THE LEAGUE TAKES UP A CHALLENGE

Considerable indignation has been aroused, both inside and outside the League, by the declaration of the ACTU interstate conference against preference to returned service men. The declaration was embodied in a long, rambling resolution which stated that preference was not in the best interests of the nation; that it should be abandoned; and that the efforts of the nation should be concentrated in ensuring employment to all citizens in the post-war period. It suggested that preference proposals carried an implication that there would be competition for employment after the war, and that such an objective is contrary to the principles for which the war is being fought. That, and other hazy assertions contained in the declaration, are a challenge to this League. This League will accept the challenge and meet this attack on preference with all the vigor it can command.

A strange feature on the ACTU’s declaration against preference for service men was the apparent itching of the other form of preference—preference to unionists. Just twelve months ago, when Mr. Curtin promised to introduce a Preference Bill into the Federal Parliament, there was a similar outcry, in a few quarters against this important plank of the League’s policy. The chief argument advanced then, if it can be called an argument, was that, in the better world that is to come when the war is over, society will be so beautifully arranged that the need for preference will disappear. We pointed out the strange lack of logic that could object to preference for service personnel on these grounds while still insisting on preference for unionists. Apparently, our lesson in elementary logic was not wasted; but the niggle emerged from the wood-pile at a later stage of the conference proceedings, when it was decided to defer a demand on the Federal Government for legislation to make unionism compulsory.

With that aspect of the matter, the League is not greatly concerned, and we could even dismiss with a smile the ACTU’s arguments against preference for service personnel, if these arguments were not such glaring examples of the loose thinking that is so prevalent today. To start with, the suggestion of preference proposals do not carry any implication of intense competition for work, or shortage of opportunity after the war. All that is proposed is that the man who comes back from the battle zone shall not be handicapped by his war service, when he is being re-absorbed into civil life, in comparison with those who have served in reserved and protected industries. Men who have spent in the fighting services the years that would normally have been devoted to learning a trade or mastering a profession will come back with much ease-way to make up. Even those who were in jobs before they enlisted will come back lacking in professional or technical skill. There will also be thousands of others whose health has been impaired by war service or who have incurred some physical disability which will prevent them from following their former avocations.

The interests of these men must be protected, and the vocational training schemes provided by the Government will not afford sufficient protection. In the interests of the country, these men must be helped to overcome the lag of the war years. It is a national obligation to see that they should not only suffer no vocational disadvantage through their war service, but that they should receive the promotions and other advantages that would have been theirs had they not responded to the call of duty. The declaration that the preference which would fulfill the country’s obligations to these men is not in the best interests of the nation is sheer twaddle.

Ever since the last war, the grateful Australian public has accepted its obligations in regard to preference. The preference policy is one of the fundamentals of the League’s objectives; and it has been recognised by succeeding Governments, both Federal and State. And now, at this very late hour, the ACTU pretends to discover that there is something detrimental to the nation in this plain recognition of an obligation the nation has always accepted.

Equally nonsensical are the ACTU’s assertions that preference to returned service personnel is contrary to the objectives for which the war is being fought, and that it “introduces a defeatist influence into the efforts being made to provide full employment, social advancements and security for all Australian people.” These are, as the old hymn says “wonderful words”, but what precisely do they mean? How, for instance, does it run counter to the objectives for which the war is being fought, to see that the men, who are actually doing the fighting for the furtherance of those objectives, should not be at any disadvantage after the war? Must they be allowed to remain at a disadvantage in comparison with those who served on the home front? That is the alternative to preference, and it is an alternative which we do not hesitate to brand as a traitorous suggestion.

Again, how in the name of common sense, do the preference proposals introduce a defeatist attitude into efforts for...
post-war reconstruction. Are we to believe that the millennium will dawn immediately the bugles sound the “Cease Fire”? True, we are all hoping that better things will be the reward of the agony and endurance of these dreadful years. Many of us are working hard to achieve this end; but we would be greater dupes than the exponents of the appeasement policy if we thought that the goal would be reached automatically, and that there would be no troubleless transition period. It is mainly in this transition period that the measures of preference the League proposes for service men will be most needed. After that we have enough faith in them to believe they will be able to ride their own race. The League looks upon the preference issue as something more than the mere finding of a job for somebody who is back from the war. The League believes in and will fight for preference for the fighting man. We will do our best to see that he gets it, and we will strenuously oppose any individual or organisation which attempts to deny him that right.

Many of us are working hard to ensure that he turns out to be the returned soldier of tomorrow. The returned soldiers of tomorrow must be able to defend us as efficiently as the soldiers of today. The League believes that the League proposes for service men will be most needed. After that we have enough faith in them to believe they will be able to ride their own race. The League looks upon the preference issue as something more than the mere finding of a job for somebody who is back from the war. The League believes in and will fight for preference for the fighting man. We will do our best to see that he gets it, and we will strenuously oppose any individual or organisation which attempts to deny him that right.

Anzac Day Observance

Now that Anzac Day is approaching, we have seen the renewal of the annual agitation in favour of making the day another “holiday” for the purveyors of commercialised sport and other forms of entertainment. Those who do not agree with the manner in which the sacred character of the day is preserved protest to object to it being made a day of mourning, and this peculiar form of claptrap has again been paraded this year. In the eyes of the League, Anzac Day is a day of solemn observance, or reverent and grateful commemoration of those comrades of ours who have paid the supreme sacrifice, and gone on ahead to join the advance guard of the immortals.

We meet on that day with mingled feelings of pride, reverence and gratitude; but in no sense is the day one of mourning. Hotels are closed, picture theatres and similar places of entertainment are in recess, and sports meetings are banned under National Security Regulations, with which the League is in full accord; but Anzac Day is no more a day of mourning and gloom than is any Sunday in the year. There are, of course, many who would like to see the day made a sort of continental Sunday, with observance in the morning and carnival in the afternoon; and it must be confessed that these include many returned soldiers. However, to say, as some newspaper letter-writers have said, that the majority of returned men are against the present form of observance, is to talk sheer nonsense. There is only one way of deciding what the majority of service men think about the observance of Anzac Day, or about any other question, and that is by the resolutions passed by congress. For many years now congress after congress has been asked to favour some alteration in the methods that have stood the test of time. Each year the returned men of this State, through their representatives at congress, have consistently knocked back any proposal to detract from the solemnity of the annual observance. The increasing attendances of the general public, not only at the main ceremony on the Esplanade, but at the local functions in all suburbs in the afternoon, provide ample proof that the present way of celebrating Anzac Day continues to meet with the full approval of the public.

Passages for Wives

The general secretary (Mr. E. V. Raymond) has advised about passages for the wives of members of the forces who marry during their service abroad. Mr. Raymond stated that the reference to a free passage, which appears in “A Outline of Repatriation,” is not correct. The position, put briefly, is that, although there is provision for the granting of passages, the Government, for obvious reasons, has placed a limit on the fare. The annual special rate, which has been quoted for official purposes. Unfortunately, passages at that special rate are not at present available. Possibly they will not be available until after the war. Where the member is in New South Wales making the journey at present, however, the Repatriation Commission has been authorised to arrange the passage at whatever rate is available, provided the man, or his wife, pays the difference between £5 sterling and the special rate. The alternative is for the member to wait until such time as it becomes possible for the Commission to arrange a passage at the special rate mentioned above.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION

There was a good attendance on March 6. Mr. C. R. Cornish, MLC, who was guest speaker, gave an interesting talk on activities in the North-West. The association now has its headquarters in Rooms 53 to 55, on the 5th Floor of the Gledden Buildings, at the corner of Hay and William Streets. Meetings are held here on the first Monday of each month. At the meeting on April 3 the guest speaker will be Capt. C. R. Collins. Members are advised to attend meetings and so make themselves conversant with the affairs. Further information and advice may be obtained by writing to the secretary, Mr. E. S. Pearson, 95 Victoria Avenue, Claremont.

This is what an Australian officer had to say about a bit of New Guinea: “Buna is a steaming foetid jungle. For instance, when approaching it by plane, you can smell it at 3000 feet. It’s a most inhospitable stench of rotted vegetation. The rainfall here is extremely high. It’s nothing unusual, in the rainy season, for one and a quarter inches to fall in a night. Naturally, mosquitoes, leeches, snakes and other vermin abound.” The vermin from Nippoo had been cleared out by the time the officer made this statement.

Read This!

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You invest a small sum of money monthly for eleven months and your children get —

1. A good business training.
2. Practical experience in our own offices.
3. A GUARANTEED first appointment on graduating.

In months we have been sending our students out to employment immediately they qualify YOUR girls and boys can be earning by this time next year IF YOU ENROL THEM NOW.

