AUSTRALIA AND THE EMPIRE

BY ONE of those happy coincidences which make the study of history so interesting, Australia Day was celebrated while the news of the Australia-New Zealand Pact and Viscount Halifax's views on Empire relations were still occupying the fore-front of the news. Viscount Halifax was at pains to explain that his remarks represented his own opinions and were not to be regarded as an official statement. Nevertheless, they aroused much dissent in Canada, although they were thoroughly in accord with the spirit of the Australian-New Zealand agreement.

Although Viscount Halifax declared that could remember the revolt of the American colonies, the British Colonial Office adopted the policy which has been summed up in the phrase "From Crown Colony to Self-Governing Dominion." That phrase has been a concise description of the political evolution of the hosts by their pronounced belief that Australia and New Zealand would secede from the Empire after the war, and throw in their lot with the United States. The belief was a tribute to our independence, but a poor compliment to our intelligence.

So far from showing any tendency towards leaving the British Commonwealth, Australia and New Zealand have formulated an agreement which, it is hoped, will form the basis of a more general agreement among the United Nations in regard to the Pacific; after the war.

Defence and security are matters on which the two Dominions have agreed, and on which they will speak with one voice at the larger Empire and international conferences that are foreshadowed. The agreement has been welcomed by men of all political parties in Australia and New Zealand, and it has been the subject of favourable Press comment in England, the other Dominions, and the United States. However, the defence measures, with which, by the way, the policy of our League is in full agreement, have been criticised by isolationist and anti-British newspapers in America.

One objection was that, if the agreement finds Empire-wide acceptance, the Empire will remain a military alliance after the war. Why the devil shouldn't it? The integrity of the Empire is part of our policy, and something for which we are prepared to fight. It was in support of that integrity that we, in Australia, took up arms in 1914 and again in 1939. Earlier in the war we frequently heard the parrot-like question: "What are we fighting for?" Well, here is one
thing we are not fighting for: that is the privilege of dismembering the Empire, either for friend or foe. In the matter of defence, it was realised that the islands to the north of Australia are our bastions in that direction. It is implied in the agreement that these bastions must be strengthened and defended, with the cooperation of Britain and the Netherlands. The suggestion made by a Chicago newspaper that Australia and New Zealand contemplate taking over all or any of these islands is wickedly false. The security measures of the agreement were attacked and deliberately misrepresented by the Chicago "Daily Tribune," a paper which has never erred on the side of friendliness towards the British Empire.

In calling this part of the agreement an absurdity the "Daily Tribune" naively states that it would be ridiculous to expect the defence of this area to be an Empire responsibility, because Britain, while heavily involved on other fronts, lost Malaya and Burma, and the Dutch lost their East Indian Islands when the Japanese came into the war. The implication of the "Daily Tribune's" delightful diatribe is that there is only one Power that can adequately defend the north of Australia, and that Power is the United States. With all due gratitude for what the United States has done for Australia and the Allied cause, we must point out that the absurdity of this implication lies in the fact that the United States also lost Wake Island and the Philippines.

Fortunately, no one, either in Britain or America, is likely to take much notice of the Chicago "Daily Tribune." In making the recent agreement the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand have taken a step which marks a new era in Empire relations, an era of independence with the recognition of interdependence. What is also important from the League's point of view is the implied recognition that defensive measures must not be allowed to vanish with the signing of peace treaties. We must never again allow the illegitimate spawn of Pacifism—Disarmament and Appeasement—to plunge us into another war.

League Membership

"RSL membership is increasing by leaps and bounds," said the State President (Mr. T. S. Edmondson) when discussing the likelihood of new organisations being formed. "Every mail brings application forms for membership, duly completed by men of all the Services, who are still engaged with the enemy. The latest figures I have given the total membership of the W.A. Branch as about 11,000. The total for the Commonwealth is about 100,000. In the metropolitan area, Perth Sub-Branch leads with 1,000 financial members, while North-East Fremantle is approaching the 500 mark. Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch has 400 financial members. The League," Mr. Edmondson continued, "has sub-branches in almost every district throughout Australia, and a head office in every capital city, including Canberra. Membership is based on service in a theatre of war. The young troops of today are fortunate in having an organisation ready made for them. No doubt, most of them will take advantage of, and participate in, the League's work by becoming members as soon as their job in the defence of the Empire has victoriously concluded."

Referring to small sectional organisations which may come into existence, Mr. Edmondson said that these would, no doubt, come and go, as they did at the end of the last war, but the League's existence is not threatened. It is assured for several generations to come. The League's watchword is "Service" as all Australians know. The League stood for an added defence force since its formation. The staff at the head office, Anzac House, welcome inquiries in connection with repatriation, soldier settlement, hospitals, deferred pay, and any other problems of servicemen and their dependents. These matters comprise the daily routine of the office work.

New Zealand and Ex-Servicemen

While we pride ourselves on what we are doing for the ex-service man, it is often good to examine what it being done in the sister Dominions. It is New Zealand's proud claim that, nowhere else in the Empire, are the ex-service man's interests guarded with greater zeal or success. Take out of our service, the New Zealand ex-service men's organisation was formed in 1916. It was called the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association, because, at that time, the Dominions had few of its sons in other services.

After the outbreak of the present war it was recognised that there would be a considerable number of New Zealanders serving in all branches of the armed forces and, as happened in Australia, the name was changed to embrace all services, but so as to retain the initials NZRSA, which is so familiar throughout the Dominion. In fact, is is scarcely ever referred to other than the NZRSA, just as in Australia we were always known as our organisation the unofficial short title of RSL.

New Zealand's achievements have been similar to our own in connection with war pensions, patriotic funds, compulsory universal national service, canteen funds, alleviating distress and rehabilitation. These constitute the main problems dealt with by the New Zealand association. Before the present war broke out, a National Military Hospital was established in New Zealand. The Returned Servicemen's Association was asked by the Government to assist in the enrolment of personnel, and over 12,500 ex-service men responded to the call.

In 1933 a Disabled Service Men's Re-Establishment League was set up, as the result of a Royal Commission, which had been appointed as the result of representations from the association. Its purpose was, and is, to enable disabled ex-service men to utilise their remaining percentage of physical and mental ability for the benefit of themselves and the community. The League not only trained and made happy, useful citizens of numerous disabled ex-service men who had not worked for many years, but it also secured suitable employment for others. The Rehabilitation Board has allocated the training of service men disabled in this war to the League.

In New Zealand, farming has ranked as a primary industry. As a number of discharged service men will want to follow this vocation, the Association continues to endeavour to ensure that the best possible facilities of land settlement shall be made available to such men. Having realised that the price of farm lands was increasing, and that, in many instances, purchasers were not intending
The question of eligibility for seas. This organisation has already held its first conference, and it is gratifying to read, from the Press reports, that the ideals and objects of the Demobilised Volunteers' Association march so well in step with our own.

But while the League may expect support from well-grounded and friendly bodies, it must also be prepared to face competition, such as occurred after the last war, when our League was fighting for recognition. In those days, there were two rival organisations. One was formed under the patronage of a church, and the other under that of a political party. By their very nature their membership was more restricted than that of an organisation like our own, which is national in character, non-sectarian in religious matters, and non-partisan in politics. At their very inception, the rival shows contained the germs of their own dissolution, and they soon faded away and gradually died. No doubt today there are those in our midst who, for various reasons, would like to see the League disintegrate. One means of bringing this about would be the formation of a strong rival body of ex-servicemen of the present war, provided such a thing can be done; but, if the League's position was unassailable at the outset, how much stronger is it today when it has become the strongest and most influential body of its kind in Australia. The League has a status in the community of which we are justifiably proud. We have the respect of all political parties, and of all religious bodies. We can point to a proud record of achievement on behalf of the service man over a long period of years, and we can confidently look forward to far greater achievement when our thinning ranks are filled and extended by the young men from the present war. The rate at which eligible young men are joining the League today shows that this is generally realised; but, perhaps, is not so fully recognised, is the fact that these younger members have inherited something more than a tradition, valuable as that tradition may be. They have also inherited tangible assets of great value. In our own State there is Anzac House and the various RSL buildings throughout the suburbs and country towns. Similar assets have been accumulated, through the efforts of members, in all other States.

