Most Australians who have appreciated the lessons of two world wars will regard as a retrograde step the action of the triennial conference of the Australian Labour Party in rejecting compulsory training as a feature of defence service in the future.

In fairness to the conference, it must be stated, that it carried a resolution in favour of maintaining permanent naval, military and air forces, which the conference regarded as being vital to the defence of Australia. The proposal for the re-introduction of compulsory training was submitted to the conference by the Party's post-war defence and foreign policy committee. That fact, coupled with the proposal's rejection by only two votes—the figures were 18 to 16—leaves the hope that wiser counsels may prevail at a later date. It is true that the next conference will not be held for three years, but if the voting at the recent conference reflected the views of the rank and file of the Party, it is not too much to hope that the whole question may be reviewed by a special conference at no very remote date. That hope is reinforced by the knowledge that feelings ran high while the conference debate was in progress. At one stage, the Deputy Premier of Queensland (Mr. Hanlon) said that the talk of conscription by the opponents of compulsory training was just so much humbug, and expressed the views that "all decent people should declare the voluntary system 'black.'" Fremantle's new member, Mr. K. Beazley, M.H.R., who is, incidentally, the youngest member of the Federal Parliament, pleaded for a realistic approach to the subject, and declared that young men would be better employed in training for the defence of their country than in hanging around in the S.P. betting shops. It is significant that the strongest support for compulsory training came from Queensland and Western Australia, two States that were directly exposed to the threat of invasion by the Japanese.

The rejection of compulsory training by the recent A.L.P. conference is just another failure to profit by the lessons of history. Nearly forty years ago when Japan, flushed with victory over Russia, was becoming assertive in the Pacific, an older generation of Australians quickly realised that the Commonwealth had no defences of her own against Japan. As a result, Australia started to build a navy, and to establish universal military training for her young men. The training was designed to start early under a cadet system, and the scheme postulated time for more intensive training in an emergency. In time, the German bogey chased the Japanese bogey into the background, but the universal training scheme which was launched on July 1, 1911, was already bearing fruit when war broke out in 1914. At that time, the Australian forces consisted of 50,000 citizen soldiers. Over 80,000 youths were registered as senior cadets, and more than 48,000 were registered in rifle clubs. What was more useful still was the machinery that had been set up throughout the country for the administration and training of the land forces. Hundreds of permanent force instructors were engaged and trained in Australia. Early in 1912, 200 junior non-commissioned officers of the Regular Army in India were transferred to the Australian Instructional Staff. By 1914 and the years that followed Australia was able to capitalise on her new defence policy. It gave her the organisation for the training and rapid expansion of the forces that were to proceed overseas—and it was a Labour Government which introduced the system.

In the years that followed the First World War, the compulsory training scheme did not prove itself the success its advocates had hoped, but that was very largely because, in the strictest sense of the terms, it was neither universal nor compulsory. The politicians saw to that. During the depression years the compulsory clauses of the Defence Act were suspended, and the Army reverted to the voluntary system, which imposed the burden of defence on the patriotic few. It was recognised on every hand that the voluntary system was as inadequate in 1938 as it had proved in 1908, but even when the economic position of the country had improved there was no honest attempt to rectify this. An adequate defence force for Australia is a plank of our League's platform. During the post-depression period successive congresses, both State and Federal, urged the Government of the day to reintroduce compulsory training. The only responses were a series of lame excuses or blatant evasions. All political parties must share the blame for neglecting such an obvious defence precaution, when it was equally obvious that the world was rushing headlong into another major war. The fact was that none of the political parties of that period had the guts or the patriotism to make compulsory training an election issue.

What was the result? The late war caught us in a hopeless state of unpreparedness. In spite of all the pacifist clap-trap that had been uttered and published between the wars, the young men of Australia were just as eager to defend their country in 1939 as they had been in 1914, but the equipment and the
instructors for their training were sadly inadequate, as far as quantity was concerned. It was indeed lucky for Australia and for the Empire as well that the Merciful Providence which, according to popular belief, was responsible for the safe arrival of food and drink, also saw us through the period for preparation that was denied to countries like Poland and Denmark. Even the worst rifle shot is allowed to cross only two sights, and it wouldn’t be a very fortunate instructor if he assumed that we shall be given a third and similar respite when the history of the present century has shown that modern wars are affairs of rapid occurrence and fierce rapid engagement. Of course, the peace settlement aims at preventing would-be aggressors from disturbing the peace of the world any more; and at making wars impossible by the removal of their causes. Such consummations, however devoutly they are to be wished, will not relieve us of the obligations which the new security measures will impose upon us. For instance, Australia is pledged to her Allies to garrison the islands in the north of us. Only a few weeks ago, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) pointed out that our commitments involve the retention of 80,000 men overseas for an indefinite period. It is proposed that the personnel will be drawn from the ranks of volunteers, and many, no doubt, will find the prospect of a trip abroad attractive. The filling of these forces and keeping them up to strength will make far more difficult the maintenance of the voluntary enlistments inside Australia. What, then, is Australia to do if the voluntary system again breaks down, as it did on two former occasions? Are we to force recruiting by a more rapid rate of enlistment, and at the same time techmng, in Western Australia, as it did on two former occasions? As we see it, the menace of the new forces is much greater than the menace of the old. The present method is cumbersome; and Housing. The present method is

The State President's Monthly Newsletter

The recent Federal Congress was full of interest for the delegates from all States. I feel that it is of value to the League to have the congress in each State. It stimulates interest besides bringing State Branches into touch with senior members of our organisation in other States. Approximately 550 motions were dealt with in the space of a week. Repatriation, housing, the Reconstruction Training Scheme, preference, rehabilitation generally, and land settlement and the constitutional items were of very great importance, and it is hoped that as a result of the deliberations there will be a general speeding-up of the plans.

