reminded me of the old pigg o' me mother's—which same gentleman was an ugly divil ut could never see the difference between the dinin'-room an', the kitchen in the oud house at Shibinakinson. Tis laughing I was at the resemblance while the other gun woke up—

"Shure an it was six av me he was seen," continued Billy after a moment's pause. "His first shot came no nearer than the ind of Jerry's revolver, an' 'twas flyin' away into the night when Ol seen ut last! The second tuk a scrap o' me tunic sleeve away wid it an' thin Ol hit 'im! And Ol hit 'im wid the head av a dead Fritz on the ind av a hury poipe! 'Twas only a kiss Ol was lettin' im ave, but 'e wint down owin' like the ghost av me fayther's aun't—which lady comes every year to the graveyard av the oud church! Ol lost poipe an' all thin, an' Ol had not the time to rimmber ut for awhile. Shure now, an' that ba'nt came in handy that night, boys!"

Again he paused and his eyes danced merrily. "Whin we'd finished Ol looked around for me poipe—an' Ol found it. 'Twas all alone it was, for the head 'ad lift—no doubt 'twas sorry it had not lift before! Ol left ut there an' came on alone wid the poipe."

"And that's all?" queried Dick, with a sigh.

"No—it's not all," said Billy slowly—and it was the rest that he had never told before: "W'en we came back from Messines that time I was smoking the pipe on the way. Passin' the birdcage, one o' the prisoners started to kick up a hullabaloo an' I stops. 'E was gibberin' at me, an' I takes out me pipe to watch 'im. Mighty curious 'e looked too! After awhile 'e cools off enuff to tork—an' 'e torked a sorter English!"

There was another short silence, and Johnnie noted that O'Grady had grown strangely still. Billy went on again, and it was as though he was speaking to himself.

"'E tells me the pipe belonged to 'is brother—an' 'e asks me if I'd killed 'im."

"An' o' course you tells 'im," said Dick, with a satisfied grin.

Billy stood up and looked vacantly away up the lines. Then he turned and looked down.

"'Tis wrong that ye are, Dick," he said slowly; "'Tells him—no!"—and Billy O'Grady walked away to his tent.

Johnnie was looking away into the distance, his countenance strained with the smile of an old man. . . .

Dick sat staring after O'Grady, until the little man disappeared into his own tent. Then he recovered.

"Silly—!" he growled, and muttering to himself he turned to his rifle again.

Send your orders for printing to the office of The Listening Post, 70 King Street, Perth.
Federal President's Mission to America

Mr. C. J. Dyett's Interesting Report

Dear Sir,—In compliance with the unanimous wish of those who attended the various meetings of the League, the necessary preliminary arrangements were made in consequence of the generous attitude of my employers in facilitating my departure and providing for the carrying on of the routine work during my absence, through the instrumentality of the members of my committee, who undertook certain duties.

To prevent unnecessary verbiage, I will, metaphorically speaking, take you to New Orleans, the meeting place of the Convention, where I arrived on the night preceding the opening, and, of course, was received and taken to the chief hotel, where arrangements had been made for my accommodation. I had hardly entered my bedroom when the person who was appointed to attend knocked at my door, effusively greeted me, and immediately wanted to take me anywhere, or do anything for me. He was with me practically from that moment until he prevailed on me to leave the door, a motor-car and, in fact, motor-cars, were at my disposal during my sojourn, and a badge issued to me, on which were the words “Distinguished Guest, American Legion Convention,” gave me practically open sesame to anything and everything, functions, etc.

On the morning subsequent to my arrival, the proceedings were opened by the Mayor of New Orleans, assisted by the Governor, in a huge building, which I would say could accommodate 30,000 people. On the platform were distinguished persons of America, including naval and military officers of high rank and the representatives of the Allied countries, including myself. A salute of 21 guns was fired in honour of those who sacrificed their lives for America and humanity, and one of the principal lady singers of America sang a memorial song.

The occasion created a solemn impression in the minds of all present, after which speeches of praise and gratitude were delivered by the Mayor, Governor and several important officers of the American Legion.

Having completed that part of the arrangements, it was announced that the business of the Convention would be proceeded with, and forthwith the Commander of the American League, in his presidential address, which was a resume of the efforts and activities of the executive during his year of office, and which, of course, was supported by other officials, and unanimously adopted.

Conference business in America is conducted on different lines to those observed in Australia, as large committees are appointed from the delegates, whose functions it is to report on the various matters that are tabled for consideration at the Annual Convention, and subsequently submit their recommendations to the full meeting of delegates for adoption or amendment: the latter very rarely occurs, as immediately after the committees were appointed they adjourned, whereupon the representatives of the Allied countries met and adjourned the Convention until the next morning, when the recommendations of the several committees were to be received and considered.

Incidentally, the American Annual Convention is somewhat of a business, sports, and social gathering. In the afternoons of the days thereof, competitive sporting events were held which created great interest and enthusiasm, tens of thousands of people from various parts of America witnessing same, and on the last day of the Convention the trophies won were presented to the winning competitors.