The League today is the member body for Australia of the British Empire Service League, which comprises ex-service men's organisations throughout the Empire. It is the body which is recognised by Governments at home and overseas. It has far more to offer the young ex-service man of today, and is able to do far more for him, than any newly-formed...
rival organisation. Of course, there will always be the disgruntled men, and men of inflated self-esteem, who would rather rule over a midden than serve in a palace. Such people, however, serve no interests but their own. In a democracy, they are busters on the heels of the body social; in countries with leavings to autocracy, they become potent causes of future wars. At present, we understand that attempts are being made to exploit the yearning of discharged men to join something or other. We would advise all discharged service men to ask themselves what is the organisation that seeks their membership? who is running it? and what has it to offer that the League is not freely giving already?

British Reinstatement Bill

Members of this League will be interested in a recent report of the Second Reading debate on the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Bill in the British House of Commons.

During the debate in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour (Mr. McCorquodale) explained that the Bill would extend the right of reinstatement to volunteers as well as to professional soldiers. The man whose employment was suspended at the end of his term in the armed forces today would be eligible for reinstatement. The proposition is very high indeed. The man whose employment is not required to create jobs which would otherwise not exist.

During the debate the Minister for Labour (Mr. Bevin) referred to the case of a man who was in a junior position when he joined up, and would come back later in life. He said: "I have already announced the complete scheme of the Government, together with very substantial grants to make up the gap. If these young men come back and need training in higher grades, in universities, or in technical training, we have harnessed every possible place in the universities and technical schools so that these young men and women can make up the gap."

Land Settlement, Second A.I.F.

In reference to the settlement of men from this war on the land, the League recently wrote to the Minister for Lands (Mr. Wise), stating that a lot of dissatisfaction had been caused by the seeming delay in making any provision for soldier settlement, in respect to the A.I.F. It was also pointed out that country sub-branches had reported cases where parents were acquiring properties in the names of their sons, while the majority of eligible young men of the country were away with the armed forces. The League suggested to the Minister that instructions be issued to the Land Board and to the Agricultural Bank that discharged personnel of this war should be regarded as eligible parties under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act, and therefore entitled to preference. The case of non-soldiers is particularly this desirable in connection with vacant properties on re-purchased estates that were originally secured for soldier settlement. The League expressed the opinion that a review of the position by all the Departments concerned should be made, so that proper protection would be given to the men who were at present away fighting for Australia, and therefore not in a position to act for themselves in respect to land dealings.

In reply, the Under-Secretary for Lands (Mr. G. L. Needham) has advised the League that the Minister will consider these proposals on his return from the Eastern Stations. Mr. Needham pointed out that a systematic investigation is being made into land available for the A.I.F., and the manner in which it should be divided up to provide a suitable land for soldiers. A considerable proportion of the available land in the South-West of the State has been withdrawn from selection, pending the result of this investigation. Consideration is also being given to the advisability of withdrawing further land for the same reason.

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Shelving the Preference Policy

The Federal Government will not recognise the preference for returned soldiers clause in the Repatriation Act last year, but will bring down a separate preference measure. This was stated in the Senate on February 9 by Senator Cameron, when the reply to a question asked by the Minister for Repatriation, questions asked by the Digger's old friend, Senator Brand. Senator Brand had asked when the Government would introduce a machinery Bill to give effect to the preference clause of the existing Repatriation Act. The reply he received can hardly be regarded as satisfactory, and it will be interesting to see what degree of preference will be accorded to ex-servicemen in the Government's separate preference measure.

The articles below, and the following letter from Mr. A. H. Panton, to say nothing of the references to preference in sub-branch notes, all illustrate the concern this vital question is giving the League.

A matter which is worrying the League at present is the practical certainty that the rehabilitation of discharged service men and women will not be carried out by the Repatriation Department, but by another Department altogether, on which there will be no soldier representation, unless we insist on securing that representation. As a League, we think that the rehabilitation of service personnel is a matter for the Repatriation Department, as it was after the last war. Nevertheless, the point about which we are most concerned is not what Department is going to control rehabilitation, but the manner in which this work will be carried out. That which is most at stake, and in greatest danger, is the principle of preference.

Probably no public question has been more completely misunderstood, and more wilfully misrepresented, than the question of preference. To the ordinary man in the street, preference means nothing more than finding a job for the returned man. For him, the matter has been obscured by all sorts of side issues. He is told that the man in a reserved occupation, or "protected" from service in one of the fighting forces by the manpower authorities, must be considered as well as the fighting man. Only a few months ago, in this very city of Perth, a Federal Cabinet Minister told a big audience that preference for service men would not be necessary after the war because, in the brave new world the politicians are going to create, everyone will be employed. Everyone will be happy. This Minister referred only to preference to service men. He made no reference to preference to unionists, nor has any of our political leaders yet suggested that preference to unionists should also be scrapped, because it will not be necessary in the millennium that will automatically succeed the war. Of course, the attitude of one Minister is not necessarily that attitude of the Government as a whole; but here is another significant fact—a draft Preference Bill was submitted by the League to the Government many months ago, but so far there has been no definition of the Government's attitude towards preference.

The evidence available suggests that the preference principle will be thrown into the discard, just as soon as the task of rehabilitation is taken away from the Repatriation Department. When that takes place, the returned man will receive no more consideration from the authorities than pure-minded patriots who have hampered the war effort at every opportunity with their vengeful strikes and stop-work meetings. By preference is meant something more than finding a job for a discharged member of the fighting services. It means reinstatement in civil life, and in a position which would approximately be his, had his career in civilian life not been interrupted by his war service. That is the position in broad outline, as it applies to the man who is fortunate enough to return reasonably fit. For those less fortunate, other plans have been devised. Nevertheless, even the comparatively fit man is at a disadvantage compared with the man who did not see actual fighting service. He is not only entitled to a job when he comes back—He is also entitled to promotion and other advantages, in preference to the man who did not run the same risks and endure the same hardships.

Our League stands for direct preference for fighting members of the services. This is an issue that we will not see shelved without asserting ourselves. Any Government, or any Party, which abrogates the preference principle is asking for trouble, because any abrogation of that principle will be the one thing that will make this League very militant.

Mr. A. H. Panton, of the State Executive, writes:

Having had an opportunity of examining the Preference Bill received from South Australia, I desire to offer a few remarks on the Bill and preference generally.

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“member of the fighting forces” has a very much wider definition and gives preference to any man or woman (provided he or she is domiciled in South Australia when the claim for preference is made) who has been a member of the fighting force during any war in which the Commonwealth is, or has been engaged, while “fighting force” means any naval, military, or air force (including women) of the Commonwealth, United Kingdom or of any of His Majesty’s Dominions. In effect, starting with the South African war, any man or woman taking part in that or subsequent wars in which the Commonwealth was engaged can claim preference under this Bill.

I admit, the redeeming feature is Clause 3, which deals with relative qualifications of members of the Services, and other applicants which is on a par with the old law “all things being equal.”

Of course, if ever the Bill is put into operation any Government who tried to enforce the principle of it would not last more than one election, as the people of Australia are not going to agree to giving men from Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, etc. preference over men and women who were forced to work in reserved occupations, to say nothing of the generation growing up.

I have not had an opportunity of reading the Bill which I understand was drafted by the Federal Executive and forwarded to the Prime Minister. I can only hope that it was not on the same lines as that proposed by South Australia.

There is another question which I think the Executive might look into. At present men are being discharged from the Services and told to go and see the Public Service Commissioner for employment, which means, of course, that if employed at all they can only be so employed in a temporary capacity owing to the obligation entered into by the Government with those men who have gone into the Forces and who, on return, will take up their positions with all the privileges guaranteed to them. Consequently, these temporary employees will then be discharged and lose all chances of vocational training they may have had.