Congress was of the opinion that 100 percent of war pension should be increased to six guineas a fortnight with commensurate increases in all other war pensions, including those of dependants. Emphasis was placed on the insufficiency of widow’s pensions, particularly those with children. These matters will be kept before the notice of the Government, if action is not taken. Housing is one of the most difficult of our problems, particularly in view of the increased number now being discharged, the lack of suitable materials being the chief factor. We pressed for a greater percentage of houses under the Commonwealth Housing Scheme for ex-servicemen; in fact, we believe for a time ex-servicemen should get absolute preference. Representations are also being made to permit of ex-service personnel with small holdings, such as poultry farms, being granted a war service home on their property. We understand that this matter is being given consideration by the Commissioner. It was also stated that the Government had agreed to the amount of advance being raised to £1,250.

The question of rehabilitation was extensively discussed, and a good deal has been published in the Press in this regard. The delegates from other States were, critical of the propaganda which was being issued and the non-fullment of the schemes.

So far as preference is concerned, although the Re-establishment and Employment Act has been passed, no provision has been made for the enforcement of the provisions of the Act. Concern was expressed by delegates at the non-enforcement of the legislation that has been passed. Criticism was also severe on the lack of land settlement. Although much has been written in the Press of land settlement lately, delay still takes place and the various authorities in the States seem to be at a loss to know how to act. The delay in the whole of the Land Settlement Scheme was considered unsatisfactory. At present, a Bill is before the West Australian Parliament, and it is hoped that something will be done. The lack of co-ordination seems to create a bad atmosphere and is not in the interests of the soldier.

Eligibility was fully considered and the motion emanating from this State, that the matter of eligibility for membership of the League should be widened. It was contended that the time was premature to make any drastic alterations in regard to admittance of new members, particularly in view of the large numbers of men being demobilised. The Federation congress probably 300,000 personnel from the Forces will be discharged, and it was considered that the men who are now eligible for the League should have a choice in determining whether the ranks of our organisation should be widened.

It was intimated at congress that the Minister for Postwar Reconstruction (Mr. J. J. Daley) had called a special conference with ex-servicemen’s associations and departments dealing with re-establishment, generally, and the matter was fully discussed; but as it was uncertain at the time what matters were on the agenda for the proposed conference, the Federal President considered, in view of its importance, that the State Presidents should be called together in Melbourne. Federal Congress appointed the delegates who were to meet the Minister and departmental heads on behalf of the League. Mr. K. McLeod Bolton, of New South Wales, and myself were appointed.

Mr. Bolton, although not at the recent congress, is the Metropolitan Vice-President for New South Wales. He visited New Zealand for the purpose of inquiring into the rehabilitation proposals of the New Zealand Government and has submitted several reports on their schemes. At the meeting I was able personally to represent the unsatisfactory state of rehabilitation, particularly full-time technical training, in Western Australia, and Dr. Coombs admitted our facts. The Minister was present, while proposals were submitted by the League for a commission responsible to Parliament to be appointed for the purpose of co-ordinating the whole of the post-war plans. At the present time, ex-servicemen find it difficult to ascertain which department controls various phases of rehabilitation, while the administrations are, in many cases, uncertain of their responsibilities and authority. Six departments now control rehabilitation, viz., Repatriation, Postwar Reconstruction, Attorney-General, Labour and National Service, Social Services and Works and Housing. The present method is considered too cumbersome; it was also asked that the commission be staffed by ex-servicemen. The Minister was not in agreement with our proposals, but we pointed out that we had previously requested that the Assistant Minister be appointed to co-ordinate all

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these activities and stressed the urgency of some such proposals.

It is hoped that the Minister for Post-war Reconstruction and Dr. Coombs, and the other responsible departmental heads will visit Western Australia at an early date, and the Expeditionary Force attended in Melbourne was a very representative one, as besides the Minister there were present Dr. Coombs, Director-General of Post-war Reconstruction; Mr. Archer, Director-Resettlement Division; Dr. Curtin, Assistant Director; Miss K. Best, Assistant Director for Women; Mr. C. Smith, of the Repatriation Commission; Mr. W. Funnell, Director-General Manpower; Mr. E. P. Eltham, Director Industrial Training, and a number of others.

The Minister for Repatriation, Mr. Frost, and the Chairman of the Repatriation Commission, General Wootten, have indicated their intention to visit Western Australia early in December, and we will have discussions with them on repatriation matters.

I would take the opportunity of wishing all members of the League and Women's Auxiliaries the Compliments of the Season. The year has been a very strenuous one for all officials and the New Year will be a most important one. Only this week I was at the Discharge Depot at Karrakatta and the previous day over 400 persons had been discharged. We all trust that our men and women will be properly rehabilitated in the New Year and, too, that they will take a keen interest in our organisation.

The League's Policy

In these days, when so many persons with private axes to grind are interpreting the policy of the League and often distorting that policy to make it suit their own inclinations, it is well to recall the statement of policy adopted by the State Executive three years ago and published in The West Australian on June 14, 1943. Here is the statement——

"In view of the disturbed and involved political conditions—the result of war—existing today in Australia and throughout the world, this State Executive of the W.A. Branch of the R.S.I. deems the time opportune, and the necessity present, to re-state the public policy adopted by the League during the past 27 years of its existence.

"The constitution of the League demands that, among its objects, there shall be maintained an association non-sectarian and non-partisan in relation to party politics. Proposals to depart from this now traditional position within the community have, from time to time, been considered, and were again strongly negatived last year (i.e., 1942) by both State and Federal Congresses. Therefore, political parties—formed, affiliated or proposed—carrying in their titles the words 'soldier's' or 'servicemen's' do not operate under the aegis of the League, have no connection therewith, neither have been formed nor projected with the authority or approval of the League.

"The League was born of the necessity arising early in the war of 1914-1918 for some authoritative body to watch over the interests of sailors, soldiers and airmen, and their dependants, and particularly to guard the welfare of the next-of-kin of those who fell in battle. The representations then made were heeded and the results gained need no emphasis.