After the Convention had dealt with the recommendations of the various committees, submitted, as hitherto mentioned, they adjourned, whereupon notabilities of America delivered patriotic and important addresses: some on the magnificent land, being heard by the huge audience through the instruments, one in front and one on each side of the speaker, mechanically controlled, were erected. This process enabled the words uttered to be heard at every part of the colossal structure.

It was not there long when I discovered that Australia is surprisingly far ahead of countries other than the British Empire, appertaining to Repatriation and Soldier matters, and consequently I was able to supply useful information periodically. It was most gratifying and delightful to be in America, and I felt extremely proud in the circumstances of what Australia had done for her ex-service men and women. Australia, in this respect, is second to no other country in the world, which position the R.S.S.I.L.A. is in no small way responsible for.

On the second last day of the Convention, which was the “Day of the Day,” as General Pershing and the Allied representatives delivered addresses to thousands of soldiers and citizens who had contributed all points of America to partake in and be present at the proceedings of the aforementioned Convention.

After General Pershing had read his address, I delivered mine; and, as I learned while listening to the various debates that the Americans prefer brevity, I, after showing it to the audience, handed it to the official reporter of the Convention. The statement was sought by the press and the various activities and operations of the Commonwealth of Australia. I might say that, apart from the flattering and wonderful reception I received—the audience rising and vociferously cheering and making other demonstrative sounds—my address was punctuated with cheering and applause; some of those more extravagant, with others than had indulged in coo­sing. The Americans on this and other occasions definitely manifested their liking and preference for the Australians, and when I desired to modify any remarks before presenting him with a photogravure of the landing at Gallipoli, spoke of the esteem in which the ‘digger’ was held, and the admiration the ‘diggers’ hold for him, for himself and the Australian people generally.

He also referred to the prowess and sportsmanlike spirit of the “Aussie,” and mentioned in half-amused tones that the fact that several of the original American Brigades were attached to the A.I.F., which remarks caused tumultuous cheering. I also presented the American Legion with a silvered helmet, and the Commander thereof with a walking-stick which contained 72 parts of Australian blackwood, and which was presented to the employers at a complimentary social given by me in the sporting fraternity before my departure.

These presentations were the signal for renewed demonstrations of appreciation and admiration, and the splendid impression in the minds of those thousands of soldiers and citizens from all over America, which was evidenced by the frequency with which I was hailed with the words “Aussie, ‘Good old Australia!’” in several of the cafes I subsequently visited.

The immediate effect of Australia’s reception at the aforementioned Convention will not be felt, but the silent effect will be obvious, and I am sure will result advantageously to Australia and the British Empire.

As the result of a certain experience of mine, I am inclined to early hours of my presence in New Orleans, and the desirability of suggesting the formation of an English-Speaking Veterans’ Organization. This suggestion was made during an address, with great cheering. During the response of the Commander of the American Legion, whose official position is identical with mine, I heartily supported the proposal, and expressed the hope that it would be long an accomplished fact, or words to that effect, which declaration caused a further outburst of cheering. I do hope that the formation of such an organization will be realised before long, and consider same indispensable for the peace and happiness of the British Empire.

Possibly you will be interested to learn that the one penny of my expenses in connection with this visit has been charged against the capitalization fees of the League; in other words, the members of the League personally did not contribute a fraction of the expenditure incurred. However, the Commonwealth Government, which contributed £200, the Emergency Fund of the League, which consists of moneys received from the sale of poppies, etc., provided same. The amount of £159 13s., which in-
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cluded the return boat fares and general expenses, was charged against the Emergency Fund referred to.

I might mention that in America there are two important rival soldier organisations, the American Legion, whose convention is the subject of this report, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The former comprises mostly those who served in camp who had remained, and the latter those who have participated in actual warfare. Of course the last-named is strictly speaking identical with the League, its membership too comprises most ly those who above, admits, whose annual conference occurred at New York, and were introduced to me by Colonel Moffat, America and being part owner of the Yanks’ newspaper, was invited to express his sentiments showing thereunder:

1. how the Commonwealth’s responsibilities will last for more than a generation.

2. There was a strong movement on foot in Federal political circles recently to economise at the expense of the War and abolish the Repatriation Department. The diggers’ watchdog showed his teeth and snarled, with the result that it is now safe to assume that the Repat. will remain intact.

3. It behoves the unfit digger to remain in the League for his own sake, and the fit digger to assist the League for the sake of his more unfortunate comrades.

4. It is the aim of the League to give all war sufferers that peace of mind that only physical well-being and freedom from the many sordid cares can bring, and to retain that wonderful comradeship which was cemented during the horrors of hell. Let no party prejudice have the effect of clouding the real issue.

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY “I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST”

Every digger is invited; let us be again united.

As we were when facing “Jacko Turk” and “Fritz,”

There we pulled together daily, faced the foe’s grim music daily,

“Tis a fact which all authority admits. Universal evolution this appropriate institution,

Requirement that we may taste life’s sweetest joys,

Every pathway may be brightened, every burden may be lightened By the unity dinkum digger boys.

THE WATCHDOG

(By E.S.W.)

It is now over four years since the cessation of the greatest of all wars. During the whole of this period and previously the Returned Soldier’s League has been the ex-fighters’ watchdog. It has barked loudly, and because its demands were at times reasonable it has achieved wonderful results.

