Over twelve years ago, when the world was beginning to drag itself out of the Slough of Despond caused by the Depression, one frequently heard it said: “If we could only revive the comradeship of the A.I.F., what a difference that would make to the world today!” Those who used such words did not mean that continuance of the wartime comradeship would provide the cure for all our economic and social ills; but they realised that the old wartime comradeship carried into every walk of civil life would be the first step towards any effective cure. It was a wonderfully potent thing, this comradeship of the battle-line. It served to leave the whole mass of those qualities of fortitude, courage, patience, tolerance, chivalry, resource, candour and independence, which were blended in what is known to the historians of the two world wars as “The Digger Spirit. The qualities mentioned are high qualities. Each in itself is a desirable asset, but it required the good old Australian tradition of mateship to provide the vital spark that gave the Digger Spirit such great dynamic energy. Its origin is in the matrix of the race. Its earlier manifestations were in that feeling of kinship with the people of the Motherland, which prompted Australians to volunteer for active service in the Sudan and South Africa; and which inspired Andrew Fisher to pledge Australia’s last man and last shilling to the support of the Empire when a paranoic Kaiser kindled the fires of war. It was also manifested in the voluntarily accepted obligation to stand by a mate in fair weather or foul, and to share with him the last franc or the last cigarette.

The history of this League has shown that the old tradition of comradeship has persisted through the years of peace, to burn with as pure and incandescent a light throughout another war. It must continue to shed its rays over a war-torn country, if we are to achieve anything like an adequate reconstruction. If the recent Congress had done nothing else, it would still have achieved something worthwhile in showing how the younger generation of returned men are fitting themselves into the organisation and preparing themselves for the task of taking over its control and management. Much of this, one thinks, is due to the good spadework carried out in the sub-branches. There, the younger men have been cordially welcomed. They have been made feel like heirs to a grand estate, come home after years of war and wandering, to enter into their inheritance. They have been encouraged to fit themselves for the tasks ahead by accepting office and by representing their sub-branches at Congress. History has shown, again and again, that there is a natural impatience of the part of youth with older institutions. There has often been the urge to sweep away everything that has gone before and rebuild from bedrock. That tendency has been refreshingly absent from the proceedings of the League. It was most noticeable at Congress how the younger men fitted in with their elders, and the great degree of unity between both sections on all major issues.

That, again, is a manifestation of the Digger Spirit. It is just another illustration of “all for one and one for all” which was the basis of that great democracy, the A.I.F., and of every other democracy that has stood the test of time. It is that unity of purpose, for the welfare of comrades and for the nation as a whole, which guides the League’s approach to the problems of the reconstruction period. That unity of purpose should make the League the most influential organisation in the Australia of the future. The realisation of this potential strength has given the cold douche of fear to all sorts of persons and organisations who hope to exploit the difficult period of transition from war to peace for the benefit of their personal and sectional aims. Already we have seen attempts to split the League by driving a wedge between the Old Diggers and the Young. There have been attempts to discredit the constitutionally elected leaders of the organisation, to misrepresent its aims and ideals, and even to white-ant essential planks of the League’s platform. Fortunately, this year’s Congress, like its predecessors, showed the same old ability to detect the nigger in the woodpile, and attempts at division withered under the searchlight of reason. So far from forming an opposition bloc on any principle or motion the younger delegates voted in response to the arguments advanced, just as their elders did; and they voted as one man with their elders when Congress took the unusual step of unanimously demanding the resignation from the League of one who had indulged in a campaign of calumny and subversive tactics against the League’s objectives and its leaders.

We may, indeed, be very thankful that the good old Digger Spirit still lives. One hopes that it will not be watered down by all sorts of extraneous influences during the coming years of peace. Through its united front on all great national issues, and its internal unity of purpose, the League has won the respect of all sections of the public in the past. It did much to preserve the morale of
the public during the depression years. It again helped to raise public morale to a high pinnacle of practical patriotism during the earlier and darker years of the recent war. Surely it is not too much to expect that the good old Digger Spirit, applied to the problems of peace, can continue to influence "our Commonwealth to one increasing purpose of achievement in all those things which make for true national greatness.

THE NEW LEAGUE OFFICIALS

A very important function of the annual State Congress is the election of officers for the ensuing year. Those elected by this year's Congress are:

State President: Mr. J. M. W. Anderson.
Vice-President: Messrs. E. S. Watt and H. A. Leslie.
State Country Vice-President: Mr. P. Thorn (Kojonup).
District Country Vice-Presidents: Messrs. C. Prior (Katanning—Kolobangaroa) and H. M. Whitell (Bridgetown).
Trustees: Colonel W. O. Mansbridge, Colonel J. E. Mitchell, and Mr. K. A. Wood.
Warden, State War Memorial: Mr. W. A. Saw. Chairman of the King's Park Board, was elected Warden of the State War Memorial, Mr. J. Watson was appointed Assistant Warden and the Boy Scouts' Association Sub-Warden.
Auditor: Mr. J. J. Prendergast was appointed Honorary Auditor.
R.S.L. Trading Company: Mr. M. E. Zeffert was appointed League representative on the R.S.L. Trading Company.

ALLOCATION OF DISTRICTS

Members of the Executive were allotted their electoral districts as follows:
E. S. Watt: Murchison and Mt. Magnet.
A. Yeates: Gacoyne, Roebourne, Pilbara and Kimberley.
L. Thorn: Guildford, Midland Junction, Toodyay and Middle Swan.
E. O. Davies: Pingelly and Beverley.
J. Cornell: Hannans, Kanowna and Yilgarn-Coolgardie.
D. W. Paton: Claremont and North-East Fremantle.
A. G. N. Olden: Subiaco and Nedlands.
C. G. Ferguson: Greenough and Geraldton.
C. L. Harvey: Albany and Katanning.
F. Bateson: Fremantle and Mt. Zeehan.
T. Sten: Bunbury, Sussex and Collie.
W. Reece: Williams-Narrogin and Wagin.
J. Craig: Canning, Victoria Park and Maylands.
R. MacGregor: North Perth and East Perth.
H. G. Wilson: Fremantle and South Fremantle.

VICTORY RESOLUTIONS

This year's Congress was the first to be held since the end of hostilities, and will go down to history as the Victory Congress.

Accordingly, Congress unanimously passed the following resolutions:

That this Congress of Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen of Western Australia express unswerving loyalty to His Majesty the King, and conveys heartfelt gratitude to the British people and their great war leader, Winston Churchill, for their magnificent leadership, fortitude and courage, which eventually resulted in complete victory over our enemies, and which further cements the strong bond of kinship between all members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

This Conference expresses our gratitude to Almighty God at the cessation of hostilities; our admiration for the valour and deeds of the Fighting Services in achieving victory; our deepest sympathy with the relatives of the fallen; and also our admiration for the bravery and fortitude displayed by our splendid men and women under the stress of hunger, privation and diabolical cruelty while P.O.W., and the manner in which they have maintained the traditions of the British race.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Three nominations for the League's Certificate of Merit were approved with acclamation by this year's annual State Congress. One was to Mrs. J. M. McKinlay, State President of the Women's Auxiliaries. It was recommended that the Certificate of Merit be awarded to Mr. F. P. Gully of West Leederville, in appreciation of his outstanding work among servicemen and their dependants for the period during and since the last war. The third recommendation was in favour of Mr. Claude Taylor, Chief Clerk, Headquarters, Western Command. This was also in appreciation of Mr. Taylor's long and consistent services to the League.

LEAGUE TROPHIES

The three main trophies presented by the League annually were won this year as follows:
Newdegate Cup: Victoria Park sub-branch.
Colonel Collett Cup: Murray sub-branch.
Mary Cornell Cup: Pingelly sub-branch.

The 18th Annual Conference which commenced on Tuesday, September 24th, was a very happy one, with the shadows of war passed away and peace reigning over our land, and delegates many of them with P.O.W. sons and husbands already home and others with news of dear ones returning—all seemed to feel that this conference was a memorable one. Delegates numbering 109 were present.

Mr. Anderson, State President of the League, officially opened the Conference, and in the course of a very interesting address thanked Mrs. McKinlay, Mrs. Henderson, members of the executive and all auxiliaries for their wonderful co-operation and work throughout the year and which was greatly appreciated by the League.

Mrs. McKinlay's address to conference was, as always, impressive and inspiring, and in the course of which she gave a resume of the work of auxiliaries since the outbreak of war.

The annual report of the work of the executive was an excellent record, and Mrs. Henderson (Hon. State Secretary) is to be congratulated on the manner in which she so concisely covered the year's activities.

We were honoured by the presence at the opening of conference of Lady Mitchell, whose company is so much appreciated by all the delegates, as Lady Mitchell has always shown such an unfailing interest in the work of the auxiliaries. A bouquet was presented to Lady Mitchell by Mrs. Taylor, a member of the State Executive.

Another visitor whom we welcomed for the first time was Mr. Lefroy, Chairman of the Red Cross Society, who said he considered it a distinct privilege to be present. A most interesting account of some activities of the Red Cross was given by Mr. Lefroy who,

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in the course of his remarks, mentioned the excellent work of the Geraldton auxiliary where a garrison battalion under his command was stationed there.

Elections

State President.—Mrs. McKInlay was again elected unopposed.

Hon. State Secretary.—Mrs. Stockin (Mrs. Henderson did not seek re-election).

Country Vice-President.—Mrs. King, of Bunbury auxiliary.

Vice-Presidents. — Mesdames Henderson and Randall.

Trustees.—Mesdames Pendergrast, Prue and Kay.