In my opinion, the Commonwealth, either through the Army of the Repatriation Department, are passing the “buck” to the State, and if what is going on here is typical of the rest of Australia, then I am afraid it is going to be a poor look-out for the returned soldier, as there is no argument in favour of a man filling the place of an employee who is still away fighting.

These are just a few thoughts which have struck me after the last meeting of the Executive, where we seemed to be dealing with individuals rather than principles.

Might I suggest, too, that the authorities, having passed the “buck” and the individual having obtained a job of some sort, they, the authorities, will no doubt consider that they have fulfilled their obligation in regard to having repatriated returned men or women.

An official of the Ontario Department of Mines says that the finding of mica deposits near Eau Claire in Northern Ontario is one of the big Canadian discoveries of the war. So far, the mine has produced enough mica for all the United Nations.

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Congress Resolutions
EMBARKATION LEAVE AND TRAVELLING CONDITIONS

Resolutions Nos. 163, 166 and 167, which were passed by the 28th Annual Congress last year, related to embarkation leave and travelling conditions for service personnel. Copies of the resolutions were forwarded to the authorities concerned, and the following replies have been received from the Prime Minister’s Department.

RESOLUTION 163:
(i.) Embarkation leave as such is not now granted to Army personnel. The order of priority of inter-State travel was determined by the Commonwealth Land Transport Board in pursuance of its powers under the National Security (Land Transport) Regulations.
(ii.) Army personnel travelling on home leave passes are granted a higher priority than all other travellers with the exception of members of the Services travelling in uniform on duty and civilians travelling on business of national importance, i.e., directly or indirectly associated with defence requirements. Service personnel travelling on home leave passes normally move by troop train.
(iii.) A priority system for travel inter-State does not exist and members of the services travelling on leave have equal rights with other passengers.
(iv.) Contingent on suitable and adequate transport facilities being available, service personnel are given the benefit of travelling via the most direct route to their homes.
(v.) Existing regulations provide for the granting of preference in inter-State movement of personnel travelling on certain types of leave when the necessity arises.

RESOLUTION 166:
(i.) Personnel journeying from hospitals are given first-class accommodation and sleeping berth accommodation where overnight travel is involved if in the opinion of the medical officer such mode of travelling is justified.

RESOLUTION 167:
(i.) Rail warrants are issued only to members of the services travelling on duty.
(ii.) Troop trains are provided, and in most cases this means of travel is used by personnel travelling on duty. The majority of Army personnel travelling on duty move in drafts, and it is considered that it would be prejudicial to the maintenance of discipline and control if change of class were allowed to those members who desired it while travelling in these circumstances.
(iii.) Change of class to service personnel travelling on home leave passes is permitted at the discretion of the railway systems.

War Service Homes

The League recently recommended that wives of men on service be permitted to act on behalf of their husbands in respect to dealings with the War Service Homes Commission. The Commission has advised the League that whilst it is desirous of extending every facility within its power to assist prospective applicants for loans under the provisions of the WSH Act, it is unable to accept applications from personnel now serving with the Forces un-

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less eligibility could be established by reason of previous war service.

Where this is done the Commission will co-operate along the lines mentioned as far as possible, but unless the wife has Power of Attorney to act on behalf of her husband it would not be practicable for the Commission to accept execution of transactions appertaining to the granting of assistance ordinarily effected by the applicant as a party thereto. Where eligibility cannot be so established all the Commission could do would be to tender information and advice as to the provisions of the Act.

**Naval Dockyard Police**

The Naval Staff Office has advised in regard to matters raised by the League in connection with the conditions of employment of Naval Dockyard Police. It is pointed out that Naval Dockyard Police are governed by Regulations for the engagement and employment in the Permanent Naval Forces (Auxiliary Services), whereas Naval ratings are governed by the regulations for Permanent Naval Forces (Sea-going). These regulations vary to a great extent in the conditions of engagement, pay, allowances, leave, travelling, etc. No provision exists in Regulations governing Naval Dockyard Police for concession fares when going on leave. In this connection it is pointed out that whereas members of the Naval Dockyard Police are engaged for duty in the State in which their place of residence is located, those engaged in the Sea-going Service are required to serve afloat or, if drafted to a shore establishment, in some other State than that in which their home is located. In the latter cases the Department defrays the cost of travel when the members proceed on leave, providing they are going to the home of their next of kin.

In all cases where members are allowed to live ashore they have to pay their fares to and from the ship of establishment in which they are serving. The State Governments have made concessions to sea-going personnel travelling in uniform by making a reduction of fares, whereas, as members of the Naval Dockyard Police are only permitted to wear uniform whilst on duty, the concession fares are not applicable whilst travelling to and from their place of employment.

It is also observed that Naval Dockyard Police are only required to perform duty of eight hours per day, whereas sea-going personnel may be required to be on duty for 24 hours per diem, or, if they are granted shore leave, they are subject to recall at any time whilst on leave.

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**Anzac House Ballroom**

The suitability of the ballroom at Anzac House as a place for launching this year's appeal for the POW Fund Committee was presented. Concern was expressed at the continued occupation of the ballroom by the Workers' Homes Board. It was pointed out that Anzac House was erected by public subscriptions for the benefit of returned soldiers, and the Government's occupation of such an important part of the building precluded the provision by the League of amenities that returned men have the right to expect. Mention was made of an impression that the League was reluctant to recover the use of the ballroom, because it is receiving rent for it. That impression is quite erroneous. The ballroom was willingly made available to the Government in a time of great emergency. That emergency has, to a great extent, passed, and it is generally considered that the State Government might give up the ballroom. The Executive resolved that a deputation be appointed to approach the Premier (Mr. Willcock), urging that the ballroom be vacated and restored to the use of the League.
The State President at Collie

The League’s Responsibilities

The responsibilities that face the League now, and which will have to be shouldered immediately after the war, were outlined by the State President (Mr. T. S. Edmondson) when he spoke at the opening of the Collie Sub-Branch on February 5. "The first responsibility is to direct this nation of ours along the lines that are best for all," he said. "That responsibility rests on the League, because it is non-partisan in politics, and non-sectarian in religion." Mr. Edmondson declared that of all the policies which had been put before Australia during the past 20 years, the returned soldiers’ policies have been among the best. In 1914 the Diggers of Australia put before the nation a policy which was sound and wise, and which, if followed, would have saved Australia unlimited trouble. Long before this war broke out, we talked of the complete use of the nation’s wealth for the purposes of war. We talked of the complete conscription of manpower, and the complete conscription of the wealth of Australia. That has been done. This League of ours has fought all along for same, balanced and wise principles, and in that respect we have given a lead to Australia.

The second responsibility which rests upon the League is to see that those men who have fought for Australia are properly reinstated as useful citizens, without undue sacrifices of their civilian rights. Mr. Edmondson foreshadowed troublous times ahead. "I am worried at present," he said, "because the rehabilitation of service men and women after the war is not going to be carried out by the Repatriation Department. It is going to be carried out by another Department altogether, and there will be no solid representation on that body. Unless there are returned men to counsel and advise them, that Department will strike trouble — and our own returned men will automatically strike trouble too."

Mr. Edmondson remarked on the prestige of the League throughout Australia. He said that people in all parts of the Commonwealth realised that it is a worthwhile organisation. The total membership is about 100,000. He added that the membership in this State is in the neighbourhood of 11,000. This is a record figure for the State.

An Australian airmen in New Guinea, Flying-Officer Cyril Bennett, of Sydney, has invented a new way of catching fish. Wearing water-proof gogglers, he peers into the water to locate the fish. When he has spotted it, he fires at it with a speical long-barrelled gun, which discharges a blast of compressed air. Flying-Officer Bennett is enthusiastic about his results. He declares that they beat the hauls of native fish spearers, and even the big fellows do not get away.