The thought of what would happen to the unfit digger, the widow and the orphans, if their watchdog developed a somnolent attitude on ex-service questions produces a shudder.

There was a strong movement on foot in Federal political circles recently to economise at the expense of the War and abolish the Repatriation Department. The diggers’ watchdog showed his teeth and snarled, with the result that it is now safe to assume that the Repat. will remain intact.

The need for repatriation has not ceased after four years. The Department’s activities certainly have, and will diminish, but the Commonwealth’s responsibilities to the returned digger, the war widow, and the orphaned children, will last for more than a generation.

As time passes and the people, and with them the politicians, care less about the nation’s defenders, so the need for a powerful watchdog becomes greater.

It behoves the unfit digger to remain in the League for his own sake, and the fit digger to assist the League for the sake of his more unfortunate comrades.

It is the aim of the League to give all war sufferers that peace of mind that only physical well-being and freedom from the many sordid cares can bring, and to retain that wonderful comradeship which was cemented during the horrors of hell. Let no party prejudice have the effect of clouding the real issue.

Comprising 30 officers and 24o airmen, the Royal Australian Air Force proposes to enlarge its complement of officers by eight and its airmen by 60. The ground organisation of the service has been sufficiently advanced to permit the training of pilots. This year’s programme provides for the training of a dozen pilots for both military and civil aviation. The intention is to provide a nucleus of highly efficient men, which could be rapidly extended in the event of war.

GERMS OF HAPPINESS

(By E. St. Ives Bilston.)

Happiness is true and easy in surroundings bright and breezy,
With the best of boon companions all around;
Free from circumstances tragic, duty acts on one like magic.
When the air of peace and harmony abound.
None more highly elevating, nothing more invigorating.
To the one who seeks to taste life’s sweetest joys.
Than a cordial digger greeting, when our own Sub-branch is meeting.
From a hearty crowd of dinkum digger boys.

They are comrades, they are brothers, bent on giving help to others
Who can scarcely help themselves as best they should,
And in very many cases never come and show their faces.
Yet our efforts are for every digger’s
to soothe the tribulations of a fallen mate’s relations,
And to try to turn their sorrows into joy.
’Tis undoubtedly a pleasure which we all should share and treasure.
Just to join and help the dinkum digger boys.

On the occasion of your departure from the United States, may I not ask that you take back to the fighting men of your beloved Australia this message of good cheer so well received by them as real men and defenders of right. I cannot help but be of the opinion that the Conference of the Representatives of the Inter-allied Veterans’ Association will be profit with great good. We are beginning to understand one another better and in that spirit of comradeship that should always control the minds of men. of the world. The good of humanity we shall work out the salvation of the world. Your great country of Australia, as a part of the British Empire, has ever been a defender of the rights of humanity. May you ever persevere in this great field of endeavor. The association of the American soldier with the Australian is a source of much gratification and pride to those who know how splendidly they labored together in a common cause. It is to be hoped that we shall soon reach that dawn of lasting peace for which the heart of the world has been crying for so long, and let us earnestly pray that the men of Australia and America shall be found side by side in peace as they have so recently fought in war.

I wish for you a safe journey and a return with honor to the men you have represented with such high distinction. Furthermore, I would like to express my personal gratitude and appreciation of the honor conferred upon me by the League in selecting me to attend the Convention of the American Legion as the representative of the ex-service men and women of Australia.

Every pathway may be brightened, every burden may be lightened By the unity dinkum digger boys.

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY “I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST”
Robert Calder Crowther, ex-Light Horse, has been rewarded for his application to his civil job. His war record needs not enlarging upon here; suffice to say that his old associates congratulate him on his promotion to the position of general manager and attorney to Messrs. Dobbie and Co.

Col. Collett has set an example which might be emulated to digger profit. As the principal member of the 28th Battalion Association, Col. Collett has not sought to confine his activities to the Battalion Association, but has accepted a responsible position associated with League matters.

Theo Marshall, ex-28th Battalion, has another "feather in his bonnet." His son recently pulled first place in the Coombs Scholarship, and now his daughter is reported second in the McIntosh business. These two youngsters have won scholarships totalling in value well over £30, although they have been able to avail themselves of the whole on account of overlapping.

The activities of Secretary Morrell, of West Perth, have a great deal to do with the prosperity of the West Perth Sub-branch, and the strong finance and complete roll of members owes its existence largely to his enthusiasm. Recently we inadvertently referred to Mr. Harvey as the secretary of this sub-branch, whereas his position was that of secretary to the Civil Service Executive.

Our sympathy is extended to Harry O'Mahoney in his bereavement. This enthusiastic member of the Executive of the Wingies and Stumpies, recently received news of his father's sudden death at Cork, Irish Free State.

George James, of War Pensions, is enjoying the exhilarating breezes in the Yallingup district.

Hats off to the Collie Municipal Councillors for having recognised the principle of the League, namely, Preference to Returned Soldiers.

Recently a new town clerk was advertised for, and the selection of the Council fell to the genial Sam Simpson, Treasurer of the Collie Sub-Branch R.S.L. Good luck to you, Sam, you deserve it. May you live long to enjoy it.