Committee.—Mesdames Taylor, Crofts, Weeks, Hughes, Jeffreyson, Burgess, Richardson, Sorenson, Newson and Brown.

On Wednesday night a social was tendered to all delegates attending both conferences by the State Executive R.S.L. Women’s Auxiliaries in conjunction with the executive of the League. About 500 were present and a most enjoyable time spent. Miss Nell Shortland-Jones, who was responsible for the programme, provided excellent talent, and music for dancing was rendered by Mrs. King’s orchestra, and the catering arrangements were in the hands of Mrs. Crofts and her social committee, assisted by the girls of the R.S.L. Social Circle.

On Thursday we received a visit from Lieut-Colonel Hearn, of the A.C.F., and were pleased that he was able to come along and give us a most interesting address on his work with the troops in forward areas and which was eagerly listened to by the delegates.

Thursday afternoon saw the close of another conference and Mrs Wellard of Wago moved a vote of thanks to the President for the excellent manner in which she had carried out her arduous duties during this, our peacetime conference, and delegates departed carrying away, we hope, happy memories and also much information that may help in the work of their respective sub-branches.

During conference Mrs. McKInlay was presented with a bottle of perfume, a birthday present from delegates, and Mrs. Henderson received gifts of handbags as a mark of appreciation for services rendered.

Mrs Bremner, secretary Cottesloe auxiliary, presented the executive with a Peace flag, as flown at San Francisco, in memory of her husband, a Digger of the last war, and her two sons who paid the supreme sacrifice in this war.

FEDERAL CONGRESS

This year’s Federal Congress will be held in Perth. The delegates from the other States and the Australian Capital Territory will arrive by train early on the morning of October 25. At 10 a.m. the Federal President (Sir Gilbert Dyett) will lay a wreath on the State War Memorial. At 11 a.m. the Congress will be officially opened by the Lieut.-Governor (Sir James Mitchell) in the Anzac House ballroom. At 7 p.m. a dinner will be held in the ballroom. At mid-day on October 26, the delegates will be the guests of the Premier and members of the State Government at a luncheon. On the afternoon of Saturday, October 27, delegates will attend the trotting and the races. At 10 a.m. on October 28 they will leave for Canning Dam. They will have lunch at Kalamunda, after which they will visit Mundaring Weir and National Park.

The visiting delegates will leave Perth by train at 8.10 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31. Congress will have a big list of business to dispatch and many items of nation-wide interest are listed for discussion. Not the least interesting feature of the coming Congress will be the election of Federal President. Sir Gilbert Dyett, who has held this office without a break for 26 years, has announced that he will not seek re-election. Colonel Milne, the nominee of the New South Wales Branch, was recently appointed to an important position in the New South Wales Government Railways, and the new job will prevent him from carrying out the duties of Federal President. Accordingly, he has withdrawn, leaving the field to Lieut.-General H. Gordon Bennett, the nominee of the W.A. Branch, and Mr. E. Turnbull, the nominee of the Victorian Branch.
29th Annual State Congress

The following motions were passed by the General Congress:

Administration
Congress instructs the incoming Executive to appoint a committee, with the object of presenting the future progress of items submitted to the agenda of the annual Congress, and that they report progress or otherwise made particularly to the sub-branches sponsoring the items.

That representations be made to Army Headquarters that records be established of all "W" men volunteering their services unreservedly, and that these be made available to the League, and that the onus of proof be not the responsibility of the individual.

That Congress instructs the incoming Executive to try out during the ensuing year the following: Supplementary to the present method of calling together periodically presidents and secretaries to receive reports of chairmen of State Executive sub-committees, that quarterly meetings be held, wherein the machinery will be reversed and presidents and secretaries will be able to bring along their suggestions to the State Executive. It is considered that such action will act as a sound-breaking-board between head-quarters and relief the agenda congestion that is found so embarrassing every year at Congress.

That the balance sheet for the Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Fund be published in The Listening Post.

That an amendment of the Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Relief Fund Act be secured to include personnel of the 1939-45 war.

That, if an amendment to the Act is necessary to use money from the Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Relief Fund to assist the War Veterans' Home appeal, then steps should be taken to secure this amendment.

That an up-to-date book of the Rules, By-laws and Standing Orders of the R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. (W.A. Branch) be printed and issued to all sub-branches.

That in all cases of appeal to the Entitlement Tribunal, the R.S.L. representative supply the fullest information to the appellant regarding the steps to be taken by him in presenting his appeal in the most favourable manner, particular attention being given to the type of evidence necessary to achieve that end.

That is be a recommendation to the incoming Executive that a paid official be appointed as hospital visitor.

Congress agrees that the work of the official appointed at the Army Discharge Depot be commended, and that the scope might be extended to embrace the other Services.

That this State Congress of the W.A. Branch of the Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia place on record a sincere appreciation of the loyal and excellent service given to the League and returned servicemen generally by Mr. D. M. Benson in his 21 years' occupancy of the position of State Secretary.

That members be encouraged by the W.A. Branch officials to join the sub-branch nearest their place of residence, and that notice of this effect be present in a prominent position in Anzac House and at the Discharge Depot, Karrakatta, in a conspicuous position where it may be seen by prospective members.

Rehabilitation
That it be strongly urged upon the Government to ensure that, on all committees appointed to deal with returned servicemen's rehabilitation, either on the land or in industry, a returned ex-serviceman possessing the necessary qualifications be included.

That it be strongly urged upon the Government to include that ex-members of the Merchant Navy be given similar training to other personnel and also come within the scope of the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Regulations.

That action be taken to increase the allowance paid to a single discharged person undergoing reconstructive training to conform to the basic wage in each State.

Congress urges that, in the calculation of living allowances to be paid to widows undergoing training under the Reconstruction Training Scheme, no deduction should be made in respect to widow's pension paid by the Department of Repatriation, where the aggregate of the full living allowance and £4 per week for children should exceed the case of the widow without children, and £65/5/- in the case of a widow with one or more children.

That the Government be urged to grant preference to ex-service personnel to secure the necessary tools, machinery, etc., for their rehabilitation in any industry.

That the Government consider the needs of the industries producing the materials necessary for the rehabilitation of ex-service men when future releases of service personnel are being made.

That Congress request the State Government to make available to the public as soon as possible all data appertaining to the iron deposits in the Yampi Sound locality, including negotiations and terms of options of leases, with dates of same, and the possibility of absorbing returned soldiers from the reclamation of these deposits.

That the Federal Government carefully examine every scheme put forward to establish ex-service men in the deep-sea fishing industry, employing the most modern methods, such as air-spotting of shoals, trawling, curing and canning, with a view to complete control of this industry by Australians for the good of the whole community.

That all ex-service personnel be granted a tobacco ration of 12 ounces a month.

Pensions and Repatriation
Congress recommends the Executive and all sub-branches to campaign vigorously for vast improvement in the Repatriation Department administration, drawing the Ministers' special attention to the need (1) For the administration to be in a sympathetic and efficient manner, thus, inter alia, avoiding the necessity for discharged men to spend their savings while awaiting decisions. (2) To thoroughly investigate all complaints by ex-service men and organisations against medical officers and their assistants (3) For a majority of ex-service men and women on all boards, tribunals and commissions.

Congress considers that a more suitable and comfortable premises should be found immediately for ex-service personnel in the Perth Hospital, which at present exists at the Perth Hospital.

In view of the large number of cases of distress which have been revealed among service personnel under repatriation administration Congress這裡 be made of the records of such repatriation cases with a view to ensuring sympathetic treatment. Congress therefore directs that a committee be set up of not less than three members of the incoming State Executive to undertake this survey vigorously and take up the urgent problems of ex-service personnel arising from hardships and anomalies.

Congress urgently requests the Commonwealth Government to establish a separate medical hospital for ex-service personnel suffering from mental disorders, as the conditions at the Mental Hospital, Claremont, are a disgrace to the Governments of Australia.

That arrangements for the payment of medical services be made available more readily to country members than at present, i.e., paid when due at some local source.

That in view of the poor treatment meted out to some medically unfit personnel of this war, Congress expresses dissatisfaction with the medical board and presses for more consideration to be shown to returned men.

That the State Executive endeavour to ensure that medical repatriation doctors, and women, whether by Repatriation doctors or not, be recorded for future reference in the files of the Repatriation Commission.

Congress urgently requests the Commonwealth Government to recognise malaria, ulcerated stomatitis and other recurring illnesses contracted in the Services, as pensionable disabilities, and that payment of pension shall not be regarded as compensation for losses sustained because of rest periods,

That it is the opinion of Congress that, in view of the number of men returning from active service, suffering sickness or disease shortly after discharge, all men discharged from the Forces, whether receiving a pension or not, should be entitled to receive free medical and hospital treatment anywhere, for all ailments, at the Commonwealth Government's expense for a further two years after discharge.

That the following clause be added to Section 101 of the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act, with retrospective operation from September 3, 1939:

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101 (c) Upon the death of a member who dies whilst a member of the Forces from a disability which, though considered constitutional or pre-war in origin, or of unknown aetiology, became manifest on service.

Congress urges the Commonwealth Government to amend or repeal regulations so that dependent widowed mothers be treated as dependent wives in regard to the payment of dependent allowances and pensions; also that the means test be abolished in such cases.

That the Repatriation Act be so amended as to include all benefits for the adoptive parents of incapacitated and deceased ex-service personnel.

That the pay of a soldier killed, or died abroad, including deferred pay, be paid to a widow up to the date of notification of death.

Congress is of the opinion that men of the Merchant Navy should be made eligible for benefits of the Repatriation Act.