CITY COMMERCIAL COLLEGE
W.A.’S BUSINESS UNIVERSITY
SHEFFIELD HOUSE, 713-21 HAY STREET, PERTH
T. S. HALPIN, B.A., Principal

★ Support the R.S.L. Prisoners of War Fund. Subscriptions to Anzac House through your Sub-Branch.
Corvette Service

A few weeks ago the Minister for the Navy (Mr. Makin) received the Admiralty's commendations of the services performed by corvettes of the Royal Australian Navy, which are operating with ships of the parent Navy in the Mediterranean. Through the courtesy of the State President (Mr. Edmondson) we are able to publish extracts from a letter written by an officer serving on one of these corvettes. His was one of the lucky ships to take part in the invasion of Sicily.

"In fact," he writes, "we were one of four small Australian ships to be the first of our four small Australian ships to be the first before daylight on July 10. We followed in the wake of big personnel ships and brought in the cargo vessels with the guns and heavy gear. Our sector was just north of Cape Passara. The personnel ships landed their troops about 2.30 a.m. from about four miles out. Then we helped to sweep a channel to within a mile of the coast, opposite a village called Marzamemi. After this we proceeded on anti-submarine patrols up and down the coast.

"It was a most impressive sight, this huge armada coming in. We were all on our jobs. Cruisers, destroyers and monitors were bombarding gun emplacements. The troops on shore were fighting their way up from the beaches. Inland, big patches of black smoke were standing up, where petrol dumps had been hit, and dog fights were going on overhead. Before daylight we could see the exchanges of machine-gun fire, with the coloured tracer bullets, on the beaches. We saw the Verey lights go up. These were the success signals that denoted a beach had been captured. Later in the day, landing craft of all sizes piled backwards and forwards with guns and stores. Big tank landing ships went in and ran their bows up on the beaches. Doors in the bow opened and the tanks lumbered on shore. They could be seen climbing the hills towards Pachino. It was a wonderful piece of organisation. There we were, steaming up and down within a mile of the coast. Without exaggeration there were thousands of ships, and we were not molested at all during daylight. Later in the day we went to an anchorage off Marzamemi. At about 9 p.m. we were ordered to proceed on patrol duty. We were not 10 minutes out of the anchorage when a real little hell started. The Germans came over in full force, all up and down the coast. The effect of tracer shell going up in the air was very wonderful. One of our fighters got one of the enemy seaward of us. She came down in flames from about 12,000 feet, leaving a big patch of oil, right between two outward-bound hospital ships. Then we got some attention from them. We got a lovely chance at point-blank range with both long and short range weapons at one of them. The last we saw of him, he was not far at all and seemed to be losing height. Having done our job on the spot, we escorted two big troop ships back to the base and returned to Sicily with more ships, which we escorted safely into port.

"The night was spent on an anti-submarine patrol outside Syracuse. We had a quiet time until about 4 a.m. Then we had a real out and out raid. They plastered the port and gave us beans. We had three near misses. Two were close astern, and one, which was luckily a dud, came right alongside. Then they dropped a whole bunch of flares over us. This lighted up two planes and made them a wonderful target. We shot one of them into the air. I was watching, and could see the tracer from two of our after guns going right into the enemy plane. I said to myself: 'That's damned good shooting!' With that, there was a shower of sparks. The plane burst into flames and crashed about a mile from the ship, leaving the usual big patch of oil. Since then we have been doing some very long escort jobs, and actually experienced the heaviest attack of its kind that was ever launched in the Mediterranean.

Just before 9 p.m. on Friday, August 13, we were attacked by 45 torpedo bombers, flying at about 30 feet above the surface, and by several extra-flying high. We were a very long way from enemy territory, and we did not expect an attack. I had just settled down to a quiet watch, when the officer of the watch ordered the tanks lumbering on shore. Doors in the bow opened and the tanks lumbered on shore. They could be seen climbing the hills towards Pachino. It was a wonderful piece of organisation. There we were, steaming up and down within a mile of the coast. Without exaggeration there were thousands of ships, and we were not molested at all during daylight. Later in the day we went to an anchorage off Marzamemi. At about 9 p.m. we were ordered to proceed on patrol duty. We were not 10 minutes out of the anchorage when a real little hell started. The Germans came over in full force, all up and down the coast. The effect of tracer shell going up in the air was very wonderful. One of our fighters got one of the enemy seaward of us. She came down in flames from about 12,000 feet, leaving a big patch of oil, right between two outward-bound hospital ships. Then we got some attention from them. We got a lovely chance at point-blank range with both long and short range weapons at one of them. The last we saw of him, he was not far at all and seemed to be losing height. Having done our job on the spot, we escorted two big troop ships back to the base and returned to Sicily with more ships, which we escorted safely into port.
What Our Submarines are Achieving

News published in London newspapers during the past month has provided a striking contrast between the British submarine achievement and the German U-boat failure. Speaking at the Royal United Service Institution on February 3, Commander Ben Bryant, who won the DSO, with two bars, and the DSC, while commanding small British submarines, had this to say: "In the very near future, the submarine will be working in greater numbers, in close association with United States submarines, against the vulnerable sea communications of the Japanese Empire." He explained that the small British submarines are particularly valuable for harassing the Japanese islands, because of the shallow draught, targets are better sunk by gunfire than by torpedo. British submarines have fine lines, which obviate the tell-tale foaming wake. This lessens the risk of discovery. Submarines of this type can open fire within thirty seconds of showing any part above water.

The immense potential contribution of British submarines against Japan is proved by their Mediterranean record which Commander Bryant called "vital to the success of the North African campaign." When the German forces, three years ago, began crossing the 75-mile Sicilian narrows for the conquest of Africa, the only barrier between Hitler and the world was a few British submarines. Yet, against Axis ships, covering from one-third to more than two-thirds of the voyage by night with 100 per cent. bomber protection, British submarines, in two years, sank 30 per cent. and damaged eight per cent. of the Axis ships. They drowned a minimum of 21,000 troops and wiped out supplies which needed shipping space equivalent to about 5,000 tanks. This left Rommel's army a mere 60 per cent. of its scheduled strength. The Battle of El Alamein, on October 23, 1943, played a decisive part in saving Africa and the world. Thanks to the trained and daring spirit of the submarine crews, a minimum of 20 per cent. of the ships in the convoy were sunk. Commander Bryant said: "Of thirty ships sunk by my submarines in one year, 28 were sunk within two miles of a hostile coast." Of the total Axis merchant fleet in the Mediterranean, during the 28 months to January 23, 1944, submarines sank 42 per cent.

Now contrast these achievements with the German U-boat failure, which was reviewed in the London "Daily Express" on February 3, the anniversary of Doenitz's appointment as Supreme Commander of the German Navy. His job was to fulfill Hitler's pledge to the German people that American armies and munitions would never reach Europe. He had to prevent or delay Allied landings in the Mediterranean or Western Europe. The results were that Allied merchant losses were the lowest of any war year. Allied merchant fleets grew by more than ten million tons, and less than twof per cent. of the American supplies were lost. More U-boats were destroyed during 1943 than during the rest of the war together. Doenitz made a characteristically vain-glory speech at Stettin at the beginning of last month, but his promise to "smash British supply arteries this year" (for England can only be beaten at sea) was cut out by the German internal censorship. Thus, the U-boats have failed to undermine the preparations for the western front, precisely as they failed to cut the supply lines to Africa, where the British voyage was fifty times as long as the crossing from Naples to Benghazi. The British voyage took four months, instead of 40 hours. Our ships had only 50 per cent. bomber protection, and they were subjected to attack by five times as many U-boats as the total British submarine fleet at the outbreak of the war. Of the total British and European Allied Merchant fleets, over a period of 28 months from the outbreak of the war, U-boats sank a maximum of 28 per cent. The U-boats sank less than 0.5 per cent. of ships attacked in convoys. This was largely because the Germans lacked that Elizabethan daring which makes the achievements of the British submarines so incomparably superior.
State President Retires

Mr. T. S. Edmondson, State President of the Returned Soldiers' League, tendered his resignation from this office to a full meeting of the State Executive on March 15. Mr. Edmondson has resigned for personal reasons. The resignation was accepted with regret, and members expressed their deep appreciation of his record of valuable service to the League. For the remainder of the meeting, the vice-president (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson) was in the chair. He will carry out the duties of State President until Wednesday, March 29, when there will be a special meeting of the Executive to fill the vacancy in accordance with the League's constitution. Mr. Edmondson is a senior inspector of schools, in the Education Department. He served with the 11th and 51st Battalions of the AIF in the last war. He was severely wounded and invalided back to Australia at the end of 1917. He has been actively connected with the affairs of the League since its foundation, and was a member of the first State Executive. He has been State President since September 1942.