"To hold together the larger body of fit men who returned from the war, or who later recovered from their war-caused disabilities, and at the same time have a claim upon their interest and a call upon their practical support, so as effectively to maintain the organisation, it was essential that they should be invited to make a contribution towards the good order and progress of society and stability of Government. Therefore, the League, composed of a body of responsible and proved citizens, adopted a national policy. In brief, it is pledged to maintain the integrity of the Empire. It acknowledges the supremacy of the Throne, the authority of a democratic Parliament, and the rightful exercise of power by a government elected of the people. Furthermore, the members of the League are enjoined to set an example of public spirit, and to encourage patriotic service in the interests and to the advantage of all.

"In upholding and pursuing these national ideals, this Executive believes there have been
minor clashes with certain subversive organisations, whose activities have become more apparent of late. The Executive warns sub-branches that it is possible that, in the near future, attempts may be made by insidious processes to undermine the status, integrity and usefulness of the League. In this connection, sub-branch presidents and secretaries, with the understanding they have of the democratic nature and purposes of our organisation, will know that, in the event of any question arising upon which they may need advice, they can at any time refer to this Executive; and, further, that at the annual State congress there is ample scope for the fullest discussion upon important matters affecting the individual and the community as a whole. The State Executive invites such references.

"The functions of the League have been exercised over a long period of time. It may be anticipated that the near future will offer a wide scope for their continuance, but for this purpose the groundwork is being prepared and a tried and perfected machinery exists. The State Executive is not unaware of the number and magnitude of the problems, national and domestic, which lie ahead. Towards their solution it hopes there will be available the knowledge and power owned and generated by a large body of willing workers, sensible of their responsibilities, and of the fact that ultimate success lies in securing an effective combination of sub-branches and in the exercise of wisdom in the choice of leaders and counsellors."
Land Settlement for Ex-Servicemen

By A. YEATES

The proposed re-settlement of ex-service personnel on the land can be classed under two heads—

Under the Re-establishment and Employment Act;

Under the War Service Land Settlement scheme.

The Re-establishment Federal Act provides that a loan up to £1,000 may be granted to an ex-service person who was engaged in farming on his own account, as an active member of a farming partnership; a share farmer or a contract worker immediately prior to enlistment, for the purpose of re-establishing themselves in their former farming occupation.

Although this Act was proclaimed on the 27th August, 1945, no authority has yet been set up in this State to administer it, and the result is that men are placed in an impossible position by reason of the long waiting period. Furthermore, the R.S.L. is of the opinion that £1,000 will not go far. If a man bought a tractor, it would swallow up most of the loan, and the general opinion is that such a loan would be of use only to a very small number.

The War Service Land Settlement scheme is provided for by an agreement reached between the Premiers of the States of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania and the Commonwealth. This has ratted the Federal Parliament and is now before our own Act has been passed by the Legislative Assembly last week and is now in the hands of the Legislative Council.

This provides for a perpetual leasehold tenure of the land to be provided from three sources:

1. Existing abandoned farms in safe rainfall areas be made available.
2. From Crown lands available.
3. From farms that it is proposed to re-purchase and allot.

The W.A. authorities and Mr. J. E. Pye (Director of Land Settlement) are converting anticipated matters and for some months now two special committees or boards have been working; one on land valuation and the selection of property, and the second as a War Service Selection Committee, the work of the latter being to examine and classify applicants suitable for land settlement.

So far the latter committee have examined and classified 434 applicants with the following results:

Suitable without further training ... 100
Suitable with an intensive training course on farm management for eight weeks ... 191
Suitable with practical training on approved farms from six months to two years ... 121
Unsuitable ... 434

Total ... 543

It would appear that considerable time must elapse before any settlement can actually take place, except where farms are repurchased and allotted.

The reconditioning of abandoned farms and any building of farms on Crown land must of necessity take a long time, especially as manpower, machinery and material for constructing or reconstructing houses is in short supply. Also there will be the difficulty of finding farm plants and perhaps of finding stock of all sorts andrestocking the farms.

Then, under the agreement with the Commonwealth, land settlement for ex-servicemen shall be undertaken only where economic prospects are reasonably sound. Up to date no pronouncement has yet been made; and this may mean that a number of applicants for various classes of primary production may be kept waiting for long periods and then notified that settlement along the lines requested will not be undertaken. Steps have been taken to remedy this.

It will be clear from the foregoing that a considerable amount of patience will need to be exercised by those ex-servicemen who are desirous of going on the land.

HOT POCKETS

Hot pockets are today's biggest worry in the new civvy suit in which a wad of deferred pay is burning many a hole. There are many shrewd heads itching to ease some of that money away from the unwary. In most cunning disguises and most unsuspected places they lie in wait. And they'll get some just rewards from sleepy Diggers, especially from many who have never had a big lump sum of money before. It is suggested before embarking on any enterprise that means paying out money that the League's assistance be requested.

Every sub-branch has a committee or men qualified to advise who would be happy to assist. Don't leave it until you sign on the dotted line before asking for advice. Remember—times have changed. Save your pay times don't pay dividends, and if you feel you must go on a spending spree remember that today many goods are scarce, shoddy and dear. Later there will be better choice, better designs and better materials.

Our advice is that you put your deferred pay in a bank, or better still to lend it to Australia in Commonwealth Loan Bonds or Savings Certificates, where you get the highest interest rates, and is the best investment to make. It's the best defense against inflation, the last war caused by foolish squandering of assets, we are anxious to strike a note of warning and guide the new ex-serviceman and woman away from the pitfalls confronting them.

OFFICIAL WAR HISTORY

The Minister for the Interior, Mr. H. V. Johnson, announced in October that Dr. A. S. Fitzpatrick, who is at present chief executive officer of the Army Inventories Directorate, has been appointed to write the volume of the official war history dealing with war industries.

Dr. Fitzpatrick was educated at Sale High School, at Melbourne University (where he graduated in B.Sc.) and at the National University (where he obtained the degree of Ph.D.). From 1929 to 1935 he was liaison officer in England for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the Development and Migration Commission. From 1932 to 1942 he directed the research laboratory of the National Gas Association, Since March, 1942, he has agreed with the Army Inventories Directorate.