Congress recommends to the Repatriation Department and medical board staff that, where any member of the Forces is discharged medically unfit and is likely to be unable to work for some time, they should be told to apply to the Social Service Department, with a view to obtaining the invalid pension.

That the Commonwealth Government be requested to bring up all Service personnel rehabilitation services and grants, loans, etc., to that which has been granted by the New Zealand Government to its discharged personnel and widows and mothers of dead servicemen.

Congress considers that soldiers' widows'...
pensions are insufficient and should press for an increase of 10 per cent, and that all pensions be granted on an equal basis, irrespective of the service pay of the deceased soldier.

Congress is of the opinion that the present tool allowance to tradesmen on discharge is inadequate under present prices and conditions, and considers that the grant for tools should be £20.

That war pensions, being inadequate, should be increased.

That all war pensions should be inviolate and not taken into account in the Social Services Act, and that service pensions and old-age pensions should not be subject to the means test.

Congress presses for free railway passes for next-of-kin to visit Repatriation Wards, on the same basis as exists for military hospitals.

Congress seeks an assurance from the Commonwealth authorities that Faversham, at York, should be used for the benefit of service or ex-service personnel and not put to any other use.

**Constitution**

That the change of title be deferred till after the return of the bulk of service personnel and prisoners of war from abroad

That Rule 6 (1) (a) be redrafted as follows:

(a) The Executive shall consist of the President, two Vice-Presidents, three Trustees and eighteen Committeemen, all of whom, unless otherwise resolved, shall be elected by Congress annually by exhaustive ballot. In addition thereto, the Immediate Past President shall be an ex officio member of the Executive, provided that he shall not have been removed from office under Rule 12 (1). The result of every ballot shall be kept for the purpose of sub-rule (4).

(b) Any sub-branch may, by resolution to that effect, appoint one delegate to attend at a meeting of the Executive and speak and vote therein, only upon any matter mentioned in the said resolution.

That Rule 6 (4) (a) be redrafted as follows:

(a) That if a casual vacancy occurs by the death or resignation of removal of the President, or one or both of the Vice-Presidents, or of the Trustees, such vacancy shall be filled by resolution of the Executive at a special meeting called for the purpose.

(b) If a casual vacancy occurs by the death or resignation or removal of a committeeman, such vacancy shall be filled in the following manner:

(1) If a ballot was taken at the preceding Congress for the election of committeemen, the candidate who received the highest number of votes after the election of the eighteen committeemen shall be appointed to fill the vacancy, if he is willing to accept the-office; but, if such candidate declines to accept the office, then the candidate who received the next highest number of votes shall be appointed to fill the vacancy, and so on, until the whole list of candidates has been exhausted.

(2) If no ballot was taken at the preceding Congress, or if none of the candidates mentioned in the preceding sub-paragraph is willing to accept the office, then the Executive shall by resolution determine the manner in which such vacancy shall be filled and shall fill the vacancy.

(3) The person appointed to fill such vacancy shall hold office only for the unexpired portion of the term thereof.

That Rule 6 (1) (b) be amended as follows:

(b) All nominations for the position of State President over continuous years shall be in writing and close with the State Secretary not less than two months before the opening of Congress, and all sub-branches shall receive at the end of May each year a list of sitting officers, positions, etc., and the sub-branches to which such sitting officers belong; and, further, such sub-branches shall receive notification of all nominations received not less than two months before the opening of Congress. All nominees must signify their willingness to accept office and be financial members of the W.A. Branch.

To counteract exploitations of the League all candidates for office, paid or honorary, within the R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. shall, when nominating, declare themselves in full accord with the principles of the League, and that persons holders of Office, paid or honorary, shall, if requested, declare their allegiance to League principles.

Aising out of the State President's report, it was resolved that this Congress expresses dissatisfaction with the operation of technical or vocational training in Western Australia as applied under the Reconstruction Training Scheme, and endorses the grave concern existing at the unsatisfactory state of affairs, as outlined in the State President's report.

and desires that this be brought urgently to the attention of the Commonwealth Government.

That Rule 2 in the by-laws governing the formation and control of District Committees be deleted, as conflicting with Rule 6 (1) (a) of the W.A. Branch constitution.

That the question of eligibility for membership be deferred for twelve months.

Congress ardently endorses the principles laid down in the Atlantic Charter, guaranteeing the Four Freedoms, and requests the Federal Congress to amplify such endorsement by incorporating its aims in the League constitution.

That, in the opinion of Congress, the time has arrived when the League encourage returned men to seek election to local governing bodies; also State and Federal Parliaments.

**Preference**

That the R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. demands, that on their return to civil life, men and women who left their civil vocations in order to serve their country shall be entitled as a right to the utmost possible mental and physical rehabilitation, free of cost to themselves. They shall also be entitled to adequate living allowances for themselves.

That Congress strongly urges the repeal of the preference section of the Re-establishment Act, and that it be replaced by a section more sympathetic to ex-servicemen.

That the continuance of preference for returned service men and women be strenuously fought for.

That returned soldiers be given preference at elections in such jobs as post clerks and the issuing of ration books.

**Defence**

That men discharged from the Services, not eligible for the returned from active service badge, be issued with some kind of badge to show they have been in the Services.

Congress considers that, in all moves towards reduction of establishments of the Navy, Army and Air Force, this not to be released with dealers, all officers should be those who have seen overseas service; personnel from bases to be used to replace them, where fit.

That serving members of the Navy, having five years of active service, of which service includes two years or more continuous overseas service, be not sent to operational areas for further service, unless at their own request.

That all new operating on active service from an Australian base be granted overseas status as regards gratuities, field allowances, and any future benefits that may be granted to full-time overseas service.

That Congress press the Minister for the Army to decrease the clothing allowance to at least £25, as the present grant is totally inadequate.

Congress reaffirms its resolutions of previous years that the females relatives' badge be issued to the wives and mothers of members of the Merchant Navy, such issue to be made retrospective to September, 1939, and instructs its delegates to Federal Congress accordingly.

**Stores Disposals**

That discharged servicemen and R.S.L. trading organisations be given priority in the purchase of surplus Army stores and equipment, and not have to compete with dealers as at present. Further, that discharged servicemen be permitted to retain such items of equipment as necessary to them at less than Army catalogue prices.

That the Disposals Commission be approached with a view to permitting ex-service-
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men to purchase Army vehicles at a greater discount than that allowed by traders.

War Service Homes and Housing
That the State Executive will make inquiries into the difference in prices in Commonwealth homes in this State with a view to preventing the exploitation of returned men in the matter of service homes when the War Service Homes Commission re-starts activities.

That the War Service Homes Act be so amended that where capital cost, plus reasonable charges have been paid by any occupant, he shall receive the title deeds of the property, and that interest charges be two per cent.

That the Act be so amended to provide that returned men, who have been in occupation of homes over twenty years, and who, through age or sickness, cannot further honour their obligations, be allowed to retain possession on the basis of their equity in the property.

That Congress protests against the delay in the erection of houses, with essential building permits being procurable in this State, and also rejects the high cost of building, the interest rate being excessive.

That more consideration be given to disabled ex-servicemen in the computation of rentals under the Commonwealth Housing Scheme.

Congress insists that ex-service personnel should be given No. 1 priority on building permits.

Congress urges the Commonwealth Government to ensure that no obstacle is placed in the way of immediately releasing all tradesmen required for the erection of houses throughout the Commonwealth.

That, as the housing position is acute and likely to be so for some years, the Commonwealth and State Governments be urged to take action to vary the regulations of councils and local governing bodies dealing with brick areas, to make possible the building in such areas of attractive ex-servicemen’s homes of timber and asbestos or platter board.

Anzac Day
That in the opinion of this State Congress, Anzac Day should be declared a national holiday with pay for all sections of the community. That in future pride of place in Anzac Day parades be given to members of the South African and Imperial Veterans’ Association.

That Congress evolves a uniform address for all sub-branches, as a preamble to the Anzac Service to be used by the sub-branches if desired.

That Congress requests the State Government to make available free railway warrants, similar to the warrants made by the South Australian Government and other Eastern State Governments, to returned personnel to participate in the Anzac parade at the nearest Anzac Day service.

Congress deprecates the action of the Commonwealth Government in commercialising Anzac Day for the purpose of fostering public subscriptions to victory loans.

Aliens
This Congress is alarmed at the number of enemy aliens who have acquired leases of business premises in the metropolitan area during the war period, and requests the State Government to make endeavours to obtain amendment of the Landlord and Tenant Act, or, alternatively, have a regulation promulgated, limiting the period of any such lease entered into since September 3, 1939, to a date not later than twelve months after the cessation of hostilities, and to obtain appropriate publicity at the termination thereof so that any ex-member of the armed Forces, who is qualified to conduct a business, and is desirous of using the premises for this purpose shall at least have an equal opportunity of obtaining a leasehold of any such premises as the present lessees.

Congress views with alarm the growing hold being exercised by nationals of late enemy countries in the agricultural, industrial, and business life of Australia, to the detriment of the nation still struggling, and suggests that each sub-branch appoint a vigilance committee to compile data on their activities, such data to be forwarded to a central committee under the signature of three responsible members of which an analysis and/or statistical purposes, with the object of placing any findings before the public if sanctioned by the Executive.

That this Congress is not satisfied with the result from item No. 278 in 1944 Congress, as the position in Geraldton has further deteriorated, and strongly objects to the release of interned enemy aliens to return to property held by them before their internment or to other property.

That the attention of the Commonwealth Government be drawn to the ease with which naturalisation is afforded to foreigners, and also the case enabling foreigners to open new business premises, when permits are not granted to returned soldiers.