12th-52nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Wally Bower presided over a fair attendance at the annual meeting on January 22. The following officers were elected: President, H. A. Baker; vice-presidents, J. Fulton and G. Deery; country vice-presidents, R. H. Reeves and J. S. O’Halloran; secretary and treasurer, A. Cook. Dick Fields kept the boys merry and bright with community singing. A Shadgott’s toast of the Navy, Army and Air Force was responded to by J. Chunick of Nungarin. Mr. Massey gave the toast of the association, which was responded to by the secretary, A. Cook. Bill Bayliss proposed the toast of the retiring president, and Wally Bower ably responded. Alf Bromfield proposed the New President (Harry Baker), and Wally Bower proposed the health of the secretary. Incidentally, Alf Cook has not been in the best of health lately, and there were many wishes expressed for his speedy recovery.

Personalities

Mr. J. Craig, the new president of the Midland Junction Sub-Branch, is a returned man from the present war, and is probably the first of the Young Diggers to become president of a sub-branch in this State of an adult man with a future. After about two years’ service with the AIF in the Middle East, he was invalided home, and is now in the manager’s office of the Railway Workshops. Old hands like Len Wilkins reckon he is the finest find the sub-branch has made in many years. The Midland Junction Sub-Branch is certainly giving new blood its opportunity. One of this year’s vice-presidents is Bert Swanell, who also served in the Middle East. He is now running a woodyard, and is a member of the Midland Junction Municipal Council.

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“Bill” James, of the State Executive, declares that it is not cheaper to move than to pay rent, whatever the Irish may say. He should know, because he has now changed his address to 32 Coldstream Street, Leederville. The new address, however, does not mean a new home. Bill has moved back to the house in which he was born.

No. 5784, Sapper J. A. Millane, 3rd Tunnelling Company, a South Australian soldier, recently suffered amputation of both legs, through Beuger’s Disease. Mr. Millane is confident that his trouble was the result of trench feet, which he incurred in France during the last war. He was evacuated by Capt. Langdon to Headquarters in November 1917 with frost-bite (or trench feet) and was treated with the unit. Capt. Langdon died in 1934, but there are several members of the unit who must know of this incident. Will anyone knowing the address of “Ack” Mealan, Bow Hansby, Tom Daly or Albert Symons please write to the Pensions Officer, RAL, Angas Street, Adelaide? By doing so they will greatly help a brother Digger in another State.

Claiming a record for Hugh Leslie, MLA, in a recent issue, we unintentionally did an injustice to an old friend. We stated that Mr. Leslie is the first sitting member of the State Executive to be elected to the State Parliament, and we really should have known better. That honour belongs to Mr. H. E. Wells, who was a member of the Executive when he won the Canning seat in Legislative Assembly about 14 years ago. Our apologies to Mr. Wells.

Diggers lost a good friend, and the State a fine citizen, when the late James Stiles was called to his last resting place. During the last war he saw active service with the 28th Battalion, and he established a fine record for public service during the years that followed. A cricket and football enthusiast in his younger days, he became an ardent fisherman and golfer in more recent years. He was a foundation member of the Perth YMCA, for which he played cricket in 1909. He was a member of the YMCA War Service Appeal Committee, and its annual Y.M.C.A. State War Loan Committee. He worked very hard during local war loan campaigns and, since the last, he had been suffering from the illness which had its climax in death.

Among men, he was a prince of good fellows, a true friend, a kindly and sympathetic employer, and an earnest and consistent worker in any public service he undertook. To his widow and two children we offer this League’s tribute of condolence.

We tender heartfelt condolences to a former president of the Anzac Club and State Executive member, Fred J. Aberle, on the recent loss of his wife, who passed away on January 25. The late Mrs. Aberle was a very gracious lady, who will be greatly missed by a host of mourning friends. She was a foundation member of the South Perth auxiliary. As such, she did much for the League and the Auxiliary, and it is Mr. Aberle’s wish that his wife be buried in the burial ground of the Auxiliary at the War Memorial Church.

In our January issue we credited Tom Goode, a former Light Horseman, with service in the Palestine Campaign. Tom has written to us to say he was in action for six months on Gallipoli in 1915, after which he was invalided home to Australia. We publish this correction at Tom’s request.

It used to be said of the French Foreign Legion that if any job had to be done, whether it was making a road or painting a battle scene for the museum of the Legion, a commanding officer had only to ask, ‘Can you do it?’ The job would be done efficiently by men of the Legion. Similar versatility can be claimed by the AIF, but surely no war veteran ever performed a more unusual task than that achieved, for the glory of God and the service of men, by the Rev. J. R. Love. He has translated the Gospels according to St. Luke and St. Mark into Worora, which is the language of the aborigines of the far north of this State. In doing so, he has brought a great gift to his people, for the books were set up and printed in Perth to the order of the British and Foreign Bible Society. After years of missionary work among the natives in the North-West, Rev. J. Love is now at a mission in Central Australia.

According to a recent report, our northern aborigines are delighted at being able to read the Gospels in their own language; and the younger ones are reading them to those who are not able to read. The Rev. J. R. Love was a Master of Arts of the University of Adelaide, and an ordained minister of religion when the last war broke out. He might have waited to be selected for service in the field, but he preferred to enlist in the Air Force. The Rev. J. R. Love was a padre in the last war.

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The Rev. K. B. Halliday, who is warden of the Geraldton Sub-Branch, is a splendid example of what Charles Kingsley used to call muscular Christianity. He is a man of hearty physique and vigorous personality, who does not wait for men to come to church—he goes out and gets them. Wherever they are to be found, in bars or around the boxing ring. Some of his severely orthodox parishioners used to murmur, but they soon found that his methods were successful, possibly because they had precedents in the Gospel. Father Halliday was not actually a padre in the last war. While still a Cambridge undergraduate, he joined up in the ranks of the British Army. He returned to Cambridge after the war, completed his course, was ordained, and came out to Australia. Before he went to Geraldton he was Rector at Kalamunda, where he won many friends. The Methodist minister who was in Kalamunda at the time was the Rev. A. Sanders, who also went through the war as a foot-slogger.

Young returned men from the present war are gradually infiltrating the League, which, of course, is the natural and proper way to establish the control that they must eventually administer.
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AIF men and four RAAF men from the present war are now members of the Geraldton Sub-Branch. Two of the younger AIF men, Eric Savage and Ern Eaton, are committeemen. Eric has commenced his second term of office, while Ern Eaton has taken on the additional job of auditor.

Mr. Morrie Lewis, who has just been elected president of the Perth Sub-Branch, after having been acting president for several months, needs no introduction to readers of this paper. He served with the 44th Battalion in which he rose to the rank of captain and won the Military Cross, during the last war, and has been doing good and consistent work with the VDC in the present war. His chairmanship of Perth Sub-Branch is already appreciated, as he always displays courtesy and a desire to regulate business, rather than to fall into the common error of dictating it. His full-time job is manager of the RSL Trading Company.

Gloucester Park lost a good member when Len Melleadow passed away on January 16. His war service was with the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy during the last war. Most of it consisted of the dangerous and nerve-wracking tasks performed by mine-sweepers.

Victoria Park reports the loss of a member, Tom Dullard. He was prospecting in Central Australia, and was on his way to South Australia for medical treatment, when he died on December 13. We join with the sub-branch in extending our sincere sympathy to his relations.

A pleasing ceremony was performed at the January meeting of the Mosman Park Sub-Branch. It was a presentation to a little man with a big reputation—Jimmy Woods, VC. He was presented with an enlarged framed photograph of himself. Jimmy, in turn, presented the photograph to the sub-branch and, in due course, it will find an honoured place in the sub-branch's sanctuary. Jimmy revealed an unsuspected vein of eloquence in responding to the presentation. Mosman Park Diggers are beginning to think that better use could be made of this, and an effort to induce Jimmy to take office is foreshadowed.

One of Gloucester Park's new members is G. W. Lang, who has been repatriated from a German POW camp. He was captured in Crete and was taken in cattle trucks to Germany, where he worked in mines for two and a half years, putting in long hours and seeing no daylight for weeks on end. Prisoners engaged in this work got one day off each month, but they were exhausted to do other than sleep. G. W. Lang weighed 21-st. 12-lb. when captured, but he went gradually down to 7-st. 2-lb. Then he collapsed and spent a long time in hospital. The Germans, he says, were very brutal at first, but now they treat the British quite respectfully. The Russians, on the other hand, get one hell of a time.