Dr. Fitzpatrick's experience in the war years has given him an intimate acquaintance with the research and manufacturing aspects of Australia's war industries.
V.D.C., KATANING

Recently at the final parade of "C" Company it was decided by the members that the loyalty and spirit which actuated the V.D.C. movement should not be lost, and a committee was appointed to conduct a final social night and to take the necessary steps to form an association.

As a result, over 200 members met at Katanning on November 3. Among those present were Co-Enel M. Balston, Major F. Cox, Captains, J. F. Smuracco, Captain M. C. Manuel, Lieutenants, R. R. Tree, Lieutenants W. Mathews, F. Hilder and C. Morrison of "C" Company, Katanning. Mr. C. E. Dixon was elected president, Messrs. A. M. Martin and A. W. Bray vice-presidents, and Mr. A. L. Gilbert, secretary.

Co-operation was promised from Thanbel-lup, Cranbrook, Pinigrup and other centres. During the meeting, members requested the committee to exert every effort towards the formation of a State-wide movement. It was suggested that an Arms Depot should be situated in each centre throughout Australia.

The second phase of the meeting took the form of a film screening of various parades and incidents during the period of training, and proved most interesting. This was ably displayed by Mr. A. L. Gilbert.

The third phase was a smoke social, when the opportunity of welcoming visitors was taken. Perth Corps was represented by Capt. Mcnee and Capt. Guy, and Capt. Eddy was also made very welcome. Representatives of "B" Company, Kojonup, and "D" Company, Gnowangerup, also honoured the occasion.

Toasts were also honoured and, with the aid of many musical items ably rendered by Messrs. E. Ackley, W. Longmire, G. Clifton and other artists, a most enjoyable and satisfactory evening was concluded.

The large attendance was very much appreciated, and promise was held for the future of the Katanning District Association.

THE GUNNER STEPS OUT

Mudder, Ladysmith, Togula, Gallipoli, Ypres, Cambrai, Tobruk, I Amname.

A slight breeze coming in at the open window from off the river sent the thin wisps of smoke from cigarettes and pipes towards the ceiling of the boardroom at Amace House. While the lights twinkled all around the Gunners seated within were making full play with the refreshments in their usual manner. The old 17-pounders, the 18's, 45's and 25's had made pretty play during the afternoon cumulating in a beautiful box barrage which encompassed and secured for the Artillery Comrades' Association a grand baby weighing £10, and toasted to the name of Scholarship.

As the banter that was flying, it appeared the main topic of conversation was the best and most efficient method of feeding baby, but before the meeting closed they decided that a committee of four members should carry this addition to the movement. National Security Regulations made it impossible to obtain, except in small quantities, the necessary body-building material to increase baby's weight until April 22, 1944, when the committee obtained the Kyanz House on Saturday nights, and for the past 20 months held dances in conjunction with the Gloucester Park sub-branch.

The baby now weighs over £1,000, and the trustees set up under the chairmanship of Brigadier-General Bessel-Brown have decided to launch "Scholarship" on its journey by offering £35 a year for two years, each to a boy and a girl, or two boys, or two girls, children of artillerymen, who have passed their Junior and desire to sit for their Leaving Certificate. Mr. Little, Director of Education, has kindly consented to advise the institutions on the selection of winners.

The hand of Scholarship is now extended to students and will be available for the new term following the Christmas recess. Students who consider they are eligible are requested to hand their names, with full particulars, to their headmasters.

MISS WESTRALIA CHOSEN

The end of the Miss Australia competition in this State was reached in the Ambassadors Theatre on the night of December 10 when Miss Jean Wittord, the State Services candidate, was placed Miss Western Australia. The competition in this State was sponsored by the Press sub-branch of the R.S.L. in the interests of the War Veterans' Home appeal. The winning candidate was installed by the State President of the R.S.L. (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson, Miss Wittord received a cheque of £270. She will leave for Sydney immediately as a finalist in the nation-wide competition for the title of Miss Australia. As Miss Betty Wolf, the candidate of the Perth sub-branch of the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen, received a cheque for £100. A third prize, also £100, was awarded to Miss Margaret Paterson, the candidate sponsored by the Press. As a result of the contest, £1,100 were raised towards the £40,000 which is the objective of the War Veterans' Home appeal in this State.

Bill Ashdown, who has been secretary of the Osborne Park sub-branch for four years and has done a grand job for the League, has resigned, and his place has been taken by a young ex-serviceman in Neville Johnson. Neville was a rear-gunner in a Lancast bomber and did many fights over enemy country. His dad, Roy Johnson, and two brothers are also members of the sub-branch. Incidentally, Osborne Park challenge any sub-branch to beat this record. They say they have the oldest members in Ned Snasshal, who is 86 years, and the youngest sub-branch secretary, who is 21 years.

We regret to learn that Bert Kortlandt is in St. John's Hospital and undergoing a serious operation soon. Bert, who is a member of Neddands sub-branch, has been the famous sporting man, being an outstanding cricketer of international fame in his day and also a leading baseball exponent.

Will Bumble did not succeed in winning the contest for Lord Mayor of Perth, but he polled very well. Once again a highly qualified and good Digger has been defeated by a non-soldier in a public ballot. If ex-service men and women would only support their ex-service pals, and forget their political party leanings, they would have less cause for complaint about our public men and public institutions. Who has a better right to lead this country than the men who sacrificed so much to protect it?

Brigadier Arnold W. Potts has returned to Perth after four years' service in Syria, New Guinea, the Northern Territory and Bougainville. He left Australia with the 16th Bn. A.I.F. in the First World War, and was wounded in the First World War, and was sent home. He expects his discharge at an early date, and will then return to his farm at Kojonup. Between the two wars, Brigadier Potts played a very active part in the affairs of the R.S.L.