Congress urges the Commonwealth Government to consider the following proposal in connection with alien control under the Immigration Act after the war: “Every alien immigrant shall, upon entering the Commonwealth, lodge with the Commonwealth Treasury a sum of money equal to the return fare to the country of origin, and, if at the end of an appropriate time for naturalisation the alien has not become naturalised in English, or has not behaved himself as becomes a citizen of Australia, he be deported at his own expense. Further, this be a condition of his initial admission.”

Congress considers that there are too many southern Europeans in Australia already and requests the Commonwealth Government to tighten up, or alter, the immigration laws with a view to allowing only a very small percentage of southern Europeans into the country in future.

Congress deprecates the laxity of supervision of enemy prisoners of war, as evidenced by the number of cases of indecent dealing, assaults on females, etc., as proved by so-called tribunals and easy in which they are allowed to roam will in the towns; and also considers that the A.I.F. buttons should immediately be removed from the tunics of enemy prisoners of war.

That, in the best interest of discharged service personnel, the League to return all enemy prisoners of war, subject to the arrangement of countries, as soon as transport can be arranged.

That it be made illegal for foreigners to speak other than the English language in public places.

Social Services
Congress requests the State Government to inaugurate a medical service on the lines of that now available to all persons in Tasmania, and by so doing give the full benefit of the League’s knowledge of the Commonwealth Free Medical Service.

That the Commonwealth and State Governments endow, at the University of Western Australia a Chair of Health to enable a course of study covering every aspect of preventive medicine and allied subjects, which are designed to prevent sickness among the people of Australia.

That the State Executive approach the Commonwealth Government immediately to pay child endowment for all children.

Congress affirms the necessity for granting old age pensions and that a system of taxation necessary to raise the funds for payment of same should be designed to cover all persons equitably, so that such pension payments would not carry the stigma of indigency or charity, but be a provision made by every person in the community to assure a modicum of security in old age.

Education
That when school teachers are released from the Services, Congress considers that, while the teachers are concerned, there should be given the opportunity of a refresher course in metropolitan schools in order to fit them for the change-over to their former profession.

That the State Government be approached in regard to the insurance of school children travelling on school buses, as they are not at present covered by insurance.

Congress urges the Government to improve the standard of education by every means possible.

Imperial Ex-Service Men
That, in view of the likelihood of large numbers of Imperial ex-servicemen migrating to the Dominions, Congress urges the Commonwealth Government to use every endeavour to persuade the British and Dominion Governments to secure an agreement to provide for reciprocity in all repatriation and rehabilitation matters affecting discharged personnel.

That it be brought under the notice of the British Imperial authorities that British Imperial ex-service pensioners resident in Australia are being deducted the sum of 21/4/- from payments on account of living expenses whilst in hospital, and that the attention of the trustees of the War Veterans’ Home Fund be drawn to the necessity for setting up burn-out Diggers in their own districts, in preference to concentrating them in a central home in the metropolitan area.

The Listening Post
That a committee be appointed by Congress to investigate the practicability of the League publishing a journal of its own, and report the executive, and that the Executive have power to act on the report.

That Congress demand the resignation of H.O. Killcoate from the League on the grounds:

(a) Violation of Rule 29 of the rules of the W.A. Branch.
(b) That he disregarded an order from his sub-branch of the August meeting, 1944.
(c) That this broadcast over Station ABC on several occasions concerning the R.S.L. without the permission of the State Executive of the W.A. Branch, making accusations against the Senior Vice-President, Mr. E. S. Watt.

(This motion was carried unanimously.)

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daughters of returned men and women, and any conference of sub-branches be called to plan a programme of activities for 1946.

General

That any Australian aborigine or half-caste who has served with the A.I.F., and whose conduct has been good, shall, if he so wishes, be given citizenship on and at the time of his discharge.

Congress requests the Commonwealth Government to retain all defence factories, with a view of establishing secondary industries and training centres for ex-servicemen.

Congress urges the Commonwealth Government to use munition annexes for the manufacture of tools and machinery urgently necessary in the post-war reconstruction scheme.

That the following order of preference in the case of eligible migrants be adhered to: (1) United Kingdom; (2) British Commonwealth of Nations; (3) other Allied Nations.

Because of the increase of scientific aid and mechanisation in industry, with the object of full-time employment and rehabilitation, a shorter working week should be introduced.

That, in order to control the threat of bureaucracy, the Government be urged to overhaul the war set-up of Government departments, with a view to preventing the carrying on in peace time of unnecessary Government departments, and so avoid the development of a community, to quote Mr. Churchill, “Where only politicians and officials count.”

That, in view of the intended action of the Federal Government to increase the National Service Bureaux, the League be ever vigilant to oppose any attempt at regimentation of labour, should this occur.

That special railway rates apply to Port Hedland and Marble Bar.

Notices of Motion

That the Commonwealth Government be asked to make a gift of a reconditioned Army car to any totally permanently incapacitated soldier, who is incapable of getting about, except under great difficulty and pain.

That Congress is strongly opposed to giving any monopoly to any person or company in any form whatsoever, to the detriment of returned soldiers and the public generally, by any Government.

That Congress regrets that the League, through the State Executive, have failed to give more publicity to their views of such an important item of legislation as the Rehabilitation Bill being treated as a political football by party politicians, and consider that the contentious clauses should be analysed and the League's interpretation thereof, and the implications thereon, given the maximum publicity. Further, if the local daily papers will not donate the space necessary, that an estimate be obtained on the cost incurred of the space purchased by the Labour and Liberal Parties for their propaganda purposes, and ways and means be explored to put League matters before the public and keep them there.

That Congress sanctions the purchase by sub-branches from Head Office of a small wreath of poppies to be used at burials of deceased members instead of a single poppy as is now used.

That, when determining seniority of ex-service personnel over other employees in any occupation different from that in which they were occupied before the present war, the date of their entering a theatre of war be taken as the beginning date of employment.

Congress urges that, if any returned man from this war has been employed as a trainee in a technical school, his services be retained and his training be accepted as part of rehabilitation.

That where a private individual assists in the repatriation of a returned soldier, gift duty should be waived.

A very comprehensive motion submitted by Bunbury in relation to the division of the State into zones, with zone councils to send delegates to Congress, was referred to a committee of delegates, who were entrusted with the task of planning and arranging a practical system of zoning, on the principle laid down in Bunbury's item. The committee comprised Messrs. Cooper (Bunbury), Davies (North Perth), MacGregor (Kalgoorlie), Major (Manjimup), Nicholas (Victoria Park), Reece (Bayswater), Rutherford (Geraldton), Sands (Newdegate) and Williams (Mt. Lawley). When the committee's report was presented to Congress, it was decided that the report be referred to next year's Congress and that copies of the report be printed and submitted to sub-branches for their consideration.

That Congress endorse the scheme for cooperation for servicemen, as printed in The Babbling Brook for January, 1945.

Why are the Returned Nurses the only sub-branch or Returned Army Nurses who have to pay rent for their rooms. In all other States the Returned Army Nurses are allowed their rooms rent free.

That the Executive approach the Government to pass a Bill to allow country sub-branches to build clubs to be run on similar lines to the Anzac Club.

That Congress consider the position of entrenched ex-servicemen from the various munition factories and the problem of their continuing in employment.

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LAND SETTLEMENT SECTION

Mr. A. Yeates presided over the Land Settlement Section of the Annual State Congress, which was opened on September 24. In all, 73 sub-branches were represented by 69 delegates. Informative addresses were given by the Minister for Lands (Mr. A. H. Panton), the Director of Land Settlement (Mr. W. V. Pyie), the Chairman of the Rural and Industries Bank Commission (Mr. Bosostow) and Mr. F. Hitchins, Chairman of the Australian Wool Board. Land settlement for service personnel was one of the major items discussed. Other questions referred to the sale and transfer of land, marketing and appraisements, water supplies, securities and rural education.

The following motions were carried and later were endorsed by the General Congress:

- That the basis of tenure of soldier settlers be freehold or leasehold at the option of the settler, and that the settler be fully informed as to risks incurred.

That Congress urge finality in respect to repatriation advances, as it effects housing in rural areas, as many discharged personnel are held up unable to settle and provide house and living facilities. That ex-servicemen taking up virgin land shall not pay another tax or interest other than road board for the first ten years, and shall receive, free land assistance during that period. That the maximum interest charged under the proposed Soldier Settler Scheme be 2 per cent.

That Congress support that no returned servicemen be settled on a holding until the property is in a position to maintain the man and his family.

That to bring the present living conditions of settlers up to the proposed standard of future soldier settlers, any living or housing improvements carried out on these blocks be carried out on blocks at present occupied by settlers. Material, labour, etc., to be supplied by department concerned at cost.

It was also resolved that a small sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Sands (Newdegate), Heathcote (Northcliffe) and Robinson (Morawa), with Mr. H. A. Leslie, M.L.A., to present this resolution to the Premier: “That the soldier settlers of the 1914/18 war be included under the present War Service Land Settlement Act, and also that the same privileges apply to returned soldier settlers who have been privately financed.”

That the League endeavours to have appeal boards appointed in every district where soldier settlers are settled, and the board to deal with all disputes arising between bank and settler. That sub-branches have the right to appoint one of their members to the board which shall consist of one bank representative, one R.S.L. representative and one independent member.