Frank P. Le Cras, who is well and favourably known in soldier circles in the metropolitan area, is starting in business at Bencubbin, as an agent and accountant. Frank is one of the best, and his host of friends wish him every success in his new venture.

Les White, who left with the 32nd Batt., and later gained a commission with the 14th Light Horse, left by the s.s. Gascoyne for Singapore after spending a couple of months holidaying in this State. Les is managing a rubber plantation at Etapoh-Nal, in the Malay States.

WINGIES' AND STUMPIES' PERSONALITIES.

With deep regret we have to record the death of Mr. H. V. Heuston, in the Soldiers' Hospital last Friday evening. "Dear old Huey" was a foundation member of this Association, an official for the past two years, extremely popular, and held in very high esteem by his comrades in this organisation. At all times he gave willingly and unselfishly of his valuable services and time to the Association of which he thought so much.

Mr. Percy Mann, ex-44th Battalion, and a member of the Executive Committee of this Association, contemplates visiting the "Big Smoke" on March 23rd, on pleasure bent. Percy was always a lucky man, and rumour has it that he struck it lucky with a Tatt's ticket some time ago. Can anybody confirm this rumour? The best wishes of the Association go with him.

Mr. F. P. Frost has been transferred to the Kellerberrin Branch of the National Bank, and in that centre he is a leading light in the R.S.L., and is always to the fore in matters of soldier interest. We miss this active worker very much, and wish him "all of the best."

Our member, Mr. F. T. Squib, unfortunately met with a very severe accident at home and now lies paralysed in the Albany Hospital. This Association has arranged for the Red Cross to supply him with cigarettes, etc., and any other little comfort he may require, and Mrs. Dickenson, of Albany, is visiting him on our behalf. It is our sincere wish that Mr. Squib's injury will not be as serious as is at present thought, and that he will soon be well again.

WAR PENSIONS

"Z.Z.*: I'm with you when you growl at the sharks who traffic in war pensions. At the same time, a great many of the diggers don't exactly qualify for a halo through their actions in the unsavoury business. Some of them are even worse than the trafficers. I instance one case in my own experience where a digger approached a certain business man to lend him a couple of quid on the security of his pension card. The business man didn't like it, but the digger pleaded abject poverty, and he drew a pathetic picture of starving wife and kids. Eventually, the digger got his loan at the usual rate of interest charged by local cash-lenders. When the time of repayment came, Mr. Digger calmly threatened to expose the whole business, and the lender, rather than be pointed out as a black-hearted swindler of down-and-out diggers, preferred to lose his money altogether, and let the matter drop. Naturally, that business man's opinion of diggers isn't up to much, and he is one who does not hesitate preference to returned soldiers.

Of course, I know what your readers will say to this. They'll make the worn-out remark that all diggers aren't like the bright gent in the above story. Quite true, they're not, but there's a nellofaloft like him, all the same. Personally, although a digger myself, I'm shy of doing biz with returned soldiers. The number of times I've been taken down makes me very wary. One gent who owes me a few quid on goods supplied, and who is well able to pay, squeals like a stuck pig at the mention of the matter, and I suppose that eventually I'll have to write off the amount as a bad debt. Yet that chap is in a better position, comparatively, than I am. Why, my own superiah officah, a gentleman who carried the king's commission, borrowed a quid off me a few weeks ago, promising to repay a week in. He hasn't been sighted since.

If diggers growl at the lack of sympathy shown to them by a hard-hearted public—well, in many cases. it's their own fault.

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY "I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST."
With reference to the case of Mr. West, an ex-member of this Association, who is employed in the Premier’s Department at £2 2s. per week, and on the employment of maimed and limbless soldiers generally, the Secretary has arranged a roundtable conference with the Executive of the R.S. League, which will take place shortly.

In regard to employment, this Association has laid down the following principle from which it will not depart, in regard to any of its members:

That members are employed they must be paid the full wage for the class of work that they are doing, and if by reason of their disabilities they are unable to earn the full wage, then the position must be suitable for them and they must be found one which is suitable and in which they can earn the full wage.

This Association is prepared to consider any special circumstances which may arise in any particular case, but we are not prepared to make any departure from the general application of the principle as set out above, and we will at all times as far as it is humanly possible, assert the right of the man who sacrificed their health and enjoyment of life to keep this country free, to obtain suitable work at a full wage in addition to any pension they may be receiving.

We consider this a matter that the Executive of the R.S.L. and this Association should agree upon, then we could use our combined efforts to ensure that justice shall be done to the disabled soldiers.

It is to be hoped that the conference will be successfully and mutually benefit both organisations.

We are pleased to record that, after a long fight, word has been received that our member Mr. A. A. Guy, ex-44th Battalion, has been granted a special pension of £4 per week by the Repatriation Commission, Melbourne.

By the effluxion of time the Federal Repatriation Commissioner, Mr. Teeco, is retiring, and the Government have asked the R.S.L. and our Association to forward nominations for this position.

This Association has nominated Mr. F. J. Killeen, President of the Sydney Maimed Soldiers Association, and Mr. G. A. Brabham, President of the Commonwealth Council Limbless and Maimed Soldiers’ Association.