The world was much poorer when Arthur P. Nugent passed away during the month. Arthur's work for the League started when he got into civvies 26 years ago and continued steadily ever since. Whilst at the Welshpool Munitions Factory, Arthur was chairman of the War Loans Sub-branch, and the results were so good that he was appointed industrial
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"We owe the old Digger something more.
Let him have the security of a home at last.
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organiser for War Loans in this State, a position which he was recently forced to relinquish due to his failing health. He was a splendid citizen and we join with a host of others in extending our sympathy to Mrs. Nugent and family and to his brother Harold, who is so well and favourably regarded in R.S.L. circles.

Another good Digger to pass beyond the veil during the month was Robert Tyler. Bob had a commission in the Tunnellers in the First World War and for a number of years gave great service in the League on the State Executive Committee and was Service sub-branch. About three years ago Bob was stricken down with a serious illness and his passing was not unexpected. To Mrs. Tyler and family we extend sincere sympathy.

Mr. Hawthorn's sick list fortunately is small this month. Members were pleased to see Harry Blunt at a meeting after some months' illness. Past president Garney Blub is slowly recovering his health and Bill Skates, Tom May and Syd George would be pleased to see any old friends.

Mr. Justice Dwyer, who succeeds Sir John Northmore as Chief Justice of Western Australia is the fourth member to hold that high office. During the 1914-18 war, he went away with the 44th Bn. and saw service in France and Flanders. He attained the rank of captain before the Huns were forced to ground their offensive and, as a result, his outstanding service and distinguished legal career, the new Chief Justice has been Chief Scout in Western Australia for the past seven years. He has been well known and popular in athletic circles, as a footballer in his younger days and as a golfer in later life.

The League lost a good member when the Rev. Thomas Frederick Smout was called to higher duty on December 1, at the age of 57 years. Born in England, he was received as a Methodist home missionary at Cliffe College, Derbyshire, and came to Western Australia in 1913. He was stationed at Chidlow. In the following year he enlisted in the A.I.F. and subsequently went to the 48th. District Ministry, and was ordained in 1925. He served twice in France. When war broke out again in 1939, he was engaged for service with the Royal Australian Navy. While he was an instructor on the assault range at the Flinders' Naval Depot, one of his charges in 1940 was given training from him. Sgt. Powell, one of the T. H. M. A. S. Yarral, the sloop which sank south of Java in March, 1942, after fighting against an overwhelming force. Our late comrade was a very unassuming, likable man, who was deservedly popular with all members of the League's staff, and everyone else who came in contact with him. He was 57 when the Last Call sounded.

Any one who met Brigadier-General Evans Wisdom during his recent visits to Perth, would have thought him good for at least another ten years, but the end comes to even the most vigorous, and this popular battle-ax died in Melbourne on December 8 at the age of 76. Brigadier-General Wisdom represented Claremont in the Legislative Assembly from 1911 to 1917, and was Mayor of Claremont from 1916 to 1936. He was born at Sculeni (Scotland) on September 29, 1869, was educated in Inverness and Edinburgh, and came to Australia in 1891. He was engaged in the mining business. During the First World War, he was Brigade Major of the 5th Brigade, then C.O. of the 18th Battalion, and subsequently C.O. of the 2nd Australian Division. He was mentioned in despatches six times and was awarded the D.S.O. in 1916. After the war, he was appointed Administrator of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea from 1921 to 1938. In more recent years he has been director of a number of mining companies. His wife died in 1931.

Joseph Huxley Honeysett, secretary to the Minister for Repatriation, has been renewing old friendships in Perth. He is no stranger to Anzac House, having been here several times before, both on official business and as a friend. Federal congress held here about six years ago. A Londoner by birth, he came to Australia at an early age and while in Tasmania joined the A.I.F. for service in the First World War. He was then stationed in London, with the Cascade people in Hobart. During the war he served with the 47th Bn. and was wounded and captured at Bullecourt in April, 1917. While a prisoner of war he made several attempts to escape, on one of which he was shot down by a German sentry. One episode of his life as a guest of the Kaiser was the famous Tsushima tunnel escape, in which he had a part. Joe did not go through the melodramatic effects of a stop watch, at the precise moment. During his captivity he was promoted to the rank of captain and was awarded the Military Cross. He was married, and his services rendered, cannot be described after this lapse of years. In private life, he is a grand-nephew, on his mother's side, of the famous English pacifist, Professor Huxley, and a cousin of novelist Aldous Huxley and Professor Julian Huxley.

secretary of the North Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club for seven years from 1918. Later, in 1923, he became foundation treasurer of the Surf Life Saving Association. In 1926 he was made the Club's president and remained so for the next 24 years. He was installed as president again two years ago.

One of the most distinguished and certainly one of the most interesting visitors entertained by the State Executive in the boardroom of Anzac House, before the end of last month, was Lieut.-General S. G. Savige, the Director of Demobilisation and Dispersal. As a boy Savige had to take a lot of beating. He drew several interesting comparisons between the young Diggers of this war and those of the First World War, in which he also served. With distinct Allingas, his slight differences, such as are always found between one generation and the next, the underlying pattern was much the same. Some of the stories he told will bear publication.

When trudging through different cities in Syria, he overtook a veteran of the former war, who was making heavy going with the load he had to carry. "There's no fool like the old fool," the General said, and the Digger replied, "By God, you're right." As an auditeur Savige often heard himself referred to as the D.O.B. The Army is notorious for its practice of calling everyone and everything by the appropriate initials; but the D.O.B. was a new one on the General. He supposed it was perhaps it was short for the dear old boy. Accordingly, he took two young officers out one night and filled them with the material which Messrs. Savige's, in the hope that he might elucidate the Wrights' ethnology. The young officers had almost reached the Gallipoli, in the Western Desert, when the General remarked, "Unquestionably it is short for 'D.O.B.'" The young officers solemnly presented the D.O.B. with a "Deed of O.B." after all. Eventually, and before the General could stop him, the D.O.B. produced the "Deed of O.B." and sent it off to the journalist in the C.O. of the last D.O.B. after all.