Osborne Park Diggers made their annual visit to totally disabled and old soldiers of the district on February 2. The visitors included the president (Mr. A. J. Danks), the secretary (Mr. W. Ashdown) and Messrs. Reg Johnson, A. Groat and Eric Gill. A liberal supply of medical comforts was distributed, and many reminiscences of the last war were detailed. Amongst those visited was "Old Bill" Anderson, of Waterloo Street, Osborne Park, who was foundation president of the sub-branch in 1919. Hopes were expressed that he would be able to attend the jubilee festivities of the sub-branch next month.

Our veteran correspondent of Osborne Park Sub-Branch, "Old Bill" Anderson, celebrated a birthday on February 6, without the usual formalities, as the day was Sunday. A few friends congratulated him on having passed the Biblical limitation on living, and on his 56 years' residence in the State. (He arrived here from England in 1887.) In detailing some of his experiences in this State and in the last war, that when he was on the staff of the No. 1 AGH, rationing rags was an innovation in the linen store. Some of the orders issued by a quarter-master stated that, if you required a piece of old linen for cleaning floors, machinery or windows, you had to sign a chit, declaring the use to which the rag was to be put. For instance, "One piece of dislocated pyjama pant for cleaning windows." "One half pillow-slip for cheese-making." "One side for washing floors." "A quarter of a sheet for black-leading one stove." The Army cook refused to sign his chit because it read; "Two underpant legs for tea-strainers."

As we were going to Press, newspapers announced that Lt.-Col. D. G. Mathieson, who went to the last war as a boy of 13 and gained commissioned rank, the Military Medal and the Military Cross, has been killed in action on January 31. This intrepid warrior, who was also awarded the American Distinguished Service Cross, was a New Zealander by birth, and a mining engineer who had considerable experience of this State. He excelled as a commando leader, and, rounding up 8,000 Japs in New Caledonia, he did remarkable work in Guadalcanal and at other places during the battle for the islands. He won his American decoration as a boy of 16. After getting himself landed by night, he crossed the island on foot till he reached the Japanese headquarters in the centre. He spied on the enemy from trees, and committed the details of his observation to memory. He got back the same night. Then he sent the bombers to lay their eggs where he knew they would do most good.

**VARIA**

You can't keep a good girl down, especially when she's a long distance swimmer. Roehna van Rooyen and Marie Stolp, both of Johannesburg, went to Copenhagen in 1938 to study physical education. When the Huns marched in they were interned. Recently they managed to get out of the internment camp, and they reached neutral Sweden by swimming across one of the straits that separates Denmark from Sweden. The distance was just over three miles. The girls told an interviewer that conditions in Denmark had been very bad. "The word "ribbe" was the word they used. Danish people are molested in the streets, and the Germans often shoot at tram cars for no reason except to scare the people into submission.

At a recent meeting of the Northcliffe Sub-Branch exception was taken to the attitude of certain clerical visitors to military hospitals and repatriation wards. The burden of the complaint was that men are being asked what is their religious denomination, while little or no reference is made to their suffering. Northcliffe contrasts that with the attitude of front-line padres in this and the last war, when the intestations of the men was not stressed. Northcliffe Diggers
think that a little less emphasis on creed would help some hospital padres to the love and respectful homage that Diggers are always eager to yield to The Cloth, with which we heartily agree.

* * *

The Australian War Cabinet has decided that men chosen for training under the Government's reconstruction scheme, but whose courses are not yet ready to begin, will be provided with suitable interim training. Suitable ex-service personnel will be eligible for special vocational qualifying training to enable them to pass the required matriculation, or other qualifying examinations, for the training course in view. They will be paid allowances at the same rate as ordinary training benefits. This payment will not affect or diminish the period during which training allowances and other expenses are payable. The Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) said it was agreed to add to the allowances of discharged members of the forces, training under the scheme. Special allowances will be paid to both men and women who may have to live away from home while undergoing training. The central committee may authorise reasonable travelling allowances, in suitable cases, for ex-service personnel, for interview by the training authorities, or to begin training. The committee has been instructed to work out plans to ensure a supply of trained personnel to meet specific needs of post-war reconstruction, such as building and associated trades and vocations. Mr. Curtin said that the Cabinet had decided to appoint a member of the trade union movement and of the employers' organisation to the central committee. One member from ex-servicemen's association will also be added to the central committee and to each State regional committee.

* * *

Men get some rotten jobs in war-time; but what could be worse than the tasks set French pilots when they are detailed to bomb parts of their own country. This is what one of them, Jacques Duschesne, had to say in a recent BBC short-wave talk. "For a French pilot with instructions to bomb Paris, the suburbs, or any other target in France, it is understandable that he undertakes to do so, only if he is satisfied in his own heart that conditions permit of every available precaution. In the last war, I met quite a lot of French flyers. In view of the risks they ran, and their own particular way of looking at their job, they had the reputation of being dare-devils in the sky and play-boys when off duty. But, in this war, I have never seen such determined faces, such a serious conception of the job to be done, as those of the French pilots. It is no longer a question of sport, but one of the most tragic duties a man could possibly be called upon to fulfil. Added to this, the pilot himself actually sees the effect of the devastation caused by his own hand."

* * *

Many people have been wondering what sort of a generation this war-feeding will produce. Dr. Geoffrey Bourne, an eminent physiologist from Oxford, says that the war-feeding will bring about a finer generation after the war. Many children are in nurseries because their mothers are on war work and have little time to look after them; but Dr. Bourne says these children get food which they would rarely face at home, and food which is much better for them. They eat up shredded cabbage, raw beetroot, beans, peas, and swedes, because they are served in separate heaps, and the colour appeals to them. Dishes of dried milk, cheese, and dried eggs, garnished with parsley, yield a different colour scheme, but the same result.

* * *

It is apparent from the nature of some of the complaints recently received from female dependants of serving soldiers that such dependants are not aware that a Complaints Office has been established at Swan Barracks to deal with complaints which any dependant of a soldier, or any other member of the public, may have regarding their business with any branch of the Army Department. Mr. O. J. Williams, who is well known to all returned soldiers, is the Complaints Officer. His office is in Room No. 201 B at the main entrance to Swan Barracks, Francis St., Perth. His telephone extension is 212. Mr. Williams will do everything possible to have complaints adjusted, and to ensure that all dependants receive every possible consideration.

It was reported from Canberra on February 10 that a Commonwealth-wide survey of land suitable for soldier settlement is being made by the West Australian Minister for Lands (Mr. F. J. A. Wise) for the Commonwealth Government. Stating this in the House of Representatives next day, the Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Frost) said there is at present no scheme of soldier settlement for returned men from this war. He assured the House that a scheme of soldier settlement will be established, and that soldiers who benefit by it will receive greater assistance than their predecessors did after the last war.

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The League has approached universities throughout Australia in order to secure an extension of Postal Educational Courses and the co-operation of overseas universities for students serving with the Armed Forces.

The University of Melbourne has advised the League that it has already conducted an extensive correspondence tuition scheme for students in the Forces. Under this, Service personnel are taking examinations of the university whilst in various theatres of war.

In regard to the suggestion that students should be encouraged to take the examinations of overseas universities, it has been the practice of the University of Melbourne to give any student credit for subjects which correspond with those which he has passed in an approved overseas university, although there are many technical difficulties connected with the requirements of courses which differ a good deal between universities. This makes it impossible to assure all students in advance that they will get the exact equivalent of subjects taken at an overseas university.

The Acting Registrar of the University of W.A. (Prof. A. C. Fox) has advised the League that his university is already co-operating in educational schemes for servicemen in the various armed forces, and that a number of courses in the Faculty of Arts are available in this way—that is, with tuition by correspondence. Unfortunately, subjects in the other faculties, involving as they do laboratory and similar work, are not suitable for correspondence tuition. As to the co-operation of overseas universities, the Acting Registrar stated that he was bringing this under the notice of Prof. Bayliss, who is the university representative on the State Advisory Committee of the Australian Services Educational Council.