Our Honorary Solicitor, Mr. A. C. Brabham, having received a Government appointment outside the State, it has been necessary to appoint another Honorary Solicitor in his place. At the last meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided to ask Mr. Ross MacDonald to accept the position. We sincerely trust that this worthy gentleman will accept and assist the Association.

In further reference to the paragraph appearing in last issue regarding our Association acquiring a hostel for members, the Secretary reports that a deputation will wait on the Finance Committee of the Melbourne City Council on the 2nd next week. It is probable that this Society will assist the Association with a substantial grant of money. Further information will be published in next issue.

Word has been received from Tasmania of an unfortunate occurrence to a returned soldier named Albert Hayes, of the 14th Battalion. He was a good soldier, and became a good citizen, whilst working on a contract, splitting pale on him and crushed both his arms, necessitating their amputation. He has only been married two months, and the wife will now have to shoulder the full responsibilities, including the financing of the home.

This case was taken up by the Victoria Limbless Association, and they are out to do everything in their power for this unfortunate fellow, and this Association, together with all Limbless Associations throughout the Commonwealth, are working to raise a sufficient sum of money between them to capitalise them in some business or other.

His state is indeed a sad one, and we realise that we are in a better position to appreciate his need for help than the ordinary public. Our Association decided to donate a sum of money and everything else in their power for him.

The Secretary reports that he has made special efforts to secure employment for members, but without much success. Surely we are not asking for the moon when we ask for the right to work and earn a honest living. Many members who sacrificed so much in their country’s service are parading the streets looking in vain for employment. We ask for the fullfilment of promises made during the war.

Most employers seem to think that because a man has lost a limb he is useless and fit only for the museum. This is quite wrong. Naturally an amputee expects a man to earn his wages. In every large business in this State, and in every Government Department, there is at least one limbless member of our members could undertake to fill to the entire satisfaction of his employer.

One of our members in ‘Doc’ Mason whose right arm is amputated at the shoulder, was employed for 18 months at the Lyell’s Mill, at Collie, looking after the engine and feeding the boiler. Another operation forced him to relinquish his job. Numerous other cases of a similar nature could be quoted. Many of our members have been forced to go to the country, clearing and cutting wood. We are utterly sick of being offered positions at wages varying from 30/- to 42/- per week. We do not want these glorified office jobs, and consider that the sacrifices made by our men entitle them to receive fair treatment from the people who promised so much.

If there is anyone who can find a job for one of our members, the Secretary, Mr. Stan O’Grady, will be pleased to hear from him.

By the time this Journal is published, the first Association Swim will have taken place at the Claremont Baths, and I will publish a full report of this novel and most interesting race in next month’s issue.

It has been suggested that this Association should form a Swimming Club and devise ways and means of joining up with another club which offers the advantage of swimming exercises. This matter will receive the attention of the committee immediately.

Medical experts consider swimming about the best exercise that our men can take up, and the members are to be commended on their interest in this sport.

One of the most successful socials ever held was tendered by this Association to the members of their Women’s Social Auxiliary and the wives, sisters, mothers, etc., of its members.

The dininners of the Soldiers’ Institute, Perth, was overcrowded on February 14th, and the evening was enjoyably spent by the large gathering. Games, guessing competitions, and a fine musical programme were the means of keeping the gathering in the best of humour.

The Secretary desires to record the Association’s thanks to the following artists, who ably and willingly assisted with the music—Miss Farrington, Miss “Popa” Knipe, Messrs. G. Devine, W. Samuel, Atwell Bros., R. Christie, and Halliday, senior and junior.

The Secretary reports having visited our members at the Kalamunda Convalescent Home, and finds them doing well and in the pink of condition through the magnificent treatment they are receiving at the Home.

The following members were noticed in the precincts of the Home: “Bob” O’Farrell, A. Philpott, C. Blake, and R. Cameron.

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY “I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST.”

(continued on page 17)
THE LISTENING POST.

PAGE SIXTEEN.

March 16, 1923.

“Hey”!: The fruit districts have had a discouraging time during this and several preceding seasons, and it is well known that the plan of action is for the position to be maintained as a piggery and keeps a fine type of Berkshire. He gathers his fruit indiscriminately and only bothers to pack the very best. He feeds the rest to his pigs, and so not only reaps some benefit therefrom, but also keeps his orchard clean from vermin. The practice of turning the pigs in on windfalls did not please the district, but I know they would perhaps hatch two generations of fly before falling.

“O.T.”!: When will the men in Australian cities dress in accordance with the conditions? To dress in white duck cannot be done by all and sundry on account of the nature of employment or because we have not a host of underpaid blacks. The best coat should be cast aside during the hot months. Pipe, pouch, and matches could be stowed away somewhere, I expect, without much discomfort.

“E. St. Ives Bilston”!: Many thanks to “Violets”! (February “I.P.”), but I would rather that he did not hold my sincerity up as an example at the expense of the R.S.L. Bulletin. The object is to bring about complete unity of returned soldiers. This cannot be attained by washing dirty R.S.L. linen in public. If “Violets” had a grievance against a sub-branch secretary, his remedy was to attend the meetings and give the errant one a bit of Anglo-Aussie “hurry up.” Trilling matters, with many short-sighted men, lead large and blow out a grand objective.