Prisoner of War Fund

DONATIONS TO MARCH 12, 1944

Previously acknowledged £11,875 19 8
Gutha Sub-Branch ... 5 0 0
Geraldton Sub-Branch ... 60 0 0
Narrogin Auxiliary ... 1 8 0
Railway Workshops Sub-Branch ... 7 15 6
Clarendon Auxiliary ... 5 5 0
Kirup Sub-Branch ... 3 7 0
Donnybrook Sub-Branch ... 35 5 0 8
Nungarin Sub-Branch ... 50 0 3
West Leederville Sub-Branch ... 5 15 6
Brookton Auxiliary ... 0 6 0
Maylands ... 6 0 0
Meckering Auxiliary ... 1 0 0
Dumbleyung Auxiliary ... 2 10 0
Lake King Sub-Branch ... 20 0 0
Moosman Park Sub-Branch ... 21 0 0
Yandanoika Sub-Branch ... 1 17 0
South Perth Sub-Branch ... 4 3 0
Bullsbrook Sub-Branch ... 5 0 0
Meckering-Cunderdin Sub-Branch ... 50 2 6
Northcliffe Sub-Branch ... 16 6
Press Sub-Branch ... 16 4 0
Mandurah Sub-Branch ... 24 4 2
Cottesloe Auxiliary ... 10 0 0
Cowaramup Sub-Branch ... 15 7 0
S. J. Coles ... 1 5 0
Bridgetown Auxiliary ... 2 13 3
Subiaco Sub-Branch ... 12 0 2
North Fremantle Sub-Branch ... 31 1 0

£12,151 1 11

Paid direct to Red Cross Society by sub-branches

712 5 4

£12,863 10 3

Children's Clothes Exchange

To clothe rapidly growing children has always presented a problem to parents, even in normal times, when rationing schemes do not operate. In big families the difficulty is overcome to a certain extent by passing the clothes of one child down to the next, and so on. In Britain, however, children grow out of their clothes as quickly as they do here, and where the quality of the material makes the clothes last fairly well, the idea of a Children's Clothing Exchange is working out very well indeed. It was a schoolmaster who thought of the plan a little more than a year ago. He consulted his local educational officer, the district authority and the Women's Voluntary Services about it. In the course of time an exchange was set up. It was so successful that the Board of Trade became interested, and the Board has encouraged the setting up of similar exchanges in other localities. Already about one hundred are functioning. At first, many children, especially those from more prosperous homes, were reluctant to use second-hand clothing, but this was soon overcome when it was explained that Britain's war effort could be helped by saving materials. Some of the exchanges started from scratch—waiting for mothers to bring in the first lot of out-grown clothes, to build up a stock for exchange. Others began with a nucleus contributed by the Women's Voluntary Services. Favourite slogans, which adorn the walls of some exchanges are “Bring no cash—take no trash.” And “Come clean—go clean.”

How a Band was Formed

It was recently reported that musical instruments are being sent by the Red Cross to men in German prisoner of war camps. A few days later local papers published a photograph of a dance band from a prisoner of war camp, which is now performing in England. All the members of the band had been in Stalag VIIIIB, in Germany, a camp which is well...
Every penny saved is a direct contribution to the war effort.
We do help the war effort if we place our money in a Savings Bank account, or if we buy 5/- National Savings Stamps, thus avoiding unnecessary spending. One page of a National Savings Stamp book will contain enough stamps (£2) for use as a deposit or instalment on a War Bond, while the full book will purchase a £10 Bond outright. Single pages of stamps (£2) will be accepted as a deposit to a Savings Bank account if required.

Get your free book and purchase your 5/- National Savings Stamps from any Savings Bank or Money Order Post Office and put your savings on service to

SPEED THE VICTORY.

Commonwealth Savings Bank
known to some of our own repatriated
men. It was formed with ten members,
later increased to 16, by Lance-Corporal
Jimmy Howe. Fourteen of them were
amongst the prisoners recently repatri-
ated to Britain. On the boat coming
home Howe managed to find substitutes
for the other two. Most of the players
had been Army bandsmen before the
war, and were repatriated as stretcher-
bearers. All were taken prisoner in
France in the spring of 1940. After cap-
ture, they were marched from Northern
France to a camp in Germany, over 100
miles distant. They had to average 30
miles a day. Life in camp was hard at
first, but conditions eventually improved.
The band started in October 1940. A
Polish prisoner arrived, bringing with
him a small accordion. Howe borrowed it
from him, and played it in the barrack-
room, though the instrument gave little
beyond squeaks and gronyms. Finally,
after repeated requests, a German officer
allowed Howe to form a band, and even
let them have some instruments. These
were very aged, but they were better
than nothing. Between meals, soup
dishes, kettles, pots and pans were co-
opted to provide the rhythm section.
Later the Swedish YMCA, described by
the British bandsmen as "lovely people,",
sent them some good instrumen
t. The Red Cross sent others with what
was just as important, music and
manuscript paper. The band soon became popular
and played, not only in the central camps
of Stalag VIIIB, but in the out-lagers,
where there were small working parties
of a few hundred men, who got little
entertainment. As its signature tune
the band adopted "The World is Waiting
for the Sunrise." Now the band is back in
Britain, after three and a half years, and
they are instilling into their playing, for
those actually fighting, the spirit with
which they cheered their fellow Prison-
ers. The story shows what can be de-
veloped from small beginnings. One hopes
that this will be remembered when the
League is making its appeal, in the near
future, for donations to the Prisoner
of War Fund.

(A regular reader and occasional con-
tributor, in the Old Country, Mr. A.
Battye, has sent us the following ac-
count of the activities of his own branch of
the historic Yorkshire town of Wakefield.
The early importance of the town may be
judged by the fact that it was the scene
of one of the battles of the first phase
of the Wars of the Roses. Mr. Battye
was a regular reader and occasional
member at the time of its closing a few
years ago. He has been known to some of our own repatriated
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miles a day. Life in camp was hard at
first, but conditions eventually improved.
The band started in October 1940. A
Polish prisoner arrived, bringing with
him a small accordion. Howe borrowed it
from him, and played it in the barrack-
room, though the instrument gave little
beyond squeaks and gronyms. Finally,
after repeated requests, a German officer
allowed Howe to form a band, and even
let them have some instruments. These
were very aged, but they were better
than nothing. Between meals, soup
dishes, kettles, pots and pans were co-
opted to provide the rhythm section.
Later the Swedish YMCA, described by
the British bandsmen as "lovely people,",
sent them some good instrumen
t. The Red Cross sent others with what
was just as important, music and
manuscript paper. The band soon became popular
and played, not only in the central camps
of Stalag VIIIB, but in the out-lagers,
where there were small working parties
of a few hundred men, who got little
entertainment. As its signature tune
the band adopted "The World is Waiting
for the Sunrise." Now the band is back in
Britain, after three and a half years, and
they are instilling into their playing, for
those actually fighting, the spirit with
which they cheered their fellow Prison-
ers. The story shows what can be de-
veloped from small beginnings. One hopes
that this will be remembered when the
League is making its appeal, in the near
future, for donations to the Prisoner
of War Fund.
H. E. (Bert) Dawson is now secretary of Perth Sub-Branch. He holds a number of honorary jobs and is in the gift of the sub-branch for those with the patience and energy to carry them out. Bert has long been an energetic advertising canvasser for "The Babbling Brook," the virile little organ of the Perth Sub-Branch. Now he has taken over the editorial side from Frank Corness, who has just relinquished that job, after doing good work in it for the past three years.

Mr. J. S. C. Wilson, who spoke on post-war rehabilitation plans at the February meeting of the Fremantle City Sub-Branch, is the son of the sub-branch president, Mr. H. G. Wilson. Secretary Tom Hobbs, who introduced the speaker, reminded the sub-branch that Mr. Wilson, jun., was the first vice-president of the sub-branch's SSL. He is a graduate of the University of Western Australia, with a BA degree and the Diploma of Commerce. During his university course he gained First-Class Honours in Economics. For the past two and a half years he has been Lecturer in Economics in the University of Hobart. After inquiring into the housing problem in Australia, for the Commonwealth Government, he will go to the University of Sydney, having been appointed Lecturer in Economics there.

With deep regret we report that Billy Rowles, treasurer of the Mt. Hawthorn—North Leederville Sub-Branch, was suddenly taken ill, and is now in the Perth General Hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery. Another Mt. Hawthorn stalwart on this month's sick list is Con Masters. Bill Skats and Tom May are cheerful cot cases, and Alf Clark has been obliged by illness to be away from recent meetings. We join with their sub-branch pals in wishing them a speedy recovery.

Mr. J. Nelson, an old and valued member of Osborne Park Sub-Branch, has gone into Edward Millen Home for treatment. Unfortunately, his illness has obliged him to resign from his job with the Government. Osborne Park's popular president (Mr. Alf Dans) has had to go into Ward XI for an operation. We wish both patients a speedy recovery.

Among new members enrolled at the March meeting of the Armadale Sub-Branch was a son of the president (Spencer Gwynne). This young man has served in the Middle East, and has been home on leave from New Guinea.

There was no close season for members of the State Executive or secretaries of sub-branches last month. Fred Bateson, of the State Executive and Perth Sub-Branch, and E. Laycock, secretary of the Cottesloe Sub-Branch, lay in beauty side by side the day the State President visited them in Ward X. Both are about again, and the latest bulletins about Nedlands' secretary J. K. Jefferson were just as reassuring. "Jeff," who had a spill in the Repat, Ward, is now home again, and well on the way to re-

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The appointment of W. Duffield as assistant secretary of Nedlands will take some of the work of a busy sub-branch off his shoulders.