State Executive

At the meeting of the State Executive on January 19 there were present Messrs. Edmondson, Yeates, Anderson, Watt, Paton, Mansbridge, Margolin, Leslie, Paton, Baker, James, Cornell, Olden, Zeffert, Harvey, Bateson, Wilson, Davies, Cornish, Macgregor, Collins and Wilkins. Apologies were received from Messrs. Smith, Thorn, Collett and Wood. The State President welcomed Mr. Wilkins, Country Vice-President.

Appreciation.—Letters of appreciation were read from Air Marshal Peter Drummond, the Claremont Sub-Branch in regard to a Christmas dinner at the Claremont Mental Hospital, and the Matron of the Lennox Hospital.

Visits.—Col. Margolin reported on his visit, in company with Messrs. Bateson and Davies, to Edward Millen Home and Heathcote on December 23. He also reported on a board meeting at Lennox. Arising out of his report it was decided that members of the Executive should be rostered in groups of three to visit hospitals. Other visits reported were by Mr. Bateson (Perth Hospital on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and Cannington Districts Sub-Branch); Mr. Paton (Bethlehem Hospital); the State President (Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch, Sunset, Wards X and XI, Perth Hospital, Hollywood, and Perth Sub-Branch). Arising out of Mr. Edmondson's visit to Hollywood, it was decided that Mr. Keogh, a member of the staff, should visit that hospital once a week.

Publicity.—It was resolved that the State President should discuss the question of newspaper publicity for the League with the editor of "The West Australian."

New Zealand Repatriation.—Mr. Paton agreed to supply information with reference to a booklet issued by the New Zealand R.S.L.

Condolence.—Delegates paid a silent tribute to the late Madame Bennett-Wilkinson and Mr. G. Findlay.

R.S.L. Broadcasts.—The following broadcast roster was drawn up: January 20, Mr. Baker; January 27, Prof. Macgregor; February 3, Mr. Davies; February 10, Mr. Leslie; February 17, Mr. Zeffert; February 24, Mr. Watt; March 2, Mr. Anderson.

New Sub-Branch.—The application for the reformation of the Coolgardie Sub-Branch, and the election of officials, were approved.

Land Settlement.—A communication from the Lands Department about the position of the second A.I.F. in regard to Soldier Settlement was referred to the Land Committee.

Sub-Branches.—The appointment of officials of the following sub-branches was confirmed: Perth, Boyanup, Army Nurses and Claremont.

Entertainment POW's.—A letter re the entertainment of returning POW's was received from the State President of the Women's Auxiliary.

Amalgamation Kulja and Mollerin Sub-Branches.—A communication from Mr. T. Richardson concerning the amalgamation of the Kulja and Mollerin Sub-Branches was received and the amalgamation approved.

Enjoy an unsurpassed panoramic view whilst you lunch in

BOANS
4th FLOOR DINING HALL

- 3-Course Midday Dinners for 1/6
- Tender, Juicy Grills from 1/6
- BOANS SPECIAL Morning and Afternoon Teas

Home-Made Cakes, Scones and Sandwiches for 10d.
Publicity.—(a) A letter from the Midland Junction Sub-Branch regarding publicity was received and a reply left to the State Secretary; (b) a communication regarding publicity was received from the Suburbs Sub-Branch, and a reply was left to the State Secretary.

Legacy Estate Late Mrs. Kathleen Ledger.—A communication was received from the West Australian Trustee in connection with a legacy left by the above-named to the League. This was referred to the Management Committee.

FEBRUARY 2, 1944

At the meeting of the State Executive on February 2 there were present Messrs. Edmondson, Yeates, Anderson, Watt, Panton, Smith, Mansbridge, Margolin, Thorn, Leslie, Paton, Baker, James, Cornell, Olden, Zeffert, Harvey, Wilson, Wood, Davies, Cornish, Maegregor and Collins.

Visitors.—The State President welcomed Messrs. J. McGill (Country Vice-President), Sykes (Kondinin) and J. Coles (Goomalling).

Condolence.—Sincere sympathy was expressed with Mr. F. J. Aberle on the death of his wife. The State President advised that Mr. F. Bateson was in Ward X. It was resolved that a letter be sent to him, hoping for his speedy recovery.

Anzac House Ballroom.—Aising out of the report of the POW Fund Committee, it was resolved that a deputation wait on the Premier, making strong representations for the restoration of the Anzac House ballroom to the League, as this would be a fitting place from which to launch this year's appeal on behalf of the POW Fund. The deputation will consist of the State President, two vice-presidents, the chairman of the House Committee, and Mr. Zeffert.

Visits.—The following visits were reported: State President (Advisory Committee of the Army Education Service, No. XI Ward); Col. Collett (Wagin); Mr. Cornell (South Eastern sub-branches); Mr. Paton (returning troops); Mr. Davies (War Artists' Exhibition). It was resolved to draw the attention of the Federal Office to the fact that there appears to be no returned soldier representation on rehabilitation boards.

This trusty friend of the "Old Diggers" is now being supplied to the Commonwealth Military Forces

(All Western Leather)

Pearse Bros. Ltd.
NORTH FREMANTLE

Commercial Union Assurance Co. Ltd.

Head Office for Western Australia:

COMMERCIAL UNION BUILDINGS, ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH

LESLIE K. Mc Donald Branch Manager

Capital
Total Funds exceed £2,950,000
Total Annual Income exceeds £60,000,000

FIRE MARINE ACCIDENT

Perth Sub-Branch. — A letter was received from Perth Sub-Branch asking if the State Executive would meet a deputation. It was decided that an appointment would be fixed with the management Committee, the date to be arranged.

Claremont Sub-Branch. — Claremont Sub-Branch advised that they proposed to arrange a meeting with the Minister for Health (Mr. Panton). It was decided to advise Claremont of the action already taken and contemplated in respect to the matter referred to. It was resolved that sub-branches be again informed that approaches to Ministers and Departments should always be through the Executive, thus ensuring continuity of League policy.

Upper Chapman: Repatriation Ward, Geraldton.—Correspondence regarding a repatriation ward at Geraldton was received from the Upper Chapman Sub-Branch. The proposal will be discussed with the State Repatriation Department.

Visit Hollywood Hospital. — Mr. Keogh reported that a visit to Hollywood Hospital, Perth, was made by the sub-branch. It was decided that the sub-branch would be invited to the hospital, and it was resolved that the provision of a booklet be referred to the Management Committee.

Sub-Branch Activities

MELVILLE

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting: President, Mr. A. Findlay; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. A. B. Philip and G. Morrison; treasurer, Mr. A. H. Buckley; secretary, Mr. H. Moore; committee, Messrs. J. E. Dunkley, V. Hooper and J. C. Paterson. The annual report showed that a building fund has been subscribed towards the purchase of the necessary land. Poppy Day sales were a record for the sub-branch. A special vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Mooball for good work as secretary over a period of many years. Although small in numbers, this sub-branch is holding together and is an important factor in the welfare of the Applecross district.

NORTH-EAST FREMANTLE

Of the 31 new members welcomed by the president at the January meeting, 24 were recently discharged from overseas service in the present war. These have been repatriated from Germany. The sub-branch has been the recipient of many congratulatory messages, for its keen interest and efforts in rehabilitating those now being discharged. Members and intending members are again reminded that they can volunteer as secretaries for the Committee in Harris's 1278. The Thursday night dances in the Fremantle Town Hall have been drawing record crowds, and it is expected that the bridge evening will recommence in the near future.

M. LAWLEY INGLEWOOD

Well, we're back again in our old quarters for the monthly meetings, and the occasion was celebrated by a record attendance (for recent years) of over 100 members. Included in this number were about 15 new members, bringing the general membership to over 400. But al-
though meetings are held upstairs in Wallis's Hall (members should note that the back stairs MUST be used) the social part of the evening still takes place in the “Dug-out.” The meeting was the liveliest we have had for a long time, a variety of subjects being discussed—and passed on to the State Executive for action. Information was also sought by members on the rate of exchange on pay overseas, and leave. And to top up we were treated to an admirable exhibition of the art of paper tearing and quick sketching by Sgt. Paul de Bur, of the art of paper tearing and quick sketching.