That Congress views with concern the transfer of land to enemy aliens, and is of the opinion that all transfers of land suitable for settlement of returned soldiers should be withheld pending the Land Settlement Scheme coming into operation; and, further, that all suitable properties coming on the

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market shall be purchased by the Land Settlement Board and held by them for soldier settlement.
That all permits, transfers and any matters appertaining to alien transactions, whether naturalised or unnaturalised, be brought up for total revision.
Agreed to thus: "That Congress support the object of continuing or making permanent the wartime method of marketing farm products, whereby the grower receives a guaranteed minimum price for his products and under which production is controlled, consideration in fixing prices to be given to the prospect of maintaining a reasonable standard of comfort for producers above production costs and a reasonable wage standard for farm employees.
That Conference is of the opinion that without organisation for the disposal of our wool in the post-war period, wool-growers will face disaster, and request the Executive to combat any attempt to reverting back to the auction system.
That the Federal Government be urged to introduce legislation for the adequate labelling of all woven fabrics, clearly showing the percentage of wool in such fabrics.
That this Congress protests to the Federal Government against subsidies being made available for the establishment of the synthetic fibre industry in Australia.
That in the opinion of this Conference the price of wheat should be raised to the cost of production approximately 5/6d. per bushel.
That in country towns and districts connected to approved Government water schemes, a 50 per cent. increase in the supply of water be allowed against the present rates.
That the condition of the No. 1 Water Scheme be brought before the Government, stressing the following: (a) the equitable manner of rating; (b) the need for larger mains, maintenance of piping and the manner of repairs.
That adequate water supplies be provided in all country areas, finance to be effected on a national basis.
That this Conference appoint a sub-committee to prepare and submit a proper case as regards supply and rating in the agricultural areas. The committee to consist of Messrs. Sykes (Kondinin), Wright (Mt. Marshall) and Hetherington (Lakes District).
That the State Government be approached with a view to having bulldozers made available to farmers for dam sinking.
That the personal covenant clause be omitted from all present and future soldier settlement mortgages.

That this Congress urge the State Government to enact legislation that will provide for a standard mortgage instrument. That this standard mortgage instrument shall not permit the inclusion of a personal covenant clause or other clause without permission of a magistrate, who shall deem such a clause just and equitable. That any contract entered into between a money-lender and borrower, which is not drawn under the terms of the standard mortgage instrument for ex-service mortgagors aforesaid shall be deemed void.

That Congress insist on the State Executive doing their utmost to improve educational facilities in outback areas, and press for transportation of school children to central schools, where the proper facilities and competent teachers will be available.
That the State Government be urged to establish a farm school at the Chapman Research Station.
That a General Research Station be established immediately in the Great Southern, specially to solve the problem of infertility in ewes.
That farm schools be established at respective points throughout the farming districts.
That where no satisfactory facilities for education exist, all expenses of children sent

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away to be educated be an allowable deduction from income tax.

That the present rate of 15/- a week allowable for keep by the Taxation Department be increased to 20/- for keepers.

That the wages paid by primary producers to domestic servants be allowed as a deduction from income tax.

That the League support farmers’ organisations in fighting a case to test the validity of the State Government’s action in requiring repayment of money given by the Commonwealth and granted to settlers under the Rural Relief Act.

That in view of the serious and increasing damage from soil erosion, water erosion and salt encroachment, Congress urge the Federal Government to spare no effort in combating this menace.

That Congress considers that provision should be made for retention of protective growth on agricultural land wherever necessary to combat soil erosion.

That railway freight should be charged on a flat rate.

That serviceable rail or road transport facilities be provided both for the conveyance of passengers and produce.

That in the interest of national health, the R.S.L. recommends that the Australian Governments should proceed immediately to establish and maintain permanent organisations containing veterinary experts charged with the duty of (1) treating all cattle for T.B.; (2) eliminating all reactors; (3) paying compensation to the full economic value on the owner’s property of every animal destroyed or otherwise disposed of; (4) developing and publicising any methods of treatment which may assist in preventing the development of disease and its transmission to consumers of milk.

That this Congress records its emphatic disagreement with Clause 232, page 39, of the Rural Reconstruction Commission’s report, and recommends its modification by the deletion of the words “or other securities, as the Commonwealth financing authority determines.”

That the Director of Land Settlement be requested to make available to the League, as soon as possible, the details applicable under the Settlement Scheme, and the Reconstruction Act, of that service and discharged may not be misled as regards whether they will be suitable under either of the above.

That for the purpose of increasing population, establishing secondary industries and thus creating employment, Federal and State Governments be urged to investigate the practicability of implementing the whole or part of the Mather Plan.

That the State Government be asked to make available all Crown Gully Lands in the Serpentine, Jarrahdale, Murray and Armadale Road Board districts for returned soldier settlements.

Congress considers that all sub-branches should be supplied with full information regarding the extent of Government assistance available to discharged servicemen who desire to settle on the land and also the procedure to be adopted by intending soldiers settlers who wish to apply for this assistance.

That in the case of land for the purpose of soldier settlement, a review of land sold or leased with the option of purchase since 1940 should be the first to be considered.

That the payment of back rates on blocks or abandoned holdings taken up by ex-service men should be continued.

Congress considers that all land suitable for closer settlement situated in the irrigated and proposed irrigated areas served by rail and roads is ideal for soldier settlement and requests that all land in these areas not being fully utilised be resumed for soldier settlement.

Congress requests soldier settlement authorities to fully investigate the scheme of Mr. G. Basil Duce of Boyanup to purchase 1,000 tons of grapes per annum from returned soldier settlers.

That in the present way of appointing District War Agricultural Committees be discontinued and that the district members be elected by the producers of the district.

That in view of the urgent necessity of a comprehensive scheme of land settlement, the fullest consideration be given to the immediate purchase of developed and undeveloped first-class land for this purpose, particularly in regard to established industries in recognised producing areas, such as the Swan Valley and other suitable districts.

That this Congress urges the Forestry Department to reseal all lands in the South-West for agriculture not suitable for reforestation.

**THE KILLICOAT INCIDENT**

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- "Goodura" and "Tasman" Flannel Undershirts
- "Challenge" Shirts and Pyjamas
- "Double Life" Working Shirts
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Road Board districts for returned soldier settlements.

Congress considers that all sub-branches should be supplied with full information regarding the extent of Government assistance available to discharged servicemen who desire to settle on the land and also the procedure to be adopted by intending soldiers settlers who wish to apply for this assistance.

If it is necessary to resume land for the purpose of soldier settlement, a review of land sold or leased with the option of purchase since 1940 should be the first to be considered.

That the payment of back rates on blocks or abandoned holdings taken up by ex-service men should be continued.

Congress considers that all land suitable for closer settlement situated in the irrigated and proposed irrigated areas served by rail and roads is ideal for soldier settlement and requests that all land in these areas not being fully utilised be resumed for soldier settlement.

Congress requests soldier settlement authorities to fully investigate the scheme of Mr. G. Basil Duce of Boyanup to purchase 1,000 tons of grapes per annum from returned soldier settlers.

That in the present way of appointing District War Agricultural Committees be discontinued and that the district members be elected by the producers of the district.

That, in view of the urgent necessity of a comprehensive scheme of land settlement, the fullest consideration be given to the immediate purchase of developed and undeveloped first-class land for this purpose, particularly in regard to established industries in recognised producing areas, such as the Swan Valley and other suitable districts.

That this Congress urges the Forestry Department to reseal all lands in the South-West for agriculture not suitable for reforestation.

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of a weekly paper in an effort to make out that he is being forced to resign because he was critical of the League. That is just another sample of the misrepresentation to which Killicoat is so prone. His conduct went beyond the bounds of criticism. It was bad enough for him to try and organize support in advance for loaded Congress items—an action which, to use the word made threadbare by Killicoat himself, was decidedly "unethical." What determined the attitude of Congress was the campaign of fantastic lies and malicious slander against leaders of our organization, and the subversive tactics of trying to divide the League's younger members from the older men. The letter he wrote to the State Executive was a cowardly and caddish slander camouflaged as a series of questions. That letter was referred to Congress and, in the meantime, the State Executive asked Killicoat, and The Listening Post, as well, to refrain from comment until after Congress, as the matter was then sub judice. The Listening Post deferred to the wishes of the Executive and withdrew from print a reply to Killicoat's slanders. Instead of doing likewise, Killicoat on the following Sunday night viciously attacked the Executive. Any other organization would have expelled him for that alone. Arraigned at the bar of Congress he made a most-objectionable showing. He could not even explain what he meant by his continued reference to the State Executive as "the sectarian hierarchy of Anzac House." He is now talking darkly of getting legal advice. He would certainly need a great deal of legal advice to override the very definite decision of Congress.

Partially Blinded Soldiers' Assn.

The monthly meeting on October 1 was well attended. The president, Mr. J. F. Davies, occupied the chair. New members were duly welcomed and a good deal of business was dealt with. A social evening was held on the night of October 12. On October 1 a dart tournament was held, the prize going to Mr. A. A. Newton. Membership is gradually increasing, especially from ex-soldiers of the last conflict. Should any member require information or advice, drop a line to R. W. Hills, Perth Literary Institute, Perth, for a speedy reply, or, better still, attend meetings.

A.S.C. Ex-Servicemen's Association

The first annual smoke social will be held on November 13 at the A.O.F. Hall, corner Francis and Museum Street, Perth, at 8 p.m. The committee would like to see a good roll-up of country members, as being the Children's Day at the Royal Show, a lot of them should be in Perth. There will be by this time a good many of our mates back home from P.O.W. camps and so please come along and give them a good time, as well as having one yourself.