Our Armadale correspondent reports the death of a former member of that sub-branch, the late Mr. G. Amphlett, of Jandakot. He was buried at Kelmscott, and many members of the Armadale Sub-Branch attended the funeral. We join with the sub-branch in extending heartfelt sympathy to his widow.

At the March meeting of the Armadale Sub-Branch birthday greetings and good wishes were extended to a popular member, Mr. Tom Rickerby, who is now 88 years young. Tom saw active service in the Sudan, and in France during the last war. He wears well, and recently took a trip down to Albany. Tom reckons he can still drop you off the train at any point on the Great Southern Line, over which he was driving trains more than 40 years ago.

At the last February dance of the Osborne Park Sub-Branch, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Johnstone were congratulated on their silver wedding anniversary. No special feature was observed, but all members present wished the couple all the best, and the safe return of their three sons from active service.

At the February meeting of the Bullbrook women's auxiliary members had the pleasure of welcoming home the sons of their president, Mrs. Cunningham. Young Graham Cunningham has been a patient in the Hollywood Hospital. He is not yet in the best of health, but his spirits are excellent. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Illness prevented Cliff Sadlier from taking the chair at the last monthly meeting of the Subiaco Sub-Branch. All present expressed their sympathy and wished him a speedy recovery.

At the meeting of the Nedlands Sub-Branch last month Mr. Waring was elected to fill a vacancy on the committee. Mr. Waring served with a famous battalion of the AIF in the present war. He is the first representative of the 2/ AIF to serve on the committee of the Nedlands Sub-Branch.

Captain Roy Brown, a well-known Canadian airman of the war of 1914-18, has died in Toronto at the age of 50 years. Captain Brown was credited with having shot down the noted German ace Baron von Richthofen in 1918, though this claim was disputed by members of the ground forces.

Three well-known and popular authors died at the week end. Mr. Irvin S. Cobb, the noted American humorist, novelist, playwright and film artist, died in New York on March 10, aged 67 years. He represented “The Saturday Evening Post” as a war correspondent in Europe from 1914 to 1918. Mr. Hendrik Willem van Loon, a noted writer and journalist, died in New York on March 11 at the age of 67 years. He was born in Rotterdam and educated in the United States. He also served as a war correspondent for the Associated Press in the last war.

His many books did much to make popular the study of history and geography. He also wrote on folk songs and other musical subjects. The third of a famous trio was Mr. Charles Cuthellie Hyne, the British novelist and traveller. He died in London on March 10 at the age of 78 years. His many books include a number of which his inimitable character, Captain Kettle, is the hero.

A German-controlled Dutch newspaper that reached England recently reported that a naval officer had been sentenced to two months' imprisonment because, on watching some volunteers depart for the Russian front, he had audibly remarked: “This is fine, so we get rid of these scoundrels.”

Long before an Army Education Service was thought of, the Army had its schoolmasters; but as these were desk soldiers they were given only the commissioned and warrant rank. They had their origin in the Napoleonic Wars. The story goes that one day, while a commanding officer was carrying out an inspection, the soldiers' children nearby were making so much noise that the CO detailed a sergeant to take charge of them. In those days, and for many years afterwards, soldiers’ wives and children went wherever the regiment went, and the custom arose of the sergeant in charge of the children to give them instruction in the “Three R's” at set periods during the day. Eventually the teaching was extended to their fathers.

The South African Red Cross is to establish in the Transvaal a colony for permanently disabled soldiers. The colony will afford both a home and a hospital for bed-ridden cases. It will be a place where the patient will receive the best medical attention, and can have their families living in cottages close by.

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The British Broadcasting Corporation finds some of its most enthusiastic listeners in Spain, and Spanish film-fans are always eagerly on the lookout for British newsreels. One film, though well advertised, failed until an enterprising showman added a newsreel showing a few scenes from the Allied landing in Sicily. Thousands and thousands of people of all classes came to see it. The crowd was so big that even though the film was shown in four sessions and the house had a seating accommodation of three thousand, many were unable to see it. This was a real spontaneous plebiscite revealing the attitude of the Spanish people towards the cause of the democracies.

In our November issue it was pointed out that "before the outbreak of the present war, Allied ex-servicemen could be admitted to membership of the League, after their credentials had been examined and approved. However, the Federal Executive had deemed it advisable to suspend their admission until after the present war." It has been pointed out that the term "Allied ex-service men" might be interpreted as including members of the Imperial or Dominion forces. The term, of course, refers to personnel of nations outside the British Empire, who are our Allies in this war. Members of other British and Dominion forces have always been eligible for admission to the League provided they have seen war service. Incidentally, it is again pointed out that RAN, AIF and RAAF men who have served in New Guinea or at Darwin, are eligible for full financial membership. Anyone desirous of becoming a member can obtain an application form from Head Office. Any member may obtain one and post it to any friend that he has in the services mentioned, in the battle areas stated above. A paragraph in a recent circular from the Head Office, relating to the payment of subscriptions, needs further explanations. It is pointed out that a new member cannot now join and receive a badge on the payment of 5/-, but for a new member, the full 10/- subscription must be paid. The objective of all members commencing their year of membership in January could be achieved progressively. For instance, if a subscription is due in June or July, 5/- could be accepted for the balance of the year, and then the member could commence the new year well, with the payment of a full year's subscription on January 1. A similar procedure could be adopted in the case of subscriptions which fall due in September or October. The payment of 2/6 for the remaining quarter of the year could be paid, and the new year could be paid, and the new year could be started with a full subscription on January 1. Under the old procedure, a member could join half way through the year.

and receive a financial crown for that year, and another for the next year, in the following January, thus indicating that he has been financial for two years on the payment of one subscription. In these days, when details of all subscriptions are needed so urgently for the war effort, it is hard to get enough badges to go round. The replacement of lost badges adds heavily to the League's difficulties in this respect. Recently, too, newspapers disclosed that a well-established racket was being worked with badges in other States. A member might be induced to part with his badge, sometimes for amounts as big as £2 and even £10. He then would put in for a new badge to replace the one originally lost. In the meantime, the original badge would be worn by a deserter, or some other unauthorised person, to escape the attentions of the Military Police. Members, then, should take great care of their badges, both from the point of view of supply, and from that of National Security. After all, the badge is a coveted distinction. A man had to go through much before he became qualified to wear it, and it should not be regarded lightly.

A resolution passed by last year's Congress recommended that returned service men, employed in a temporary capacity in the Commonwealth Public Service, should receive permanent appointments after two years' service. A reply from the Prime Minister of Department states that the provision in the Commonwealth Public Service Act, as to securing the order of appointment of returned soldiers, who have had two years' continuous service, but have not passed the prescribed examinations, takes place, in some classes of positions, of qualifying examinations. The original provision in the Act required that an employee, who had given two years' continuous service, should be temporarily employed at the time of consideration for permanent employment. The condition was liberalised to permit of eligibility for appointment being secured, when two years' continu-

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ous service was given over any period. The reply from the Prime Minister's Department ended with the statement that it is considered that the present provisions are sufficiently liberal, and that it is not proposed to widen them in the direction sought.

* * *

Senator Collett asked questions in the Senate recently regarding discrimination in the payment of allowances, in addition to child endowment, to commissioned officers of the fighting services. He was informed by the Minister representing the Minister for Defence that children's allowances are paid to all commissioned officers, irrespective of rank, of the Australian Military Forces and of the Royal Australian Air Force, and to naval officers up to and including the rank of lieutenant. The limitation in the case of the naval officers arose from that the naval pay structure differs from that of the special war-time forces, and the payment of child allowance to naval officers above the rank of lieutenant would place them in a more favourable position than officers of corresponding ranks and appointments in other services.

* * *

An American war correspondent thinks that, perhaps, the greatest contribution to the war effort on the British Home Front is the way the women have kept the home fires burning; in forge and factory, as well as on the hearth. One of the first places he visited in Britain was a ship-building yard on the Clyde. When the superintendent asked him just what he wanted to see, he remembered hearing that many of the new welders and overhead crane drivers were women. So he said he would like to see what some of the women workers were doing. The superintendent could not hide his disgust. He pushed his bowler hat on the back of his head and retorted: "Don't you want to see what some of the ugly old men are doing too?"

* * *

As in the last war, prisoners of war, who have found their way back to the homeland, have been able to bring back valuable information about conditions behind the enemy lines. In a recent BBC News Reel, a sailor from Liverpool, who was among a recently repatriated batch of prisoners of war, said that, though the train windows were covered, they managed to see a lot of Germany while on their way home. They passed through Duisberg, Dusseldorf, Essen and Cologne, which they recognised, because they could see the names of the stations through slits in the blind. It was one vast industrial centre. The railway goes through the factories in those areas and, naturally, these were the targets of our aircraft. In the sailor's words: "There was no life—the place was dead, right through the centre. City after city we passed, till we got to Berlin. Now, of course it was flat, he said, but it was obvious that the greatest damage had come from fires. No attempts had been made to clear it up. Bomb craters still gaped in the streets. Masonry and rubble was littered everywhere. He could see whole factories deserted and beyond hope of repair. This sailor has been ashore, during the Battle of Britain in 1940. He went through the worst of the Merseyside raids. Bad as they were, he added, the damage in Liverpool and London was nothing approaching what he had seen in the Ruhr. "Acre upon acre is dead," was his final comment.