Meetings will be held as follows: Games, monthly meeting, March 7; membership, March 20; secretary, Mr. A. B. Rutherford. The annual meeting will be held on February 29.

**SHENTON PARK**

All the retiring officers were re-elected at the annual general meeting. They are: President, Mr. R. W. Ogg; vice-president, Mr. P. J. Clegg; secretary, Mr. Bishop; minute secretary, Mr. Strongman; auditors, Messrs. Gill and Strachan; additional committee members, Messrs. Warnes Jr., Arthur Taylor and Sam Chandler. Reports showed increased membership and a sound financial position, with £100 invested in the war loans. Proposed a date of a proposed social, to which all members, their wives, or lady friends, are being invited. The next meeting will be held on March 6 in the Progress Hall, Onslow Road.

**FREMANTLE**

At the general meeting on January 29 members extended their profound sympathy to the president (Mr. H. G. Wilson) on the serious illness of his daughter, Mrs. Baldwin, and the subsequent loss of her baby. A new baby was born to the president, and the reports of the deputation to the Management Committee of the State Executive about the building of the proposed Soldiers’ Club in Fremantle, and the question of the proposed amalgamation of the two Fremantle sub-branches, was received and adopted. The latter question will be in front of the sub-branch at the meeting on February 24.

**SUNNYBANK**

Several new members were enrolled at the annual general meeting on January 29.

**MT. HAWTHORN-NORTH LEEDERVILLE**

The annual meeting attracted a large attendance. Garney Blab, the retiring president, who has been in the chair for three years, did not seek re-election. The sub-branch finished the year with £65 in bank balances.

**BASSENDEN**

Officers for the ensuing year were elected at the annual general meeting on January 27. It was with deep regret that the sub-branch accepted the resignation of the president (Mr. Minchin) and the secretary (Bill Matthews). Both gentlemen had held office for two years, and had done valuable work. The following team has been selected for 1944: President, Mr. C. Cook; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. Ford and T. Gumerton; secretary, Mr. A. Savage (a returned man of the present war); social secretary, Mr. Mitchell; employment officer, Mr. Bill Matthews; publicity officer, Mr. George Atkins.

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**Labour Saving BEANS**

No! Not a new brand of bean—just the finest beans that can be grown; canned now for the Services only—later they'll be available for your use, deliciously cooked, all ready to serve at your table.
tained. Perhaps the sub-branch's biggest achievement was that mentioned in the treasurer's report—the hall is well cleared of debt, and the sub-branch starts the year with a credit. The following officers were elected: President, B. Keeley; vice-presidents, L. Vivian and H. James; auditor, J. J. Prindagast; secretary, Cuth Richardson; treasurer, W. Rowles; publicity officer, E. Nathan; building committee, Messrs. Kay, Morton, Rowles, Damon, Vivian, H. Richardson, Longbottom, Hinchesiie, James and Woodhead; amalgamation committee, Messrs. Kay, Campbell, Nathan, Andrews and Smout; social committee, Messrs. Longbottom, Black, Burton, H. Richardson, F. Campbell, Hinchesiie, Coleman, A. E. Lawrence, Appleton; SSL Warden, Messrs. Stockman, Campbell, Hearle, Lawrence, Burton and King. Members are reminded that entries are again open for sub-branch championships. These should be handed to the sports director (C. Richardson). Next meetings will be on Februry 24 and March 9.

**NORTH PERTH**

Meetings have been held in a much brighter atmosphere since the transfer to the new headquarters in the North Perth Bowling Club rooms. A big feature is the return of old members to the fold. It is likely that Wally Godden and Doug Cummings are likely to appear at any future meeting. The January meeting saw the re-appearance of Chris Presdee, who came all the way from Fremantle, and Ollie Hill. Younger Diggers from the present scrap are joining up in good numbers and taking office. The present secretary, the assistant secretary, and some of the committee are all men of this war. Much interest has been aroused by the proposal to build a memorial hall. Donations are being received, and the building committee has set itself the objective of $100 from the sub-branch, before any approach is to be made to the public. The president (Eric Davies) has been notified by Cr. Spencer, who is also a Digger, that Cr. Caddy has offered to take charge of an open air committee concert, in aid of the building fund, some time in March.

**MAYLANDS**

At the meeting on January 27 nominations were taken for officers for 1944. Apparently members are well satisfied with their present leadership. Sep Horton will be re-elected president unopposed, for the fifth consecutive year. Alf Cook was re-elected secretary, without opposition. Three new retiring officers were nominated for a further term. The meeting took the form of a general discussion on the welfare of men returning from this war. Membership was increased by 20 during the past month. The secretary's job is expanding at such a rate that an assistant secretary is to be appointed. Members are reminded that the annual social will be held on February 28.

**GLOUCESTER PARK**

There was an attendance of about 60 at the meeting on February 3. An interesting innovation was made when the president (C. Isbister) vacated the chair for the evening in favour of the junior vice-president (W. Delaney). This was for the purpose of training a young man from the present war in a president's duties; but, by the way he carried on the job, he showed that he does not need much training. Several new members, most of them repatriated prisoners of war, were enrolled. The management of the Anzac Club came in for some severe criticism. The annual smoke social will be held on March 1.

**ARMADALE**

A social evening will be held at Byford on February 23. Members of the sub-branch are asked to subscribe ½ a month to the new building fund. The hall will be complete with recreation rooms, games, and billiard rooms, etc. Credit for the month was £8/10/3. There are now 106 financial members. Mr. Roy Fletcher has been asked to conduct dances in aid of the building fund. The president welcomed service men of the RN and RAAF. The secretary was instructed to find out how many are receiving benefits, and what amount has been paid out from the Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Fund. A complaint was made that members of the League are being discharged from munition works, while men who are not eligible for membership are being retained. The secretary was instructed to register a strong protest to the State Executive. Concern was also expressed at the manner in which the rehabilitation commission is constituted, and the non-inclusion of soldier representation.

**MOSMAN PARK**

George Ashworth presided over a well-attended meeting in January. There was much discussion on the proposal to make memberships commence from January 1. The secretary was instructed to ask Lea-
gue Headquarters to clarify certain points. Congratulations were made to the team of sub-branch members who succeeded in winning this year's Digger's bowling championship. The team consisted of Messrs. Clements, Brown, Bryant and Quinton. Bill Craze is still going strong with the library, but more support from members and further donations of books would be welcome. Next meeting should find Bob Kerr in his element, with his House-House outfit. With other appointments available at the hall, members should be well entertained. Members are asked for suggestions as to implementing the preference policy. POW contributions are still coming forward.

**VICTORIA PARK**

Six new members were enrolled at the meeting on January 26. The sub-branch decided to extend a welcome home, on February 16, to men of the district who have been repatriated from German POW camps. Secretary Fred Matthews is back from his holiday. We are glad to learn that the rest has done him good. The Stan Gurney Trophy is being competed for this year. Members are advised to attend monthly meetings, when they will obtain all particulars. Two delegates, Jack Brown and Tom Taylor, represented the SSL at a meeting in Annie House last month.

**CLAREMON**

At the annual meeting on January 13 the following officers were elected: President, Mr. W. C. Ford; vice-presidents, Messrs. D. H. C. McKenzie and C. Arndt; treasurer, Mr. P. Devlin; secretary, Mr. H. Lane; assistant secretary, Mr. J. Ashby; auditor, Mr. C. Hendry; committee, Messrs. L. Denbigh, D. McLean, C. Riva, J. F. Foord, J. Gascoigne, A. J. Aldridge, E. S. Pearson and M. Kott. The art union in aid of the POW Fund returned a profit of £15/5/- About 300 children of ex-servicemen were entertained at a Christmas party. The West Leederville auxiliary donated three guineas for the entertainment of soldier patients in the Claremont Hospital. It was decided to use this in providing gifts for Anzac Day. At the meeting on February 3 progress was reported on efforts to secure a suitable site for the proposed hall. A report was received from delegates who attended the recent SSL meeting. There was also a long discussion on the preference question. It was decided to bring one specific instance of the flouting of preference under the notice of the State Executive.