Tenth Light Horse Association

The senior vice-president (Mr. E. S. Watt) represented the State Executive at the Victory Reunion of the Tenth Light Horse Association on October 10. The evening was a most enjoyable one, with short speeches and long drinks. The feature of the evening was the installation of Mr. E. Andrews, the new president, Mr. E. Andrews. Alf Hull now combines the offices of vice-president and Treasurer, Challis, for the term of his natural life. Committee meetings are held at Ted Andrews' home, to ensure the atmosphere of harness and saddle soap reminds members of the days before the mechanization of cavalry.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

"Sixteenth."—We regret that Congress reports and other official matter prevented us from using your interesting article in this issue. Accordingly, we are holding it over for the following issue.

"M.S.A. shows a lot of them."—The Australian Weekly are crowded out. Hope to print it next month.

Personalities

Since last month members of Bunbury sub-branch were much distressed to hear that their staunch comrade, Cpl. "Tim" Woodley, while a prisoner of war in Thailand, died of illness. After serving in the M.E. and Syria his battalion landed in Java and under Brig. Blackburn, V.C., put up a gallant fight against overwhelming odds. Older members will remember Tim for the active interest he always took in the sporting activities of the sub-branch before joining up with the 2/3rd M.G. Battalion. Sincere expressions are tendered to Mrs. Woodley and family.

One League stalwart who was greatly missed at this year's Congress was the Hon. James Cornell, who is still recovering after his recent operation. However, he did not forget old friends, and was among those who sent telegrams of sympathy to Congress on the opening day. Congress returned the compliment by passing the following resolution: That this Congress express sympathy with the Hon. J. Cornell, M.L.C., in his serious illness, and the knowledge of his improvement to the convalescent stage, and trust that he will speedily be restored to complete health." In anticipation of his recovery, Congress re-elected Mr. Cornell to the State Executive.

A popular visitor to Anzac House and the Club therein during the Congress period was George Seager of Waroona. He served in the last war with light motor launches, in a formation known as "Marie Lloyd's Navy." While at Waroona between the wars he soldiered in the peacetime establishment of the 10th Light Horse and, under the pen-name "Shrapnel" a regular contributor to The Listening Post and the Red Page of The Western Mail. During the war in the Pacific he has been doing a full-time job at sea with the Americans, in which he wears Uncle Sam's uniform with the bold rings of a pilot-captain. Shortly before Congress he was a visitor at the pleasant little function in the boardroom at which Mr. J. P. Stratton, of the W.A. Sportsmen's Council, handed over a cheque for £1,000 to the War Veteran's Home appeal. This money was raised through a gymkhana at Gloucester Park. Then, as a special treat, George Seager made a donation of £5.
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A good Digger of both wars, Lieut. Les. Riches, M.C., came back from Singapore by the Tamaroo this month and got the surprise of his life when he saw daughter Helen wearing the R.S.L. badge proudly and in her own right. Helen earned this right during his long captivity among the Japs. The first he knew of her war service was when she and Mrs. Riches met him at the Fremantle wharf. Les. Riches, a former Sub-Iaco footballer, served with the 11th and 1st Battalions in the war against the Kaiser. During that service he attained commissioned rank and won the Military Cross. During the recent war he went overseas again with a Supply and Transport unit of the 8th Division. Mrs. Riches was a typist in the old headquarters at Francis Street during the 1st World War. In the recent war she did a splendid job as an honorary organiser of the P.O.W. Relatives' Association.

Mr. Alex. Great, the popular M.C. of the Osborne Park fortnightly dances, is back on the dancing floor after his recent severe illness. All who attended last month’s dances were pleased to see him again, and this paper joins with them in extending good wishes and the hope that the improvement in his health continues. Harold Nugent, who was to have attended the State Congress as a delegate for Osborne Park, was, unfortunately, prevented by illness from attending. His experience would have proved invaluable as he has attended many congresses in the past and was on the State Executive for a number of years. Alf. Mitchell, another Osborne Park member, has again been in No. X Ward. We join with their sub-branch pals in wishing them a speedy recovery.

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THE LISTENING POST FOR October, 1945

His many friends will be sorry to learn that Alf Chapman has had to resign his office of auditor to Mt. Lawley-Inglewood sub-branch owing to ill-health. He took over the position of sub-branch treasurer in 1926 and two years later was appointed auditor, which office he has held continuously ever since. This must be close to a record. Always taking a keen interest in the sub-branch finance he kept a close check on expenditure and would criticise fearlessly whenever he thought it necessary. Alf earns a crust as assistant treasurer of the Perth City Council.

Our Wooroloo correspondent reports the passing of a true and loyal member, Charles Edwin Taylor, a sufferer from the First World War, who was called to higher service on September 2. He was a highly respected member of the Wooroloo sub-branch, with whom we join in expressing deep sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

Tambellup Diggers gave a farewell evening to Mr. Fred Daddow on October 8. Fred has not enjoyed the best of health for some time past, and his M.O. has advised him to leave the district and take up a smaller place at Donnybrook. His departure will mean a great loss to the district and, in particular, to the sub-branch, of which he has been a staunch member and several times president during the past 25 years.

For the second time this year, Yeaipering sub-branch has sustained a major loss through the death of one of its oldest members. Mr. Claude Worner (Old 28th) was accidentally killed at Burgess Siding on the morning of September 14. Claude was one of the "war babies" during the war against the Kaiser, and had carried his pack through Ploegsteert and Paschedaele before he attained his eighteenth birthday. We join with his cob-
At the annual smoke social of the Perth sub-branch on October 9, the former secretary, Mr. Bert Dawson, was the recipient of two presentations. One was the League's Certificate of Service, the presentation of which was made by Mr. H. A. Leslie, M.L.A., in his capacity of Vice-President of the W.A. Branch. The other was a handsome morocco leather writing set labelled "From the Boys of this War." The spokesman for the younger veterans was Mr. Olive. At the same time Miss Conroy, who was in the office of the Perth sub-branch, was presented with a brooch by the younger members. Bert Dawson, who served with the 28th Bn. in the First World War, had been honorary secretary of the Perth sub-branch since January, 1944. He relinquished that job, which he had filled with energy and great credit, when the sub-branch appointed a full-time salaried secretary.

Our Nannup correspondent advises that Jimmy Renham (12th Bn. A.I.F.) has been plodding away in the Nannup district for a number of years, though suffering from long spells of indifferent health. Jim had to give up last month, and is now lying ill in the local hospital. Members of the Old 12th will remember Jim as an active, strapping young lad, who took his first sea voyage when he went way with the 9th Reinforcements to the 12th on the good ship Hortensia. He volunteered for mess orderly when at sea, but a few days after sailing all his mess mates were cot-cases with sea sickness, leaving him the sole survivor at the mess tables. He transferred his activities to another mess when the troops ate like lions all the way across the Indian Ocean. We hope the spell of hospital treatment will soon restoring him to better health.

### Varia

In these times one has given up expecting the flashes of humour that used to illuminate Congress in happier years. Nevertheless, one bright remark did relieve the austerity of the Land Settlement section. During a discussion on rural education, one delegate mentioned a child in his district who has an Irish father and a German mother, and, the delegate answered, "How on earth is that youngster going to be taught to speak English by post?"

T.J.W. writes: Once again Sir Gilbert Dyett has announced his retirement as Federal President of the R.S.I., but I have given two to one to a pal that he will again be "persuaded" to stand again. What is behind the obviously organised campaign by the three States who nominated Sir Gilbert in exerting such pressure to get him to allow his nomination to remain? I have nothing against Sir Gilbert except that he has never been vocal when it has been necessary. He has done a good job, but now is definitely the time for a good man of both world wars to take the helm, and Sir Gilbert may agree. Such a man is offering in the person of General Gordon Bennett, who has all the qualifications for leadership of the League, and I and many others hope that Sir Gilbert will not spoil a good record by hanging on too long.

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A few thousand copies of the September issue of The Listening Post were posted without being stapled and trimmed. Electric power was stopped before these processes were completed, and rather than delay posting until the dispute at Collie was settled it was considered advisable to post in the incomplete state.

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One of the vilest bits of fifth column work that was inflicted on Australia during the dark days of the war was the whispering campaign that went on against Lieut.-General Gordon Bennett, after his escape from Singapore. Even the Government and General Bennett's own official superiors were very lukewarm about vindicating him. At the time, too, when calumnious rats received squashing answers from old Diggers, the aforesaid rats murmured darkly, "Just wait till the men of his division get back. They'll have something to say about him." Well, many of the men are back, and they have had quite a lot to say. Officers and other ranks alike are unanimous in vindicating their old leader. They were astounded and bitterly resentful when they heard of the criticisms that had been levelled against him, and of the cold reception he received in some quarters in Australia. These men have told Pressmen—and they have not minced their words in doing so—that they intend to see that their former G.O.C. is given full credit for the part he played in the fight for Malaya.

On V.P Day in Perth, much amusement was caused by the label on a taxi-cab which declared, "The bus that Hitler missed." In Trafalgar Square, a newsboy chalked on his blackboard, "There'll always be an England. Beaten them three times, including once at football. (Three goals to nil)."

Between the outbreak of the war and June 30, 1945, 677,582 men and 33,249 women served in the Australian Military Forces.
Scotland has been invaded many times during the course of her romantic history, but, according to a BBC Newsletter, the New Zealanders have come nearest to conquering her. When two Enzed's asked for their bill in an Edinburgh hotel, they were surprised when the waitress said “Oh, but those two old ladies who were sitting over at that table by the window have already paid for you.”

During the six months before the end of the fighting 32,308 tons of ammunition were shipped from the Australian mainland to troops in forward areas.