Scabbards Off

By Pip-Tok

In a recent speech Professor Murdoch referred to the exploded notion that the old men make wars and young men fight them. We do not admit that this was the last war. It was certainly not true of the present conflict. For more than a decade before 1939 the youth of Germany, Italy and Japan were being taught that war is the noblest and most glorious of human activities. They were being deliberately imbued with the idea that only by and through war could their countries attain their destinies. They grew to manhood, despising armistice and all who practised it. Worst of all, they were inoculated with the false creed that all other races were inferior to their own, and that they have been chosen to rule over all inferior races. While this was going on in the gangster age, and young women of both sexes, and blithely young men in universities and outside them, have preached pacifism in season and out of season. It is people like this who made war and the gangster age were the awful responsibility for this.

* * *

German spokesmen recently foamed at the mouth when General Montgomery referred to the Germans as Huns. Original Huns were, of course, the Asiatic hordes who ravaged Europe, under their leader Attila, when the Roman Empire was crumbling in ruin; but the term was applied to Germans long before. In his poem "Hohenlinden," which celebrates the defeat of the Austrians and their German Allies in 1800, the British poet Thomas Campbell included these lines: "Where furious Huns and their sun Show in their sulphurous canopy." Actually it was Kaiser Wilhelm, of inglorious memory, who was responsible for fastening the term "Hun" on the Germans of today. When German troops were going out to China to take part in the international expedition that quelled the Boxer Rising in 1900, just a hundred years after Hohenlinden, he exhorted his troops to be modern Huns and treat the enemy as Attila's merry men would have treated them. The name was revived when Europe was shocked by the appearance of the brown-shirted thugs in street corners and occupied France in 1914. Since the last war German propaganda has succeeded in duping many people into believing that the atrocity stories were Allied propaganda and that all claims to German atrocities were false. In his testimony published in British White Books, and French official statements, to prove that, in organised brutality, the Kaiser's men were not a shade better than Hitler's sadistic morons.

* * *

One would hardly think that, in these days, when so many unpleasant stories are being published about German and Japanese atrocities, that anyone would be insane enough to plead for lenient peace terms for the Gangster Nations. That being so, it is hard to understand what is behind renewed pleas for a "just peace." Even less understandable is the statement of the national secretary of the New Zealand Labour Party, a Mr. Moohan, who declared that the "oppressive clauses of the Versailles Treaty are not again imposed on any defeated nation." This gentleman subscribes to the propaganda against the Treaty of Versailles which the Germans launched and maintained from the eleventh hour of November 13, 1918, until the day of the "Fall In" on September 3, 1939. Boiled down to essentials, the so-called oppressive terms of the Treaty of Versailles were those which disarmed Germany and attempted to make her pay for the damage she had done to other countries in the war that Germany deliberately provoked; and which placed the former German colonies under mandates from the League of Nations. So far from the Treaty of Versailles being for the benefit of the victors at the peace table for any crocodile tears from Germany to be heeded. By hanging four or five war criminals at Kiev, Kiel and Nuremberg, the example which the Allied Powers will not follow in the treatment of war criminals. It is not likely, either, that the myth of a decent German people led astray by their criminal rulers will gain much credence at the peace table. The Germans of the present generation have been reared in an atmosphere of arrogance, sadism and bestiality. There is little moral difference between the man at the top and the man at the rear ranks. The Germans as a people outlived their usefulness when they perfected tank lager beer and laid the foundation of modern music, philosophy and industrial science. The generation of Germans who achieved these results has long been extinct.

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In all ages men have wondered what the world is coming to, but that wonder is increased in these days of government by regulation. A recent meat rationing order, which is published then for days, and the radio are over-loaded with further explanations from various authorities, giving fuller details for the people who must have everything rationed to them in words of one syllable. But each and everyone of these misunderstandings ones imagines he, she or it is competent to write letters to the silly cows' columns of papers which invites such correspondence, and put everybody right about every-thing under the sun. And they all think they are capable of dilating on the New Order.

One cannot commend the practice initiated by departmental officials in this war. Immediately any order is promulgated, members of the public are threatened with the consequences of ignoring it. Worse still, in some cases, one bowel of the public is invited to act as informers against the other half. That is just the way Gestapos start.

A leading Swedish newspaper lately published the following story of an incident in Bergen, Norway. Two ladies, talking at the corner of a street, saw that they were the objects of attention, and that someone was listening intently to their words. Suddenly, one of them said she must go, as she wanted to get home in time for the London news. Shortly after she was back in her flat, and three policemen arrived. "Oh," she said, "you want to listen to London? Sit down." A minute later they could all hear the voice from London, but there was no trace of it in the lady's flat. The policemen broke into an adjacent flat and surprised a Norwegian quilling eager listening to the BBC News. He was promptly arrested.

This is what an Indian soldier had to say about London: "I haven't seen much of London, therefore I can't tell you much; but one thing I have noticed. In our country, India, the buildings are white and the people are brown. Here the buildings are brown and the people are white.

It is regrettable that Greek and Yugoslavia factions should be devoting so much energy to fighting each other in the Balkans, instead of combining against the common enemy whom, obviously, all factions want to defeat. The evidence available suggests that both in Greece and Yugoslavia the battle between the factions is a fight for political power, and that, in each country, there is a faction which desires to establish itself as the government of the country, irrespective of the fact that either country has an exiled Government which is already recognised by and in alliance with the United Nations. Apparently, violent partisans overlook the plan in working to undo the work of the United Nations in this war to overcome the Axis, and to liberate the occupied countries, and not to set up any particular type of government in the liberated countries.

The number of letters one reads these days about carrying prams on trams suggests that a section of the public would like to convert our trams into heirl-carriers.

A Russian soldier was asked by a war correspondent: "What was the most terrifying moment of your experience at Stalingrad?" He thought for a while, and smiled, and said: "It was one night when we were on reconnaissance. I was being moved along an open drain, up to within earshot of a dug-out where the Fritz were. There was no trace of it in the lady's flat. Then for days the soldiers of various authorities, giving fuller detailed explanations of what happened, are written. The following story of an incident in Bergen, Norway. Two ladies, talking at the corner of a street, saw that they were the objects of attention, and that someone was listening intently to their words. Suddenly, one of them said she must go, as she wanted to get home in time for the London news. Shortly after she was back in her flat, and three policemen arrived. "Oh," she said, "you want to listen to London? Sit down." A minute later they could all hear the voice from London, but there was no trace of it in the lady's flat. The policemen broke into an adjacent flat and surprised a Norwegian quilling eager listening to the BBC News. He was promptly arrested.

The publicity which has been given to "Advance Australia Fair" has again given opportunity for the display of lamentable ignorance in high places. Although, like "Land of Hope and Glory," it has the status of a national song, or what we used to call a patriotic song much earlier in the century, "Advance Australia Fair" is not the Australian national anthem. The plain fact is we have no official anthem, other than "God Save the King." Mr. Curtin promised recently to make inquiries into this matter, but it is a wonder to us that the expensive Department of Information cannot provide some official information on the subject. Especially as the composer received a Government grant of £100 for the right to play and sing the song on special occasions. Earlier in the century the music, which makes a spirited march, whatever the critics may say, used to be played by Army bands at Royal reviews. The song was also sung at Labour gatherings in Sydney between the wars. However, much as the song may be "enshrined in our hearts," as a member of the Federal Parliament said a few days ago, it is not a national anthem—at least not yet. Those who describe it in this way apparently confuse a national anthem with a national song. It is doubtful, also, if the song really is "enshrined in the hearts" of all the people. Until it became a feature of ABC programmes, it was little known outside New South Wales, despite the fact that it was composed and performed in public some years before the Boer War and the inauguration of the Commonwealth. It must be admitted that the words fall short of poetic excellence, while the music is more popular than perfect; but the admission of the above is due to an understanding agreement with those who condemn the song as a dirge-like imitation of "God Bless the Prince of Wales." It is no more like that song than it is like "The Red Flag," and not half as dirge-like as either.

A Sydney newspaper quotes a spokesman of the NSW United Licensed Victuallers' Association as saying that Women Make the Best Barmaids. Probably for the same reason that married men make the best husbands.

The writer of a recent letter in "The West Australian" inadvertently let the
from blaming Eire. Clergymen published their protest in... in "fighting they will eventually... cities. The fact of their strange silence then seems...