I do not compre the allusion to the miniature badge stand. I paid 1/3 for mine over a year ago, at Kojoonup, and I am proud of it. I understand that they have been issued free since the beginning of the year.

Please, “Violets,” don’t let such trifling matters affect your equilibrium, or the cause generally. If you know of a weakness in the movement, report it, and assist others to repair it. Instead of weakening the movement by publishing little grievances in the Press, particularly in our own recruiting organ, the “I.P.” embark on a cruise of a more gigantic nature—that of getting all the boys into our own true Trojan brood. Anyhow, we don’t want flowers on our graves, surely!

There are 20 diggers residing at Cardiff and of these are members of the Cardiff Sub-branch R.S.L. Can any sub-branch beat this record?

“R.S.L.”!: It is to be hoped that the digger will support the League better in future than he has done of late. The useful purpose of the League has not been fully served, and there are many who could afford the half-not each year to keep their fallen comrades’ dependants and their maimed coppers from getting fouled on the rocks ahead of them.

VARIA.

A commentary upon doings and happenings of specifically digger interest.

“Paleface”: A week-end paper the other day had for the headline of a long and somewhat abusive article:

“Fruit Market Glutted.”

“Ridiculous Values for the Grower.”

“Big Consumers Pay Middlemen’s Big Profits—Government Departments Should Relieve the Situation. Well and truly warranted, without a doubt; for the position is deplorable one; but what got my notice is that this selfsame week-end paper is for ever abusing the Government for interfering with trading concerns and condemning its long trail of white elephants.

“O.T.”!: Surprised was Mr. A.—when he became acquainted with the outcome of his experience at Bullecourt. We had been bombing up a sap and had been bombed back again in see-saw fashion all day on the 5th May, 1917. There were two subalterns with the company, and for our purpose they were Messrs. A. and B., respectively. At about sundown we received advice of a huge counter attack Fritz was launching, and instructions were issued to hold the sap head and allow the company to retire into the main line, which was a fine railway embankment. As soon as the rest of the company had filed back we were to follow. So far so good. Mr. B. was knocked as the filing out process was on, and, adopting the practice which was never taught at a training school, Mr. A. was quite near to Mr. B. all the time, instead of being where their command could be distributed. When Mr. A. saw the position he hastened to Mr. B. and helped him back to the cozy A.M.C. dressing station behind the high embankment. Meanwhile we fended for ourselves, and succeeded in carrying out our instructions, thanks to our initiative. The bomb which hurt Mr. B. did no other damage than to deposit a small fragment into Mr. A.’s hand. As soon as Mr. B. was taken charge of, the doctor said to Mr. A., “What’s the matter with your hand?” “Oh, just a scratch, Doc., if you tell one of the lads off to bind it up I can rejoin my unit.” This was done, and the doctor sent in a report to Divi. H.Q.s.: “Mr. A., etc., assisted seriously wounded brother officer to dressing station whilst himself wounded—only delayed sufficiently long to have wounds dressed and then returned to duty.” The next morning, back in Birdwood Trench, I remarked to the company runner that it was strange Mr. A. (of all people) had rejoined the unit so soon again. “Anyhow,” I said, “he’s got the M.C. for it.” The runner grinned. “I met him when he was helping Mr. B. back, and told him we were going out at midnight, and that’s why he didn’t mind coming back,”

“Hay!” I was asked the other day to tell of my most difficult job during my service in the war. I did not have to think long, and told the following story: We had been billeted for some weeks near a village in France, and were on very good terms with the residents. I was anxious to hear the organ in the church, and so one Sunday obtained leave to miss church parade. After setting out I necessarily passed a large estaminet. The daughter of that house, one Germaine, and very popular with the troops, was coming out as I passed. She was adorned a la mode, almost to the stunning stage, and after our greetings were exchanged, we discovered that our destination was identical. There was only one thing for it, so I accompanied Mademoiselle to “Egypt.” This was not by any means an ordeal, you will naturally think; but en route we had to pass in a narrow lane my own battalion marching at ease to the church parade ground. I’m afraid the Somme sun had not tanned me sufficiently to cover the display of embarrassment I must have made, and my only consolation was that Mam’selle was not brilliant at the English tongue and could not follow the salutes.

WHEN DEALING WITH OUR ADVERTISERS PLEASE SAY “I SAW YOUR ADVT. IN THE LISTENING POST”
THE LISTENING POST.

Col. Stanley's talk was most interesting, and he has promised to attend a meeting of this Association and address members on the work of the War Graves Commission.

I am sure that when this address takes place there will be a record crowd of members present.

Correspondence has been received from the Disabled Society of Great Britain, giving particulars of an Empire Sports Meeting to be held in London shortly, wherein it is noticed there are two events for men with one leg. This Association is endeavouring to be represented at that Sports Meeting.

Advice has been received from the Red Cross Society that all the little difficulties have been overcome now, and that our double amputation patients, G. A. Barham and O. H. Hunter, will very shortly receive the gift of the beautiful motorcycle and side-car similar to the one supplied to Mr. Appleton some time ago.

The best thanks of this Association are again extended to the Red Cross for their great assistance in this matter.