One of the eight funny men in this State in the Concerto and Vocal Competitions for this year, arranged by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, was Miss Betty Langsford, daughter of Claude Langsford, past president His wife died in 1931.

Later, Mr. John Call was mentioned in despatches six times and was awarded the D.S.O. in 1916. After the war, he was appointed Administrator of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea from 1921 to 1938. In more recent years he has been director of a number of mining companies. His wife died in 1931.

The Mayor-elect of Cottesloe, Mr. L. P. Gadsdon, is a Digger who has done much for his country. He served in the First World War with the 12th Bn. A.I.F. and, in the recent Desert war, was a member of the A.R.P. in the metropolitan area. He was elected head warden of Cottesloe in 1939 and was promoted to divisional control in the following year. Later in 1940 he was appointed on a number of occasions, and in 1942 he was elected to the Civil Defence Council of Western Australia. In 1917 he was the foundation secretary of the Perth sub-branch, of which he was vice-president for two years from 1918. Mr. Gadsdon was also one of the pioneers of surf life saving in this State. He was honorary
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V1 BOMBS THE WORST

Commander G. H. Gill, M.B.E., recently gave the Melbourne Legacy Club some impressions of England and America, which he had formed during his recent travels on duty as Naval Official Historian. His travels took him through Egypt, England and the United States. From Alexandria, he went by Army truck through Sollum, Bardia, Tobruk to Benghazi. The second not merely in the vicinity of the road, he said, is littered with many thousands of vehicles, guns, tanks and other discarded equipment, which cannot economically be salvaged. Movement off the road is hazardous. It is now so rusted that they will not detonate unless crushed in, but around Tobruk casualties were being caused that way at the rate of one a day. All the way through Libya and Italy, and around the east nearly to Mar-selles, is the wreck of war in shattered buildings and devastated countryside.

There was no much difference in the heart of London, except that it looked as if it needed a wash and a brush up, but the East End, is badly knocked about, and suburbs in the path of V1 and V2 bombs suffered much destruction. Of all forms of attack on civilians, the V1 was the most unnerving. One very large aspect of the privation of war in England is the aggregate of many minor discomforts—broken windows which cannot be replaced, falls of plaster in residences otherwise intact, monotonous food, and an extremely meagre meat ration.

Commander Gill was in the House of Commons only a few days before the German surrender, when Mr. Arthur Greenwood asked: "Has the Prime Minister any statement to make upon the progress of the war?" Mr. Churchill replied: "Nothing of note, excepting that it is in a considerably more satisfactory state than five years ago."

ARMY WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS

The end of the war against Japan saw the Australian Army employing wireless as a means of communication on a scale not foreseen in September, 1939, except by a few experts. The term "wireless set" to most people simply means an instrument installed in a polished cabinet and fitted with three or four knobs and a dial for "tuning in" local and overseas broadcasts. In Army parlance, a "wireless set" is both a transmitting and a receiving set, which enables two-way radio telephone or wireless telegraph conversations to be carried out.

In 1939, there were five types of wireless sets on general issue to the Australian Army—three British and two Australian. Now, there are 23 different types of wireless sets of all sizes and powers on issue. These comprise 14 manufactured in Australia and nine manufactured in England, Canada and the U.S.A. The total number of sets on issue at the end of the war was over 7,000. An Australian Jungle Division employs 794 wireless sets of seven different types. Of these, 357 are the popular Walki-Talkie, carried in the hand and used like a telephone. Other types range from dry battery-operated man-pack sets to jeep-mounted sets operated from petrol-electric generators carried in jeep trailers. Other types in use range from sets having a power of 360 watts, equivalent to a medium-powered country commercial broadcasting station, to those having a power of 10,000 watts, equivalent to the power of the National broadcasting stations in Sydney and Melbourne. These latter sets are used in conjunction with highly directional aerial systems for high-speed tele-graphic communication to such places as H.Q., Southeast Asia Command in Ceylon, Army Headquarters, India, at New Delhi, and between Headquarters of the Australian Army in Melbourne, and its Advanced Head-quarters at Morotai. There are many other wireless channels in existence between the various headquarters, island commanders, island garrisons and isolated areas, where it is impracticable to lay submarine cables and telephone lines.

The development of wireless during the war has been accomplished by the strenuous efforts of technical experts all over the world whose knowledge and findings have been pooled for the benefit of the Allied cause Australian technicians have played no small part in these developments. The experience gained will provide a valuable contribution to Australian post-war progress in the radio world.

As it was necessary to make an early start with the production of this issue of The Listening Post, we regret that we were forced to exclude all contributions received after December 8.
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Sydney newspapers have published some astounding stories of what has been happening in Borneo, New Guinea and elsewhere. A Lieut. W. Hudson, formerly of the R.A.A.F. and more recently with the Seventh Division in Borneo, wrote that "within two hours of the Australians landing in Pontianak, in southwest Borneo, propaganda leaflets in Malay, printed in Melbourne, were being spread among the natives." He also said that an Australian soldier had taken part in an Indonesian demonstration at Balik Papan, and had incited the natives against the Dutch.

It would be interesting to know what reaction, if any, has been made by the Army authorities to such conduct which, apart from being a most serious breach of military discipline, is an act of treachery to a trusted ally. Letters and reports from other operational areas give further evidence of underground attempts by Communists to undermine the discipline of the troops. They are also evidence of disgust inspired in the troops by the industrial disorders on the home front. Men of the Sixth Division, who returned to Sydney on December 15th, declared that Wewak had acquired an unenviable reputation for cannibalism and Communism. They said that, after the Japanese surrender, the troops had noticed Communist agents in uniform trying to gain the soldiers' support, before they reached Sydney. A corporal from Brisbane said, "They failed miserably. The boys refused to listen, especially when they realised the coal strike might prevent their returning home for Christmas. As the vessel bringing them home came down the Australian coast the men listened with disgust to radio news of industrial unrest and the proposed rationing. An Adelaide corporal said, "If there were any Communists among us after that, they kept quiet."