Twenty-eight clergymen of various denominations in New York have made a protest against the bombing of German cities. Fortunately, the British Government has already pointed out that the bombings are directed at such targets as German war factories and lines of communication. It is regretted that civilians are killed in these raids, but if the attacks achieve their purpose by shortening the war, they will eventually save far more lives than are being lost now. The New York clergymen published their protest in a notorious pacifist journal. What most people with tidy minds will want to know is what protest, if any, was made by these people after the blitzing of Rotterdam, London and Coventry. The fact of their strange silence then seems...

...to show where their sympathies lie. They remind one very much of local morons who shed crocodiles' tears over the hanging of Sutton, while people with normal minds reserved their sympathies for that criminal's innocent victim.

The half-hearted Press agitation against the more reverent way of commemorating Anzac Day drew some extraordinary comment from Mr. E. R. Halliday, of the National Fitness Council. Mr. Halliday considered that part of the day should be spent in health-giving exercise, and he asserted that the soldiers, especially those who are fighting in New Guinea, would want it that way. With the first part of the opinion expressed no one could find much fault in principle. But the view taken is a superficial one nevertheless. Anzac Day is not the only day of the year on which people can take healthy exercise. We would be living in a poor old social system if it were. Besides, if all sorts of commercialised sport were permitted, hundreds and thousands would spend portion of the day roosting on benches, watching the performances of champions. One fails to see the health-giving exercise in that sort of thing. In any case, what makes Mr. Halliday think he is competent to dogmatise about the feelings of soldiers? Mr. Halliday has not been a soldier, either in the last war or the present. Therefore it is gratuitous impudence for anyone in his position to pose as the spokesman of soldiers.

The writer of this paragraph is a fourth-generation Australian by birth and one hundred per cent Irish by descent. The lines therefore are written more in sorrow than in anger in relation to the neutrality of Eire. The attitude of Mr. De Valera's Government is finding apologists at present, and, one thinks, these will be needed as time goes on. It speaks well for the tolerance of the rest of the Empire that Eire should be allowed to remain neutral and do Hitler's work by denying docks and bases to the overworked Navy. It should not be forgotten that this Navy protects food, petrol and other imports that are landed in Eire for the use of the country. Moreover, Eire still houses a German Minister and a Japanese Minister, and it would be utterly beyond the laws of probability to assume that these Ministers are not passing on valuable information to enemy countries. In the face of this, it seems strange that a Cardinal should have said that, so far from blaming Eire for remaining neutral, she should be commended for not joining in the war on the German side. According to that line of reason, the Priest and the Levite who passed by on the other side of the road, in the story of the Good Samaritan, must not be blamed for their callousness. They must be commended because they did not put the boot into the man who had fallen among thieves.

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**State Executive**

FEBRUARY 16

At the meeting of the State Executive on February 10 there were present Messrs. Edmondson, Yeates, Anderson, Panton, Smith, Mansbridge, Margolin, Thor, Leslie, Baker, James, Olden, Zei...
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Branch, protesting against Communication Branches. Several questions come from the Power Directorate in connection with the appointment of officials of the Swan View-Greenmount Sub-Branch was confirmed.

Japanese Atrocities.—A letter from the Merredin Sub-Branch, protesting against the publicity given to reports of Japanese atrocities, was received.

Sub-Branches. —Several questions raised by the Mt. Lawley Sub-Branch were referred to the Management Committee.

Permission was given for the Ora-Banda-Grant's Patch Sub-Branch to go into recess for the time being.

A letter from the Midland Junction Sub-Branch, recommending that railway driver Jones receive some decoration for a recent act of bravery, was noted.

Letters were received from the Mt. Lawley and Claremont Sub-Branches in connection with the appointment of a legal officer to the Department of Labour and National Service. Action taken by the State Secretary in this matter was endorsed.

Other Business.—A letter was received from the Manpower Directorate in connection with League representation on committees dealing with problems affecting, or likely to affect, returned soldiers. A reply was left to the State President. A communication relating to Post-War Reconstruction was received from the Federal Office. Several letters, in connection with the dismissal of returned soldier trainee-fitters from the Midland Workshops, were received. Action taken by the State President in this regard was approved.

March 1
At the meeting of the State Executive on March 1, in the absence of the State President, the chair was occupied by the Senior Vice-President (Mr. J. M. Anderson). Others present were Messrs. Yeates, Watt, Panton, Smith, Mansbridge, Margolin, Thorn, Paton, Baker, James, Olden, Zeffert, Bateson, Wilson, Davies, Cornish, Macgregor and Collins.

Mr. C. G. Ferguson.—It was decided that a function in honour of Mr. C. G. Ferguson be held on March 22; that presidents and secretaries of all sub-branches be invited; and that the State President, the two Vice-Presidents and the chairman of the Club Committee make the necessary arrangements.

Pensions and Employment.—In adopting the report of a meeting of the Pensions and Employment Committee on February 28, drafts submitted by Mr. Watt were also adopted.

Visits.—Messrs. Zeffert and Cornish (Maylands); C. R. Collins (South Perth); W. James, together with Mr. Panton and Col. Mansbridge (Warooma); Col. Margolin (Lennon Hospital); Messrs. Yeates and James (Blind Soldiers' Welfare Committee); Mr. E. Davies (Mosman Park); Mr. F. Bateson (Wards X and XI, Perth General Hospital, and Edward Millen Home).

Mr. Bateson stated that when returned soldiers suffering from TB were being sent from country districts to Perth, they had to wait some time before they could get sleeping berths. The State Secretary was instructed to make inquiries.

Post-War Reconstruction Committees.—A communication was received from the Federal Office calling for nominations for a representative of the League on the Central Committee, and for the Regional Committee, which are to be set up for the rehabilitation of discharged service personnel. It was decided that no nomination be made for the Central Committee. A ballot for the Regional Committee was deferred until the next meeting of the Executive.

Gowrie Scholarship.—A draft letter was received from the chairman of the Gowrie Scholarship Trust Fund. It was decided that as many copies as possible be obtained and sent to sub-branches for their information.

Preference.—Correspondence referring to Preference was received as follows:

(a) Circular 64/44 from the Federal Office was received.

(b) A letter from DDG Manpower was received. A copy is being sent to Mt. Lawley Sub-Branch.

(c) A communication from the Dept. of Labour and National Service on the retrenchment of returned soldiers was referred to the Pensions and Employment Committee.

(d) Tramways Dept. re Preference. The State Secretary's action was endorsed.

Canteen Orders.—A communication was received from the Federal Office regarding canteen orders. It was decided

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to send a copy to the Nedlands Sub-Branch.

Proposed Deputation, Claremont Sub-Branch.—Correspondence from Claremont Sub-Branch in connection with a deputation to the Hon. Minister for Public Health was received.

Army Records.—A communication on this subject was received from the York Sub-Branch. This matter will be taken up with the Federal Office.

Representative Claremont Sub-Branch. — Correspondence from Claremont Sub-Branch concerning their representative on the State Executive was received. It was agreed that Col. Olden be appointed representative for the Claremont district.

Fremantle City.—Correspondence from Fremantle City Sub-Branch was referred to the Management Committee.

No. 1 DC Committee Proposed Conference.—Correspondence in connection with this conference was dealt with.

Permission was given to hold the conference, and a copy of the agenda is to be forwarded to this office.

Confimation of Officials.— Confirmation of officials of the Guildford and Bassendean Sub-Branches was approved.

Repatriation Ward, Geraldton.—Correspondence in connection with this was received, and a reply was left to the State Secretary.

Nedlands Sub-Branch.—Correspondence from the Nedlands Sub-Branch on delinquency was received.

Sub-Branch Activities

VICTORIA PARK

The president (Mr. J. J. Fitzsimmons) welcomed three new members at the February meeting. About 70 members were present. There was a good roll-up at the welcome home to repatriated prisoners on February 16. The function was an outstanding success from all angles, and the boys did not hesitate to show their appreciation. The ladies of the auxiliary made a 100 per cent effort this night, for which all concerned are deeply grateful. The sub-branch decided to have 500 pocket calendars printed. Members may obtain these from Mr. Matthews, or from any committee man. Members are reminded that subscriptions are due. These can be posted to the secretary.

SUBLACO

Through the absence of the president (Mr. Cliff Sadler, VC), on account of illness, the chair was taken at the recent monthly meeting by the senior vice-president (Mr. Alf Buggins). Six new members were enrolled. These included a colonel and a padre. Lt.-Col. Statham is still on duty in the State, while the Rev. Cod has been appointed to a church in Subiaco. The sub-branch now has 282 members. The sportsmaster is a busy man these days in arranging different functions for members. These efforts are arousing plenty of interest. A challenge match with the auxiliary ended "all square" after a good entertainment. The bowling for a "Clubs" owner was also a great success. Nine rinks were played at the Subiaco Green, after which the sub-branch entertained both teams. The Diggers did not expect to win, but they are looking forward to a return match. A return social sports competition has been arranged with the West Leederville-Wembley Sub-Branch, at the Subiaco rooms on March 22. A jumble sale and dance has been held in aid of the Hall Account. Another entertainment in the form of a mock wedding and dance will be held in the King Hall, Subiaco, on April 14. It is expected that the overdrift will be appreciably reduced as a result of these entertainments.