The Secretary reports having interviewed the newly-elected member for Perth in the House of Representatives, Mr. E. A. Mann, regarding the members of this Association who passed the Commonwealth Public Service Examinations three years ago and still await their appointment.

Mr. Mann promised to move in this direction upon his arrival in Melbourne.

Word has been received from our member W. S. Robinson, to the effect that he has settled in New South Wales, and that already he is feeling the benefit of the change and has put on considerable weight. We are sorry to lose him, but our loss is New South Wales' gain.

QUAIN'T NOTION.

Mother: "Archie, dear, have you been doing anything to this ink?"

Archie: "Yes, mammy, I put some water in it to make it write weak. I've been writing to daddy and I wanted to whisper something to him."

PAT'S PUN.

A clergyman who was not averse to an occasional dram employed an Irishman to clear out his office. The Irishman began his work, and brought forth a lot of empty whisky bottles. Before Pat loaded each bottle on to a barrow he held it up and looked through it.

The preacher saw him, and said:

"They are all dead ones, Pat?"

"They are, sorr," said Pat; "but there is something in their favour."

"What is that?" enquired the clergyman.

"Well, sorr," replied Pat, "they all had the minister with them when they were dying."

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.

We are requested by the Ministry of Pensions, London, to publish the following announcement affecting officers, nurses, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Imperial Naval, Military and Air Forces directly employed and paid by the Imperial Government who have been resident continuously overseas (i.e., outside the United Kingdom, Irish Free State, Channel Islands and Isle of Man) since the 1st April, 1919, and to whom pension awards have been made in respect of disablement attributable to or aggravated by service in the Great War.

The British War Pensions Act, 1921 (Sec. 4) declares certain awards made before the 19th August, 1921, to be final awards in respect of the disablement due to Great War service. The Act provides for a right of appeal to an independent tribunal against a final award; and the tribunal has the power to confirm, increase, decrease, or set aside such final award. The right of appeal must be exercised within certain specified time limits which are indicated below. In the absence of a successful appeal to the tribunal a final award cannot subsequently be altered.

For the purposes of the Act, and the Regulations made under it, a final award is a decision, declared to be final, as to the nature, degree, and extent of the disablement or as to the period during which the rate of disablement applies, or as to the grant of pension (if any) granted.

The awards now declared by the Statute to be final are of the following classes:

(1) Awards of permanent retired pay or pension.
(2) Awards of "nil disablement."
(3) Awards where the rate of disablement is certified to be less than 1 per cent.
(4) Final weekly allowances and gratuities (awarded between the 1st April, 1919, and the 19th August, 1921).

In the case of awards falling within classes (2) and (3) above the latest date on which notice of appeal can be given by officers and men overseas is 30th June, 1923; in the case of awards falling within classes (1) and (4) above the latest date (for officers and men whether resident overseas or not) is 6th February, 1924.

All communications relating to appeals should be addressed to Imperial Paymaster, Treasury Department, Perth, acting on behalf of the Ministry of Pensions, London.
JUST IN PASSING
(The Editor discourses on current digger topics)

March 16, 1923.

The Soldiers’ day is approaching, and to commemorate the day our publication for April will be an “Anzac Number.” Readers are invited to correspond with us, and to submit for publication any items of their Gallipoli experiences. Do not let your lack of experience in correspondence deter you; we will brush your matter into shape, if necessary. We want every soldier to assist to make Anzac Day the day of days, and all those who can should assist to make the “Soldiers’ own Journal” worthy of the auspicious occasion.

To our regular correspondents we would point out that this opportunity of advertising their sub-branches, and of fostering the League’s interest, should not be missed, as the usual columns will be retained for that purpose, while additional space will be provided for Peninsula topics.

Has any journalist ever approached the excellence of Lloyd George’s style? His small understudy in Australia does not seem to have followed in his footsteps to date, in fact he seemed to have been effaced from the political map until recently, when the formation of a new party was mooted. If Hughes were to follow Lloyd George in all details, the country would still be able to profit by the opinions formulated by his active brain. We may say and feel as we like about our little Willie, but no denial of his uncanny foresight can be tolerated. Now is the time when he could assist the Government to become a solid and useful body. While things were bad during the war, and immediately subsequent to the cessation of hostilities Billy was a hero on account of his prowess as a statesman, a substantial testimony was made to him, and he was lauded loudly by the majority. His conceit was only the natural result of these things, and now that he has had that portion of his composition severely squashed, his better qualities should come to light once more.

We have received from Mr. Le Breton a copy of his latest production, a song which he has dedicated to all mothers. This lullaby is entitled “Hush,” and has already evinced its merit, although so recently published. Its popularity is assured, and it is invariably encored when sung. A feature which may, and should, appeal to Westralians, is the fact that it is a local production, having been composed, written, and printed in this State.

WHEN HE STOPPED.

The bullying manner sometimes assumed by barristers in cross-examination is notorious in some courts. “Cute” witnesses, however, sometimes turn the tables on their persecutor. In a civil action on money matters in Melbourne the other week the plaintiff had stated his financial position was always satisfactory. He was asked if he had ever been bankrupt. “No,” was the answer. “Now be careful did you ever stop payment?” “Yes,” was the reply. “Ah!” exclaimed counsel. “I thought we should get at you at last. When did that happen?” “After I paid all I owed,” was the answer.