Direct actionists are not so keen on lawless tactics when they, themselves, are likely to be the victims. An amusing item published in The West Australian about a fortnight ago related that ship's firemen on a vessel bound for Morotai to bring servicemen home were greatly alarmed because an Air Force man had written south saying that when the ship reached Morotai all the firemen were to be thrown into the harbour. Before the ship left an Australian port, five of the firemen went sick, and only three could be found at short notice to replace them. The firemen refused to go to sea short-handed. When that business was settled, there was a further strike because some of the offending strikers had been fined for their breach of the law. The fact that men who had been away fighting for years were condemned to a still longer absence from their loved ones, and were disappointed of a long-awaited Christmas reunion, meant nothing to the dictators of the stokehold; though it naturally aroused righteous indignation in the breasts of the disappointed fighting men. On the other hand, one must deplore the threat of a violent retaliation, especially as there are so many lawful ways by which servicemen can show their resentment. The amusing feature of the series of incidents was the amusing whine for protection that the offending firemen telegraphed so frantically from an intermediate port.

In this age of transition one does not expect conventions to last for ever, although some, which have been justified by time, might well be preserved. Ever since the first world war, the post of Administrator of Norfolk Island has gone to a serviceman. Though there is no regulation to make this obligatory, the tradition has been well established. The latest appointment to the post however, has gone to A. W. Wilson, M.H.R., the Independent member for Wimber. Wilson was one of the two Victorian Independents whose votes assured the defeat of the McEwen Government over three years ago. He recently announced that he was retiring from politics for reasons of health, and the appointment as Administrator of Norfolk Island quickly followed. Surely there

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are any amount of senior officers, or even junior officers, about to be discharged from the fighting services, who are better qualified by administrative experience and service to their country to fill this post than one whose sole qualification is a political career, which never rose above the ruck of mediocrity. The appointment is another glaring flouting of the principle of preference to returned service men.

During the week we overheard two men discussing the Press reports of Communist tactics in connection with the strikes in New South Wales. Said one: "It's a strange thing that we hear so much about Communist influences, but I've never yet met a man who will admit that he's a Comm." The other replied: "Oh, I don't know. I used to be a Communist, but that was before the Party got cluttered up with bishops and professors and fake intellectuals."  

Speaking in the House of Commons on October 10, the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, said: "In Yugoslavia, food production is limited, because for some reason I cannot understand they are maintaining a great army of 400,000 to 600,000 men. I think it would be better if the army went back to grow food for next year." Now we may expect the usual omniscient ass to interpret this as a slur on Marshal 'Tito' and brand Mr. Bevan a Fascist reactionary.

Paying for breath between tirades against Britain and the United States for not sharing the secret of the atomic bomb with Russia, Professor Harold Laski, chairman of the executive of the British Labour Party, found time to denounce what he called the partition of Ireland. He said: "I speak as an official of the Socialist Party in Britain, though not as an official of the Socialist Government, and went on to suggest that British subsidies should be withdrawn from Northern Ireland. No doubt Mr. Attlee and his colleagues will thank the pyrotechnic professor for correcting their illusion that they were a Labour Government, but this suggestion of financial and economic coercion of a self-governing portion of the Empire is absurdly out of step with Labour ideas of a people's freedom to choose and implement its own form of government. If it was legitimate of Mr. De Valera's Ireland to have its own Government and remain neutral throughout the war, surely it is right for the people of Northern Ireland to persist in their refusal to be ruled by Mr. De Valera and Co. One can imagine the howl that would be raised by Laski and others like him if the British Government had attempted to use economic pressure to force Eire to kick the German Minister out of Dublin and abandon a policy of neutrality by giving Britain the use of much-needed bases on the Irish coast.

MINISTER AND COMMISSIONER AT ANZAC HOUSE

Speaking at a reception tendered him on December 10 by the State Executive of the R.S.L., the Minister for Repatriation (Mr. C. W. Frost) gave an assurance that the Repatriation Commission would not neglect Western Australia in any way. Mr. Frost said he agreed that it was essential for the Minister, and the chairman of the Repatriation Commission and, if possible, some of the heads of the staff, to visit the States more often and, he added, "I feel sure that we will do so." He said he would be seeing the Minister for Post-war Reconstruction, Mr. Dedman, next week, and would try to get him to visit this State as soon as possible. War Service Homes were no longer under his administration, but they were still under the War Service Homes Commission and would always be kept separate from civilian building. There had been a shortage of building material, and everything connected with homes, but it was hoped that facilities...
would soon be made available. There were now five Repatriation Commissioners, instead of three as formerly. The expansion would enable more frequent visits to be paid to the States, said the chairman of the Repatriation Commission, said that the commission was out to do everything possible to assist returned soldiers. It was his intention to travel about the States, as would other members of the commission, and enter into discussions on current matters. The commission would always appreciate constructive criticism.

KAIRIRU AND MUSCHU ISLANDS

A member of the crew of H.M.A.S. Fairmile describes the surrender of the Japanese forces which took place on that island. “We have been at Wewak for nearly three months now except for a few days in Hollandia,” he wrote last month. “Our job has been patrolling the straits between the Japanese-held islands of Muschu and Kairiru, to stop the Japs from getting across to help the crowd fighting the Sixth Division. We also did a few runs to the North, strafing the Jap strongpoints along the coast. For a few weeks before the surrender, we took Jap prisoners of war and intelligence officers across to the Jap islands, and gave propaganda broadcasts by means of amplifiers and loudspeakers, but without, any results. You imagine we were all on our toes, as we were within a few yards of the shore and could see the Japs moving about with torches.