SOUTHERN CROSS

With Bunny Davey in the chair, the monthly meeting went off in good time on March 5. The action of the president and secretary in regard to paying fees to the Cemetery Board, for permits to make improvements to ex-servicemen's graves, was endorsed. Endeavours are being made to get suitable transport and accommodation for disabled members attending at the Repatriation Commission. These are not meeting with the success hoped for, but improvements are expected in the next month. In regard to the Agenda, it was decided to find out where to send the various articles that are available for collection. The collecting has been arranged for, as soon as the sub-branch knows where to send the stuff. Arrangements for Anzac Day were discussed. Mr. Len Carlson, a great raiser of funds during the last war, is getting up a sports meeting and ball for April 22. The proceeds will aid the POW Fund.

NEDLANDS

There was again a large attendance at the February meeting. The resignation of Mr. T. S. Edmondson from the office of vice-president was received with deep regret. Mr. Charlie Brick was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Edmondson remains on the committee, and Mr. Waring was elected to fill another vacancy on the committee. A most interesting talk was given by the Rev. J. W. Clift, of the Fremantle Mission to Seamen, on "Sailors and the Sea." W. Duf- field was elected acting secretary, owing to the illness of the secretary, Mr. J. K. Jefferson.

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FIRE MARINE ACCIDENT

MARCH 15, 1944
BOULDER
Up to the beginning of the month the sub-branch had had the pleasure of enrolling 52 new members from this war. Three of these, John Young, Mrs. Lloyd, and Mrs. Russel, are overseas members. The sub-branch also had the pleasure of enrolling its first member from the RAAF. It has been decided to arrange a big welcome home this month for a number of troops who have returned. Two similar functions were held in honour of members of the Ninth Division last year, and a letter was received from the GOC thanking the sub-branch for this courtesy. The president (Mr. J. E. Ellery) recently paid a visit to the newly-formed Coolgardie Sub-Branch. Mr. A. Lydon, of the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch, provided the transport, and a social evening was spent at the Old Camp.

DOVERIN
A record number of members attended the annual meeting on February 14. The following officials were elected: President, Mr. R. Richards; vice-presidents, Messrs. W. Harris and A. Wickenden; secretary, Mr. F. Bibby; auditors, Messrs. J. Hughes and J. Simmonds. The ladies' committee held a supper and arranged a number of door prizes for the social part of the evening. Items were given by Messrs. J. Simmonds and W. Payne, and Mr. J. Hughes weighed in with an original poem. The president's vote of thanks to the ladies brought the evening to a close.

SOUTH PERTH
The main business of the February meeting was the discussion of a circular submitted by Mr. Morrie Munday. This set out in great detail and under many headings what could be done to make the sub-branch function more efficiently. Mr. Munday is to be congratulated on the thorough manner in which he has gone to in setting out his suggestions. During the discussion, it was admitted that present-day activities are falling away from the peak-time fervour that made sub-branch functions such a social and financial success. There were also regrets at the dropping out of the excellent orchestra the sub-branch used to have. The general view was that, in order to retain the interest of members, there must be a primary objective, and for this the building of a sub-branch hall seemed to find most favour. A decision was deferred until the next meeting, so that members would have time to consider further to a very comprehensive and challenging circular.

MAYLANDS
The annual social was held on February 24. The president (Mr. Sec. Hor- ton) welcomed representatives of the State Executive—Messrs. M. E. Zeffert, C. R. Cornish, MLA, and H. G. Wilson. The last-mentioned was there in his capacity as president of Fremantle City Sub-Branch. Another welcome guest was Mr. Harry Shearn, MLA, the member for the district. A very fine musical entertainment was provided by Charlie Winzer, a fine cornet solo, and a steel guitar trio composed of boys back from the present war. The president announced that the sub-branch had put another £200 into RSL bonds, the interest of £700. He stated that new members were being enrolled at a rate that would soon bring the membership list to the four hundred mark. Much of the evening's success was due to the wonderful efforts of the ladies of the auxiliary, who were accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

WEST LEEDERVILLE-WEMBLEY
At the meeting on February 14 the senior vice-president, Mr. V. E. Troode, was in the chair, through the unavoidable absence of the new president, Mr. C. H. A. Bolton. Eighteen new members were enrolled, with a special vote of thanks to Mr. J. E. Ellery, who is to sub-branch function more efficiently.

NORTHAM
Soon after the establishment of the military hospital near Northam, a small committee of the Northam Sub-Branch was formed with the object of making weekly visits to the returned soldiers and their dependants. The intention was to attempt to cheer up the patients and break the monotony for those returned men who were compelled to spend some time in hospital. It was soon realised, however, that the committee would find the way of entertainment would have to be undertaken by the sub-branch and the kind permission of the CO bus outings to Beverley, York and Goomalling were arranged. As a goodly number of the returned boys were from other States, it was a splendid opportunity to show them something of the surrounding districts and let them see the strides agriculture has made in West Australia. At York and Beverley afternoons were spent at the RSL clubrooms, where guests between 30 and 40 are transported by bus and given happy evenings. The cost of this entertainment, with the exception of the afternoon tea provided at York, Goomalling and Beverley, is borne by the Hospital. Visiting Committee, the revenue obtained from dances, concerts and outside bodies. Unfortunately, the committee's funds are becoming sadly depleted and should any reader feel disposed to assist in this job a donation sent to the Hon. Secretary, Northam Sub-Branch, Mr. Box 46 Northam would be greatly appreciated. The Northam Sub-Branch is the only organisation catering in the manner mentioned, and it is hoped that other sub-branches who have not the opportunity to do so in this behalf to the young Diggers will forward donations.

ARMADALE
Several new members, including a son of the president (Spencer Gwynne), who has served in the Fleet, and a number of the young men, have been welcomed at the meeting on March 8. The sub-branch expressed sympathy with the widow of a former member, Mr. G. Amphlett, of Jandakot. Members of the sub-branch attended the town hall on April 5, and a social evening has been arranged for wives and lady friends in the club rooms. The financial statement shows a healthy position. The president emphasised the need for a committee of sub-cubs. It is hoped that this will be an accomplished fact by the time the boys are back from present war.

FREMANTLE CITY
At the general meeting on February 10 standing orders were suspended to enable Mr. J. S. Wilson, BA, Dip. Com., to talk to members on post-war rehabilitation plans. The speaker is the son of the sub-branch president (Mr. H. G. Wilson). He explained the plan formed and the machinery needed for implementing them, was followed with keen interest. This was shown by the number of questions that were asked the speaker after his address. The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation. Theo Brennan, during the course of a eloquent speech, remarked that the last time he had seen the speaker, the latter was a boy in knickers. Among new members were: Mr. G. N. Nankervis, DCM. It was decided to send canteen orders to all members serving in war areas. At the general meeting on February 24 it was decided to hold a combined social in the Friendly Societies' Hall on March 20. Members, their wives and the ladies of the auxiliary will be entertained. At this function a presentation will be made to Mrs. Kirby, who has been president of the auxiliary for some time, and will be transferred amalgamation with North-East Fremantle was considered, but the weight of opinion was against amalgamation. Plans for Anzac Day were discussed. The president received a letter from the secretary of the Collie Sub-Branch, Mr. Harry May, thanking him for having placed Ernie Pearce, that sub-branch's ward, in the position of junior engineer on a overseas ship, a job which he was very eager to secure. Members with inquiries could see and write to Mr. Theo Brennan, the chairman of the pensions committee.

MT. HAWTHORN-NORTH LEEDERVILLE
Meetings of the sub-branch have been advanced a further stage. Burke and Moob beat Vivian and Stone; G. Blabb
and L. Wood beat Ludgate and Smith, and the draw is for the semi-final. The rifle match between the champions and the rest was won by he rest, with 140 to 131. Nominations closed for the 1944 championships with the large total of 88, an increase of 24 over last year. The games commenced on March 9. Members should make themselves familiar with the results of the draw and the conditions of the contests. These are posted on the notice board. Bill Rowles is in charge of the sub-branch sweep for eligibility for membership of militiamen pedi tise a decision on the question of which entrance is to. Members serving: Coming meetings are is at present preparing for its silver financial position. A sum of £136 was raised for amelioration purposes. Of this amount £92 was disbursed for relief during the year. Even greater efforts in this direction are promised during the current year. It was decided to revive the annual reunion, which has been in abeyance since the outbreak of the war. The event took place on February 11. Its success indicated that the decision was a happy one. There was a general renewal of friendships with members of several neighbouring sub-branches. The State Executive was represented by Mr. A. H. Panton, MLA, Colonel W. O. Mansbridge and Mr. W. James. The sub-branch is arranging an ambitious project for Easter Monday. It will take the form of a sports meeting, and the proceeds will go to amelioration and the POW Funds. A strong and enthusiastic committee is already at work on the preliminary arrangements.