![Women's Auxiliaries]

**SWAN VIEW-GREENMOUNT**

At the January meeting a parcel of good things was sent to "Sunset," despite the rationing; also many donations were given for various causes. A very successful dance was run on January 29 in aid of the Red Shield Hut, the proceeds being £5. At the meeting Mrs. Williams (president) presented, on behalf of the ladies, a cake to Miss J. Rourke on the eve of her marriage to S/Sgt. Patterson, of Ballarat. Members wished her all the best for the future. Miss Rourke responded, then afternoon tea was served.

**VICTORIA PARK**

The goose club was drawn at a social evening on December 15. Afternoon tea and Christmas gifts were taken to patients at Edward Millen on December 12. Christmas cheer to the value of £3/3/- was distributed to soldier patients in the Perth General Hospital. A small donation was made to the Blind Folk's picnic. Other donations included £20 to the POW Fund, £5/5/- to the Merchant Navy, and a cheque to the sub-branch. Forty-five patients were entertained at Edward Millen on January 28. The War Loan Group has just passed the 400 mark. The general meeting will be held on February 25.

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**SHOP at FOY'S**

For VALUE and Friendly Service!
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN
RATES: 2/1/- PER ANNUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTILLERY COMRADES' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Last Friday each month</td>
<td>W. Beadle</td>
<td>450 Newcastle Street, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
<td>D. M. Benson, Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>W. Kruger, 79 St. Leonard's Avenue, Leaderville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EX-MACHINE GUNNERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Gregson's, 32 King Street, Perth</td>
<td>Friday before Anzac Day and 2nd Friday in October</td>
<td>W. H. Bertwistle, Dun, Flat Street, Siding Court, 48 Stirling Highway, Nendlands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>As Advertised</td>
<td>Annual reunion, Monday of Week</td>
<td>M. Lewis, 550 Fitzgerald St. North Perth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Committee, as arranged</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday</td>
<td>H. J. Edwards, 37 Hamilton Street, Baywater</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Nearest Saturday, July 19</td>
<td>R. A. Giddins, 62 Tyrell Street, Nendlands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Room 33, 50 Marche Buildings, Barrack Street, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>E. O. Davies, 77 Mabel St, North Perth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>1st Monday in each month</td>
<td>J. F. Davies, 29 Dunbar Rd, Claremont</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTIALLY BLINDS SOIL DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, W.A. Branch</td>
<td>Room 33, 50 Marche Buildings, Barrack Street, Perth</td>
<td>1st Pension day of the month at 2.30 p.m.</td>
<td>W. Bower, 8 View St, Nendlands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th and 52nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Monash House, corner Hay and King Streets</td>
<td>1st Monday in each month</td>
<td>Mons. A. J. Colpits, Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS' ASSN. TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>At Office, Room 33, 2nd Floor, 50 Marche Buildings, Barrack Street, Perth</td>
<td>1st Pension day of the month at 2.30 p.m.</td>
<td>W. P. Griffin, J.P., 87 South Street, Sempashoal</td>
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R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH DIRECTORY
RATES: 2/1/- PER ANNUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Branch</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARMADALE</td>
<td>R.S.L. Clubrooms</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Spencer Gwynne, Albany</td>
<td>J. Sturrock, Freemantle Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. H. Richardson, Albany</td>
<td>E. S. Hecqly, State School, Albany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLIDU DISTRICTS</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday every second month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. C. Wallis, Ballidu</td>
<td>R. Petechill, Ballidu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASSENDAEN</td>
<td>Town Hall—Lesser Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday every second month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. K. Minchin, 26 Kenny St., Bassendean</td>
<td>W. J. Mathews, T. Kathleen Street, Bassendean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROCKTON</td>
<td>R.S.L. Clubrooms</td>
<td>1st Saturday every second month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. Stevenson, Brookton</td>
<td>J. L. Hogan, Brookton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULLSBROOK</td>
<td>Bullbrook Town Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday every second month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Gus Pickert, Rosedale, North Perth</td>
<td>D. A. Giddins, 62 Tyrell Street, Nendlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUNBURY</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday every second month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. A. Giddins, 62 Tyrell Street, Nendlands</td>
<td>S. T. Low, 6 Gibson St., Bassendean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYSWATER</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday every second month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Staff Serg. Hall, 33 Anzac Street, Bassendean</td>
<td>T. Gillingham, 49 Stuart Street, Nendlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSSELTON</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>1st Saturday every second month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>F. Jones, Walton, via Busselton</td>
<td>L. M. Powell, Busselton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALINGIRI</td>
<td>Mr. Plant's Home</td>
<td>4th Wednesday</td>
<td>J. Trumon, Calingir</td>
<td>R. J. Paton, East Cannington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| CANNING DIFFS   | Gordon Day, Cannington | 4th Sunday, 10 a.m. | Gordon Day, Cannington | V. A. B. Hucklestap, 50 Carr
| CARLISLE   | R.S.L. Memorial Hall | 1st Thursday in each month | K. C. Finch, 50 Beatty Ave., Carlisle | H. May, Collie |
| COLLIE     | Soldiers' Hall | Alternate Tuesday, 8 p.m. | T. H. Searle, Clifton Street | C. W. Edwick, 50 Princess St., Collie |
| CORRIGAN  | Town Hall | 1st Thursday in each quarter | T. C. Harran, 50 Melbourne St., Collie | S. G. Blyth, 50 Melbourne St., Collie |
| COTTESLOE | Council Hall, Jarrod Street | 1st Thursday in each quarter | W. Ford, 13 Shenton Road, Claremont | W. C. Boll, 50 Melbourne St., Collie |
| CLAREMONT | Committee Room, Claremont | 1st Thursday in each quarter | J. L. Hogg, Claremont | A. Carton, Dalwallina |
| DARWIN     | Dalwallina | 1st Thursday in each quarter | J. L. Hogg, Dalwallina | M. J. Johnston, Kalamunda |
| DARLING RANGE | R.S.L. Clubrooms, Canning Road, Kalamunda | 1st Thursday in each quarter | W. M. Lane, 50 Melbourne St., Collie | H. A. Hilt, North Perth |
| DENMARK    | R.S.L. Literary Institute | 1st Thursday in each quarter | E. Storrie | R. S. Piper, "The Groom", Irwin |
| DONGARRA  | J. Stirling's Premises, Port Denison | 1st Thursday in each quarter | M. G. Nolan, Dongar | Frank H. B. Bivoli, Collie |
| DOWERIN   | Memorial Hall | 1st Thursday in each quarter | T. E. Nolan, Dongar | C. W. Nolan, Dongar |
| DUNBYING   | Town Hall | 1st Thursday in each quarter | W. Ford, 13 Shenton Road, Claremont | H. C. Boll, 50 Melbourne St., Collie |
| DWELINGUP  | Dunbying Hall | 1st Thursday in each quarter | W. Ford, 13 Shenton Road, Claremont | H. C. Boll, 50 Melbourne St., Collie |
| 6 DISTRICTS | Dwellup Hotel | 1st Thursday in each quarter | W. Ford, 13 Shenton Road, Claremont | H. C. Boll, 50 Melbourne St., Collie |
| FREMANTLE | Wesley Hall, Fremantle | 1st Thursday in each quarter | W. Ford, 13 Shenton Road, Claremont | H. C. Boll, 50 Melbourne St., Collie |
| GASCOWNE  | Gascowne Hotel | 1st Thursday in each quarter | W. Ford, 13 Shenton Road, Claremont | H. C. Boll, 50 Melbourne St., Collie |
| GERALDTON |                  | 1st Thursday in each quarter | W. Ford, 13 Shenton Road, Claremont | H. C. Boll, 50 Melbourne St., Collie |