Answers to Correspondents

P.G.R.: Your letter received. There was an insufficient number of miniature badges at the time you mention to allow of every member receiving one. Only constructive criticism is required. Unless diggers support the League, how can they expect it to be of service to them?

J. H. Doyle, South Tammin: Your letter re last, has been investigated and has been passed, together with our report, to the State Secretary of the League for his consideration. The applications for building had not been before the Board at the meeting to which your inquiry refers. See your Branch Secretary for copies of this paper.

F. Le Breton: Yours 21st ultimo to hand, also printed matter. Letterpress.

C. E. Buchan: Thanks. Revival of interest appears general.

E. St. Ives Bilston: We shall be pleased to peruse your letter. It is questionable, however, if such gutter trips is worth more than a passing glance. We are surprised to hear that it was reprinted in a digger journal.

F. W. Bateem: Better luck this time.

S. F. Russell: Thanks. Keep us in touch with your branch’s doings.

J. E. Chinns: Get your best speakers to give short addresses to the school children on the day preceding Anzac Day.

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CHARLIE'S AUNT

(By "Koala" in "Kia-ora-cooe-ee.")

We can't choose our relations, unfortunately, or I would have at least a dozen like Charlie's aunt. A clever author said once, "a certain comic significance clings to the word aunt." True enough, but there are aunts and aunts; and the one who owns Charlie Rancombe as nephew is—well, ask Charlie.

Charlie got the address from a scrap of perfumed pink note-paper, pinned to a pair of backless socks, part of a box of comforts sent out by some "Keep the Boys Cheerful" society, in good old Vic. The paper was embossed with a crest and the motto, "Esse quod esse videtur," in China blue. It looked most impressive. Charlie puzzled over the Latin for awhile, but could make nothing of it. So he tossed the note to Jack Harley, his bouncy mate, who has some reputation as a scholar. Jack read it over a couple of dozen times, then gave this verdict: "The words are spelt wrong; but it's something about 'Good people keep out of quod,' I think."

But Charlie was sceptical. He reckoned that if a girl with such a pretty name as Lavinia wouldn't have a magnific motto. Lavinia was the name penned dimly on the pink note-paper; Lavinia Hylan, Sassafras Avenue, Warregotlawn, Victoria. And there was something also about "Best wishes, and may you come safely home."

"Lavinia Hylan," murmured Charlie, who is a sentimental kind of chap, "I'll bet she's as pretty as a movie girl. I'll write to her. It's up to us fellows to tell the girls at home that we appreciate their gifts."

"Write if you like," says Jack, "but don't be an ass over it. How about giving us the socks? I rather fancy green and yellow."

"Wouldn't take fifty dizzies for them," cried Charlie. And he meant it. I'm pally with him, and he showed me the letter he wrote to Lavinia. After some preliminary flourishes, it read thus: "I'm pretty lonely. I've got an old uncle in India—he was a colonel or something and went through the Mutiny—but I don't remember his name even, and he hasn't written to me. It makes a fellow feel rather blue when he sees all his cobbers getting stacks of mail, and he gets none.

Well, it's jolly good of you girls to make socks for us; so I thought I would write and tell you how much we appreciate them. Green and yellow are my favorite colors... It would be great to get a letter from dear old Aussie."

Charlie watched me closely while I read his epistle to Lavinia. But I managed to keep a straight dial.

"It ought to do the trick," I remarked, "if you want to add to your extensive correspondence."

And that 'lonely soldier's' letter went overseas in a green envelope.

Four months later, when a big mail lobbed in camp, Charlie, as usual, got a pile of parcels and thirty odd letters from adoring relations and admiring friends. I dropped into his bivy that evening, and was surprised to find him with a gloomy face.

"What's up, old chap?" I asked sympathetically. "Bad news from home?"

"Yes," he cried, savagely, "darned bad news. I've shipped to glory over that letter to Lavinia. Read this."

And he gave me a sheet of perfumed pink note-paper, with an embossed crest and motto in China blue.

"My Dear Nephew," the note ran, "I was very pleased to receive your nice letter, thanking me for the socks. It was strange that you should get them. Now dreadfully your memory must have suffered through life in the desert. You seem to have forgotten all your relations. But, of course, you couldn't be expected to remember me, anyhow. I am the sister of your old-uncle in India; we only came to Victoria this year. I have sent you a parcel by this mail. Your loving AUNT. (signed) Lavinia Hylan.

I laughed like a kookaburra. Charlie glared for a minute, then he joined in.

"After all," he chuckled, "it serves me right. And she's a good sport, is Miss Lavinia Hylan."

But we hadn't heard the last of Charlie's aunt—not by a long way. Nearly every mail, Charlie lands a parcel from Miss Lavinia Hylan. And in each of them, on top of the contents, there is a piece of pink note-paper bearing the words 'For a Very Lonely Soldier.'

My cobber wore those green and yellow socks to the last thread almost. He parted with them last, to the 'finish rubbish' wallah, who consigned them to the incinerator; they were too far gone even for Ali.

By the way, we got the Padre to translate that motto; it means: 'Be what you seem to be.' There's a moral hanging to this tale. Do you get me, Steve?

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