American servicemen have a saying that “The Army fights for glory. The Navy fights for its country; and the Marines fight for souvenirs.” That piece of satire is well appreciated by Uncle Sam's Marines themselves. Japanese propaganda, however, gave a different reason for the toughness of the Marites in action. According to the Japanese propaganda machine, no man is accepted for service in the United States Marine Corps if that was true or just a story. He looked at me as if I'd asked him if grass was green. “Of course it’s true,” he said. “They either die or go underground. Even the Persians go underground. Nothing lives and moves above ground except the British soldier.”

WICKEPIN

At the meeting on September 28, a large gathering assembled to welcome back any returned soldier from this war who happened to be in the district at this time. The president (Mr. C.G. Russell), after welcoming the new soldiers, gave an outline of the R.S.L. activities and explained the need not only of joining but of attending the meetings. Mr. J. Clayden, who had responded on behalf of the returned men, the sub-branch intends holding a monthly meeting again, and giving a welcome to all returned soldiers as they arrive. The next meeting will be on October 28.

BUNBURY

Numbers were up around the fifty mark again at the September general meeting. There is no lack of evidence that members are taking a lively interest in the possibilities of the erection of a new hall, which will be of such a nature that it will have regional status on the League headquarters of the South-West. In the recently conducted competition for the five pounds award, made possible by the generosity of Mr. H. Sherry for the best design and suggestions for the edifice, Mr. Cha. Crifton was announced the winner. The sale of bricks, a pleasant little scheme launched by President Frank Bradshaw, has been well received and is proving to be a most attractive way of swelling up the building fund. With Harold Birch back in the secretary's office and with Fred Senior guarding finances, there has been a definite revitalisation of local R.S.L. life. Representing the new A.I.F., Messrs. John Mort and Geoff Elison continue their good work on the committee as sturdy pioneers of the new R.S.L.

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When a settler contemplates buying land suitable for bringing into pastures for the production of export lambs, his first thought should be for a district with a high average rainfall. Bearing in mind the fact that science can improve the soil, but science cannot improve the rainfall, the best advice to the intending settler is to “Buy Rainfall.”

The Lower Great Southern districts, with consistently high rainfall averages, an excellent climate and many thousands of acres of cheap land available, provide opportunities unexcelled in any other part of Western Australia, or indeed in any other State of the Commonwealth.

It is being recognised by visitors from the Eastern States and overseas that results from improved land in our high rainfall areas are as good as from the best districts in Victoria and New South Wales at about one-quarter the cost.

The sons of Eastern States and overseas farmers return to civilian life, the problem of their settlement on the land will be quickly solved by investigating and personally inspecting available areas in these high-rainfall districts.

The Listening Post for October, 1943

COTTESLOE

The annual meeting last month drew an unusually large attendance. It was very pleasant to see the number of young returned Diggers present. The main item of interest was the election of officers and committee men. The older Diggers decided that it was high time they took a well-deserved rest, with the result that there are eight young men on the new committee. Amongst these are Stan Heath and Rex Tomann. Both are ex-P.O.W. and ex-members of the Sons of Soldiers' League. Our old comrade Colonel Hobbs is re-elected President. Stan Hubbard is again president and, after a keenly contested ballot, Messrs. Poole and White were elected the sub-branch's indispensable steward. Em Newson, has been unanimously re-elected chief steward. At present on the committee is Coi King, who, we are sure, welcome a visit from old friends. He is in the Repat. Ward, Perth Hospital.

MOUNT LAYWEY-INGLEWOOD

The October meeting was again well attended and members were rewarded by a very interesting meeting. At the beginning the membership secretary announced a further 50 new members, bringing the financial membership to close on 900. It looks as if the time is approaching when he will want some very solid assistance with the job. Various items were brought up for discussion including the evergreen question of leave, this time leave on demobilisation being the main point. The highlight of the evening was the report of Mr. B. Corling from the Returned Diggers Association. He announced the finalisation of long discussions with the Perth Road Board and other bodies regarding the acquiring of land in Beaufort Street for erecting a memorial building and laying out gardens. The board entered wholeheartedly into the scheme and have promised, subject to the sub-branch obtaining the money, to acquire the block for the gardens and lay them out. But it's up to us to do our part of the job and subscribe to the limit. Members were then asked to try to donate or raise £10 each over a period of three years. We can do it. Next social, October 27. Bridge evening at St. Patrick's Hall, November 7. Monthly meeting, November 6.

RETURNED ARMY NURSES

The October meeting was well attended. The president extended a warm welcome to several new members and welcomed back several who
The Listening Post for October, 1945

had been away for a long time. Arrangements are in hand for Poppy Day.

OBOSBNE PARK

The fortnightly dances continue to attract good

attendances and are always enjoyable. At the last meeting the ladies were invited to a com-

bined meeting to arrange for the annual smoke.

The president welcomed two new members--Messrs. Powell and Plouze---and mentioned that another member had joined at Anzac House.

Members were pleased to see Messrs. Ned Stashall and Hinmaneg at the meeting.

BEDFORD-MORLEY PARKS

After long grief and pain through sitting non-

stop for four days and three nights listening to
to much good, and no arrangements were made

and on behalf of the Diggers, delegates left
Congress highly satisfied with a job well done.

The obvious interest in a Ball, and that will
be another matter, but the writer has got

a feeling that the dance must have been O.K.

with them.

The sports which are being put

over on October 27 on the local park prom-

omitted mention. The Secretary, Mr. W. F.

Campbell, said that the Services should be the

highlight, also the band from the Eumundi

and the various lawn tennis and lawn and

debay and Scottish dancing. But the dinkm

will be the procession of Queens (members

of a local fair committee) who, after a

Christmas break, they were girls and not the opposite sex, in decorated cars and anything on wheels.

The centenary was reached at our last meeting and 100 years of pleasure. Among the visitors was Tall Eddon, a late P.O.W., who

was of Exeter when she was overwhelmed

by four years ago, and what he had to

say of his experiences connected everybody

that we stopped the war too soon. Another

couple, from the G.O.W. "Seymour", of the Second Legs-Eleven, was wel-

comed.

SUBHACO

At the annual general meeting on September 26 the following candidates were elected:

President, Em Condon; vice-presidents, Padre

Cardozo, J. D. McColgan, and J. J. Yorke; secre-

tary, hon. treasurer, Ben Williamson; sports-

master, Ted Todd; with Harvey Treuert and

Campbell, representatives of the district, and

an active producer of the war. Among the visitors was Miss B. L. F. of Wooloomooloo.

The services were passed over at once by Mr. McConhydr, Byrne, Frost, staunchly supported by Merson and McCarthy as scrutineers. Through lack of light

the meeting continued until the interests of

impressed the writer's report was held over.

Other reports were shelved owing to the amount of business on hand, so that the representative of the War Veterans' Home committee

was unable to convey the glad tidings that the 150 mark had been reached.

It was a good meeting of close on 100 members. The meeting was adjourned.

The President (Mr. H. H. White) was

hon. secretary, was congratulated on a strenuous

and successful year. On October 3 the sub-branch

enacted the Constitution of the Men's Auxiliary

—or the Adamant—entertained the sub-branch

to a dance at the R.S.L. hall. It was a most enjoyable function.

TAMBELLUP

Several recent functions have been held in aid of the R.S.L. Memorial Building Fund. The outlook is improving on the financial side, and it is to be hoped that early in the year some fundraising will be made with the approval of buildings.

Attendance at meetings is also on the

up. With the return of some of the boys who are in Europe, a larger programme is

expected. The present president (W.O.II J. S. Read) is leaving the district for discharge purposes. T. L. H. Gibb will carry on until the end of the year.

The Tammellup Younger set are doing a grand job, with their efforts to the welfare of the Branch, and the sincere and grateful thanks of all members

are extended to them.

MOORA

Congress agenda items were discussed at the September meeting. Mr. J. S. Symonds represented the sub-branch at Congress. A cheque for £6/10/- was sent to League Headquarters for the War Veterans' Home. This, and a fur-

ther cheque for £4/15/-, were the rewards of a Victory Ball organised by both bodies on V.P. night.

The branch thanks the

Legion for the financial assistance, and in other matters concerning the welfare of returned members. It was realising negotiations for the purchase of a site eligible to join the League, to a welcome-home social. Members keep the branch alive with their enthusiasm.

The September meeting was well attended and much attention was paid to business. Forty-five new members joined in the last four months and all received the customary card welcome. A good lecture on Reconstruction was given by Mr. B. J. Hart. Mr. Wood expressed interest to members who are about to return to civilian life. Mr. Wood answered a lot of questions next night on the new laws and how to go about the business. The difficulties of the members who had been in the Services and had returned to the community were discussed.

The next talk will be by Mr. E. B. Wood on Repatriation. Another item the committee has in hand is the welcome home to liberated

prisoners of war.

One recently released is Mr. A. H. Carter, and the committee hope to see him return to his wife and family. The games are now nearing completion. Here are the latest results: F. D. N. in "A" grade; S. B. N. in "B" grade; E. G. T. in "C" grade. R. Tori and C. J. B. in "D" grade.

A good game of football was played at the West End, and all the players were in excellent form.

There is a good chance of getting a game on the 29th to complete the season.

The social committee has put over a lot of hard work and will soon be busy with preparations for another successful event.

October Poppy Day is near, and members are getting ready for that. November meetings will be on the 13th and 27th.

CLAIRMONT

Sixty members attended the October meeting at which the president (Mr. Hopkins) and Mr. Adams reported. An Advisory Committee of businessmen was appointed to assist discharged servicemen to find employment.