OSBORNE PARK

At the last meeting a motion was carried asking the State Executive to expedite a decision on the question of eligibility for membership of militiamen serving in New Guinea. The sub-branch is at present preparing for its silver anniversary on April 12. A learners' dancing class has been started. This is getting good support from the younger generation.

COTTESLOE

Attendance at the March meeting was very gratifying. Members were also pleased to see Major E. Sandover and Major Robin Black amongst them once again after a few years' absence. We are still enrolling new members, and this month two were enrolled from the RAN and two from the 2/1AF, one being the secretary's son. Our sympathies go out to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Waterman on the death of their son, Bill, killed in air operations over Italy. The POW Fund is still maintaining interest among the members. The organiser (Mr. Tom See) recorded having received £20 for the month. This amount included £10 from the women's auxiliary. The organiser wishes to express his appreciation to all members who have contributed towards this fund, and especially the auxiliary.

WAROONA-HAMEL

At the annual meeting Bert Chambers was re-elected president for the third year in succession. Ralph Perry, the veteran secretary, was also re-elected. The balance sheet disclosed a healthy financial position. A sum of £136 was raised for amelioration purposes. Of this amount £92 was disbursed for relief during the year. Even greater efforts in this direction are promised during the current year. It was decided to revive the annual reunion, which has been in abeyance since the outbreak of the war. The event took place on February 11. Its success indicated that the decision was a happy one. There was a general renewal of friendships with members of several neighbouring sub-branches. The State Executive was represented by Mr. A. H. Panton, MLA, Colonel W. O. Mansbridge and Mr. W. James. The sub-branch is arranging an ambitious project for Easter Monday. It will take the form of a sports meeting, and the proceeds will go to amelioration and the POW Funds. A strong and enthusiastic committee is already at work on the preliminary arrangements.

SWAN VIEW-GREENMOUNT

The annual meeting was held on February 2, with the president (Roy Marsh) in the chair. A new member—L. H. Jones—was welcomed. The following officers were elected: President, A. Watt (second term); vice-president, J. Williams; secretary, I. H. Jones (a new member); auditors, R. Marsh and E. B. Hore; trustees, G. McPhee and W. M. Gover; social secretary, G. McPhee; publicity officer, E. B. Hore; social committee, A. Watt, J. Williams and I. H. Jones. It was agreed to form a voluntary roster for the dances, three members, each dance night, to be in attendance. The March meeting provided a good attendance with A. Watt in the chair. In response to the POW appeal, a donation of £10 was approved. It was resolved to hold the usual Annual service this year in the Hall. It was also resolved to forward letters of appreciation to the women's auxiliary and Mrs. Hilton for their excellent work during the past year.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

STATE EXECUTIVE

The first united auxiliary social for this year was held in the West Leederville Town Hall on February 24. A programme of dancing was interspersed
with very fine singing by auxiliary soloists. Supper was served by members of the State Executive.

Last month a visit was paid to Wards X and XI by the State Executive. A large parcel of books was presented to the library. The patients were most appreciative of these, as they were all recent publications. Arrangements have been made for a pianist to visit Ward XI weekly. The Ordnance Dept. of the Army has enlisted the help of the auxiliaries, and intensive work has already been done by several branches in converting towels into face-washers and sewing the covers on water bottles. Would metropolitan branches, with a hall at their disposal, and desirous of assisting, please inform Mrs. J. McKinlay?

During the past two months invitations have been accepted by the State President to the Red Cross welcome to the second batch of POW’s, to a social at Victoria Park for their local POW’s and relatives, and to the opening of the John Nicholson Convalescent Home for service women.

Hostel and canteen work is carried on regularly by town and suburban auxiliaries. Country members who may be in town should get in touch with Mrs. Stockmin (B8964) if they wish to assist or inspect the work of the CRC.

F.U.S.W.

The president (Mrs. Dean, MBE) presided over a large meeting in the Bart Memorial Hall. The speaker for the afternoon was Squadron-Officer Tipping, who gave an interesting talk on the life of a WAAAF. After Mrs. E. Jones had thanked the speaker, Mrs. Dean presented her with a cheque for £30 to assist the WAAAF in any way that may be desired. Squadron-Officer Tipping was surprised at the gift, which, she said, would be greatly appreciated and well used. Mrs. Lynch, who has been in hospital, was present. She arranged a delightful musical programme. The artists were Mrs. Maitrek (solo), Miss Phil Daley (solo), Miss S. Chesterman (solo), and Mrs. D. Nott (recitation). Mrs. H. W. Rigg thanked the performers. Members are requested to bring all their patches to the sewing circle.

BULLSBROOK AND DISTRICTS

The February meeting was followed by a social evening. Many letters of thanks have been received from members of the services who have received a canteen orders from the auxiliary. Mr. Thora, MLA, of the State Executive, who had been at the sub-branch meeting, spoke during the evening on the splendid work being done by the sub-branch on the auxiliary. Items were rendered by Mesdames Waring and Cunningham, and Messrs. Bly and Burley. Mesdames Picket and Hanson supplied the music for the dancing. The War Savings Group has accumulated £416. The auxiliary has put £10 into the Victory Loan, and a sum of £6/6/- has been donated to the Woorooloo welfare fund. Six new members were enrolled at the last meeting.

VICTORIA PARK

The president (Mrs. Barnett) welcomed two new members of the younger set at the meeting on February 25. On February 9 the committee held a combined meeting with the sub-branch. A social was arranged to welcome home men repatriated from prisoner of war camps. It was held on the following Wednesday in the Salford Hall. The State President (Mrs. McKelvey) attended. The supper was provided by the auxiliary, and Mrs. Prue arranged for the artists. Another social will be held on March 29 at 8 p.m. Members of other auxiliaries and their friends are invited.

A games night to raise funds for the sale of work was held on March 7. A team was arranged for bed-making at the FUSW Hostel in King Street, for March 16. Hospital visitors reported 45 patients in January and 40 in February. Sweets and reading matter were distributed on behalf of the auxiliary.

SUBIACO

The president (Mrs. Sadlier) welcomed three new members at the meeting on February 16. The Camp Comforts made the following donations: POW Fund, £5/5/-; entertaining Hollywood patients, £5/5/-; Members manned the Phyllis Dean Hostels during the month. The Old Women’s Home at Guildford was visited on February 17, when Mrs. McManus’s concert party presented an enjoyable programme, assisted by Mrs. W. Thomas. A small gift was made to each resident. Patients from Hollywood and the Lady Mitchell Home were also entertained, and visits were made to the various hospitals and Sunset Home. As rostered, members mended linen and made new garments at the Home of Peace, Lemnos and King Edward Hospitals, and served refreshments at the Sportmen’s Amusement Palace. A jumble sale in aid of the building fund was held on March 9. A mock wedding and dance are being organised for April 14.

SHOP at FOY’S

For VALUE and Friendly Service!
# ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN

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<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artillery Comrades' Association</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Last Friday each month</td>
<td>W. Beadle, 450 Newcastle Street, Perth</td>
<td>Jack Kenny, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blinded Soldiers' Association</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
<td>D. M. Benson, Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James, 32 Coldstream St, Leederville</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Battalion Association</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>W. Kruger, 79 St. Leonard's Avenue, Leederville</td>
<td>C. A. P. Gordon, 42 St., George's Terrace, Perth</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Battalion Association</td>
<td>Annual Reunion</td>
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<td>(Acting Secretary)</td>
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<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. Bentswell, &quot;D&quot; Flats, Stirling Highway, Nedlands</td>
<td>E. S. Everett, 136 Suburban Road, South Perth</td>
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<td>44th Association</td>
<td>As advertised</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th Battalion Association</td>
<td>As arranged</td>
<td>Annual reunion, Monday of Show Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th Battalion Association</td>
<td>Committee as arranged</td>
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<td>32nd Battalion Association</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Nearest Saturday, July 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th Light Horse Association</td>
<td>Room 33, Bon Marche Buildings, Barrack Street, Perth</td>
<td>1st Monday in each month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partially Blinded Soldiers' Association of Australia, W.A. Branch</td>
<td>Monash House,corner Hay and King Streets</td>
<td>1st Monday in each month</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th and 52nd Battalion Association</td>
<td>At Office, Room 33, 2nd Floor, Bon Marche Building, Barrack Street</td>
<td>1st Pension Day of the month at 2.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>South African and Imperial Veterans' Assn. Totally and permanently disabled soldiers' Association</td>
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## R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH DIRECTORY

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<th>Sub-Branch</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
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<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
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<tr>
<td>Armadale</td>
<td>RSL Clubrooms</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. H. Richardson, Albany</td>
<td>J. Sturrock, Fremantle Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. C. Walls, Ballidu</td>
<td>E. S. Hextall, State School, Albany</td>
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<td>Ballidu Districts</td>
<td>RSL Hall</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>R. Patchell, Ballidu</td>
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<td>Bassendean</td>
<td>Town Hall—Lesser Hall</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Geo. Atkins, 45 3rd Avenue, Bassendean</td>
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<td>Brookton</td>
<td>RSL Clubrooms</td>
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<td>P. Halls, Newton, Bassendean</td>
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