The committee consists of Messrs. Harvey Roe (accountant), Q. R. loosen (National Bank) and Mr. P. P. Parr. Employed discharged servicemen should consult any of these three before entering a business. The meeting decided that the sub-branch should have a home of its own, which will be the former V.D.C. headquarters in Bay Street. Mr. B. A. Price volunteered to take charge of the scheme and the meeting decided that the sub-branch should have a home of its own, which will be the former V.D.C. headquarters in Bay Street. Mr. B. A. Price volunteered to take charge of the scheme and the meeting decided that the scheme be financed by the issue of £5 debentures free of interest or in £1 shares. When the club is established it will be run by the members. A cheque was promised for £100 to the scheme. The meeting was adjourned at 9.15.

NANNUP-JAARRAHWOOD

The general meeting of the R.S.L. C.C. was held on the 2nd of October, and the members discussed the main features of the Congress agenda. The interest taken by members reflects the present demand for a good time in matters of the future, especially in such matters as rehabilitation and the State and Commonwealth Services.

The general flavour of dissatisfaction with the conditions and the efforts being made by the authorities was expressed. The meeting gave instructions to Congress delegates to press for the "pay as you earn" scheme to be used in the V.D.C. and its aux-

iliary, and to ensure that such a system be made available in the V.D.C. and its auxiliary, and to ensure that such a system be made available.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.15.

MELVILLE

In the absence of Jim Bradbury, Colonel Dunkley, president, the monthly meeting on September 25 was made for a heavy welcome to extend to new members returned from overseas. The chairman welcomed all returned from overseas.

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The meeting was adjourned at 9.15.

MUNDUNGJ-JARRAHDALE

Attendance at the last meeting was a large one. Among the invited guests was the C.O. of the 9th Battalion, local R.S.L. C.C. As the sub-

branch had complained about the attitude of these enemy P.O.W., the C.O. attended and ad-

dressed the members about the difficulties under which he and his staff worked, and assured members that everything was being done to prevent the prisoners from straying. A motion of apology to Lieutenant Gibblett was passed, as the sub-branch's complaints had been
YOKINE
Nearly 120 attended the Victory Smoke on October 3. The hall was draped with the flags of the Allied Nations, which were placed at the head of the table. The other end was decorated Japanese flags, brought to Yokine by Les George, of H.M.A.S. Napier. Among the visitors were Messrs. H. Milington, M.L.A., and Mr. Kemp, representing the Roon Board. Musical items, including community singing, enlivened the programme. Mr. Hulford James presented the sub-branch with a beautifully made polished jarrah Honour Board. This will be a memorial to the fallen from the district. The president (Mr. Jack Lamington) and the secretary (Mr. George (Hansen) made some appropriate and humorous remarks, and the trustee of the branch (Mr. R. A. Wood) addressed the gathering on the subject of rehabilitation. Stewards Ernie King, Harry Richardson, Tom Pratt and others looked after the refreshments. A humorous note was struck by a visiting British sailor, who rose and told the gathering that if he weren’t a Scotman he’d “like to be a Bleedin’ Aussie.”

WEST LEEDERVILLE-WEMBLEY
Twelve new members were welcomed to the meeting on October 8. One of the new members, Fred Cornish’s boy, G. J. Cornish, who served with the R.A.F. Members were glad to welcome back Fred Stout, who has been in hospital for a long time. Lieut. Moran, R.A.N., was welcomed as a visitor. Our old friend Don (Tiny) Moran has been taken suddenly ill. Members hope to see him about again soon. Members are asked to support the social to be run by the women’s auxiliary on October 25. Appreciation was expressed at the action of Congress in agreeing to recommend the issue of a Certificate of Service to the Warden of the local memorial, Mr. Fred P. Stout. Members are well in hand for the annual smoke social, which will be held in December. Future sub-branch meetings are to be held fortnightly, on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Congress delegates submitted their report, which was read by Sgt Harry Tull. The report was received and adopted. An interesting lecture was given by Mr. R. A. Wood, the Deputy Director of Post War Reconstruction.

MOSMAN PARK
The September meeting was moderately well attended. In the absence of the president and secretary, Dick Whitaker and Bob Kerr officiated creditably in their stead. Congress on double shifts was responsible for the non-attendance of four prominent members. Five new members were welcomed. Renewed interest is being taken in the Memorial Park. With the road board affecting certain improvements and architects on the job revising the layout, some monetary results within the next year are confidently expected. Many suggestions were made by members for incorporation in the general scheme. These will be given consideration and will be submitted to the appropriate authority at the right time. Advice was received from Headquarters to the effect that we were rostered to attend Hollywood Hospital during one Sunday in February. The proposal to hold a monster carnival at Mosman Bay on New Year’s Day suffered a setback as the result of the reserve having been set aside for other purposes on that occasion. For the present, at all events, the project is in the air. The social committee is trying to revive some of the prewar outings that took place in happier days. River trips and beim outings are under consideration for the summer months. The response to the attempt to revive sporting activities at meetings was satisfactory. In future the equipment will be available for members as soon after 7.30 p.m. so that they may entertain one another. The table tennis table saw the light of day for the first time in many months, and John Love demonstrated that he still possessed some of the guile that upset so many players in the A.R.M.S. competitions in the good old days. Some new aspirants have been unscored. Members are on the warpath trying to find means to clear the liability on the hall. Advice was received from Headquarters to repayment of loans to be finally intended and of clearing the—balance of the original mortgage. Many stunts have been mentioned and it is interesting to see which are finally decided upon.

ARMADALE
The monthly meeting was held on September 12 with Mr. Spencer-Gwyne presiding. Business was mostly of a routine nature and the attendance was fair. With the increase of new members the need for larger premises is becoming a necessity. As soon as the building restrictions are lifted it is hoped that a new hall will be made with the new clubrooms. This building, in accordance with the plans, will be a credit to the sub-branch and an ornament and acquisition to the township. A hearty welcome was extended to the following new members: H.J. Spence (A.S.N.), J. Hand (16th A.I.R.), G. D. Follett (R.A.F.), A. E. C. Della-Motte (15th Field Engineers).

THE LISTENING POST for October, 1945

WOMEN’S AUXILIARIES
STATE EXECUTIVE R.S.L.
Two well-attended meetings have been held during the month and Conference has come and gone with all its many activities. Mrs. McKinnay was again elected State President and has the best wishes of all for another successful year of office.

It was with regret that Mrs. Henderson’s resignation as Hon. State Secretary was received. Mrs. Stockman was elected her successor.

The State President, State Secretary and members of State Executive attended the Conference Social in Anzac House on Wednesday, September 26. There was a large attendance of delegates present and everyone was loud in their praise and admiration of the artistic decoration of the stage, the work of Mrs. Bremner, secretary of the Cottesloe auxiliary. She is to be congratulated on the excellence of her floral display.

On Friday, September 26, Mrs. McKinnay delivered her address to the League Conference. An excellent one and enthusiastically received by the delegates.

During the month Mrs. Stockman visited Merredin, when she deputised for the State President.

On September 14 the State President and Secretary were the guests of the South Perth auxiliary at their birthday party, which was a most enjoyable function.

On October 2 Mrs. McKinnay and several executive members were present at a social in Monash House at the invitation of Perth R.S.L. auxiliary.

On October 4 the State President accepted the invitation of the Victoria Park auxiliary to be present at the eighteenth birthday party, and was pleasantly surprised when she was handed a shoulder spray and book, a birthday gift from the members. Many of the visitors and members autographed this book. In acknowledging this gift, Mrs. McKinnay

SHOP

For VALUE and Friendly Service!
wished the auxiliary every good wish and also congratulated the sub-branch on winning the Newdegate Cup.

Midland Junction auxiliary was also visited by the State President, accompanied by Misses Jefferson and Randall, the occasion being a Victory Social tendered to Mrs. Sampson, who has recently resigned from the position of president.

The Anzac Buffet still continues to be a very popular rendezvous on Sundays in Anzac House and we are delighted to extend hospitality to all members of the Royal Australian Navy and Air Force, returned Peo's, officers and personnel of all Services, as well as those boys and girls still in the Forces.

On Wednesday, October 3, State Executive members went to Point Walter on their first visit to 109 Australian Avenue, Bayswater (Mrs. McKinlay) and State Secretary (Miss Henderson) visited the sub-branch which was also present on this occasion, and every effort was made to ensure that the visit was a success. The Auxiliary prepared 'an enjoyable afternoon of cards was spent. The men and women enjoyed the visit and the Auxiliary was very grateful for the visit.

The Auxiliary held its 14th Birthday Party on September 28th, 2003. The Auxiliary Secretary, Mrs. W. M. Kent, welcomed the guests and presented the Auxiliary with a new table and chairs. The Auxiliary held a dance on September 29th, 2003, at 8 p.m. in the Gladden Building, East Perth, with a special welcome to four returned prisoners of war. Miss Nina Mailand, the Auxiliary's candidate for the Miss Australia competition, was also welcomed. Mrs. McKinlay (State President) presided over an autographed book and Mr. E. Scott presented Mrs. H. Dean with a bouquet of flowers. The birthday cake was made by Mrs. Harvey and cut by Mrs. Tomlee, and hospital visitors were entertained to a fortnight's visit to the Edward Millen Home.

The monthly meeting was attended by Mrs. Hovenden of Victoria Park, and by Mrs. Horne of Subiaco, who spoke on the condition of returned soldiers patients at Claremont. A special meeting was held on September 20th to discuss the flood situation in the East. Mrs. Hall, representing the Auxiliary at the annual conference and-Balladonia, every moment of it. She returned to Geraldton after returning to give an explanation of the cause of the returned men of the recent war and for the veterans of earlier wars.