Then one afternoon we sailed across into one of the bays flying a white flag. One moment there was no one in sight, and then a Jap seemed to step out from behind every tree. We had a parley with them and next day saw the second-in-command. He said he couldn’t surrender but would get in touch with Singapore. However, a few days after this Japan surrendered and, after a few weeks’ messiing about, this crowd chucked it in and we disarmed them. The Jap admiral in charge came aboard, gave up his sword, and signed the surrender on our quarterdeck. A couple of days ago, we paraded with the Sixth Division while General Adachi signed the surrender for all Jap forces in New Guinea.

Over thirty million people came within the scope of the British Government’s wartime registration schemes. About one-third went into the armed forces, full-time Civil Defence or munitions industries. One-third were employed in the food industries or vital services. Most of the remainder were housewives, who were already looking after war workers and children and had no time left to work outside their homes. In June, 1944, this labour was divided as follows: 47 per cent., Forces, Civil Defence, munitions; 26 per cent agriculture, mining, national and local government, heat, light and water, transport, food and so on; 27 per cent building (including airfields, barracks, etc.), civil engineering, clothing, distribution of goods and all other essential civilian needs.

**Varia**

When the operations of the Australian Forces spread to New Guinea and other islands of the Pacific, one of the immediate problems that arose was the rapid provision of accommodation for personnel and stores. The use of tents was not practicable, because tending material deteriorates rapidly in tropical areas and, in any case, tents were already in short supply. The problem was solved by the Royal Australian Engineers. They devised a tropical hut, built to standard design, and, using pre-cut timbers of only two lengths, which, although simple in structure, met all tropical requirements of ventilation, light and security. The basic unit of the hut was a 10ft. bay, so designed that buildings could be erected of different sizes in multiples of these bays. As the timber components of these bays had been reduced to two lengths, shipping, handling and sorting at mainland dumps and in the islands were greatly simplified. This was in marked contrast with the handling and sorting necessary with pre-fabricated hutting of any other type. Constructional methods were of the simplest, and personnel were easily trained in methods of rapid erection. In addition to its advantages in simplicity of handling and erection, experience proved that greater areas were covered, per unit of material, using this pre-cut type of design and construction than by prefabrication or other methods.

Every big war has had its aftermath of epidemics, from the “Black Death” which ravaged Europe in the fourteenth century to the so-called Spanish influenza scourge after the First World War. Western Europe today seems to be suffering from a variety of pLAGues. A recent report from U.N.R.R.A. says that diphtheria in Europe has been at thirty times its normal level in September. The diseases most prevalent are tuberculosis, the result of exposure and malnutrition; influenza, which is beginning to make its appearance, and a strangely virulent form of diphtheria. The last-mentioned struck hundreds of thousands in central and northern Europe in 1942 and 1943 and is still raging. This form of diphtheria is just as liable to attack adults as children. Even those who have been inoculated are not safe. Holland reported four thousand cases in one month and Bohemia, one thousand seven hundred cases in a month.

Although inoculation does not guarantee immunity from this form of diphtheria, it is still regarded as the best means of fighting the disease, but the Armies of Occupation do not inoculate civilians. School children have been inoculated in some countries, but grown-ups everywhere have to take their own chances. That should be an object lesson to parents in Australia who have neglected to have their children immunised against diphtheria.

An American doctor has found out that the human cough attains a muzzle velocity of 45 miles an hour. How many recruits did he examine to ascertain that?

Young British women who have been working in war factories and the services have found out that their work has overdeveloped them in the wrong places. They have grown larger in the hands, feet and hips. Press reports say that the average British girl wears gloves a size larger than she did before the war, and she is two inches broader round the hips. Dress designs are coping with the situation, and new London fashions are made to suit the figure. Anyway, what's an inch or so, when the girl's just as nice? There's that much more of her to appreciate.

Bad and all as our housing shortage is, it would have been far worse if we had had to endure a blitz, like the people of Britain. One in every three houses in the United Kingdom was damaged by enemy action, that is, four and a half million out of thirteen million houses. By the end of September,
British shipping losses during the war have been greater than the losses of Allied and Neutral shipping put together. From September, 1939, to December, 1943, British losses were nearly 3,000 ships, totalling over 114 million gross tons. In the United Kingdom, half of all the manpower in merchant shipping, (from 1940 to 1943) was engaged on repair work, yet new merchant tonnage was completed at a greater rate than during the First World War.

It is hoped that all sub-branch secretaries will issue reminders where subscriptions are expiring on December 31. Arrangements are being made for the printing of official reminder forms, to be issued by sub-branches.

Notice of buildings available for disposal by the Disposals Commission are being received by League Headquarters, and in each case particulars are being forwarded to the nearest sub-branch. These particulars also go to road boards. It is stated that if the League or some Government department is not interested, or if notice is not received within seven days, the buildings will be auctioned. The head office of the League is trying to forward these notices to the sub-branch nearest the locality where these buildings or huts are to be disposed of.

During the month of October, the Army declared approximately 12,000 motor vehicles surplus and passed them on to the Commonwealth Disposals Commission. That brought the total number of vehicles declared for disposal to more than 50,000.

With the capture of the world’s air speed record by the Gloster Meteor, which achieved 606 m.p.h., the British Empire holds the world’s speed records on water, land and air. The record speed on water is held by Sir Malcolm Campbell’s motor-boat which sailed from Bishop’s Rock to Ambrose Light in 3 days, 21 hours and 45 minutes. The world’s car speed record is held by John Cobb who, in 1939, at Bonneville Flats, Utah, achieved 368.85 m.p.h. in a British car, powered by a Rolls-Royce engine. The world’s rail speed record is held by the London Northeastern Railway whose locomotive Mallard achieved a speed of 125 m.p.h.

The total of British Commonwealth and Empire killed and missing in the 1939-45 war, according to the most recently announced figures, is 532,233, which includes 35,000 merchant seamen and nearly 62,000 United Kingdom civilians and Home Guard. Of the figure of nearly 453,000 Service personnel killed or missing, 67 per cent. were in the United Kingdom Forces. The total Commonwealth and Empire casualties so far announced are 1,427,634. In the 1914-18 war British Empire killed totalled some 1,100,000, of whom 812,000, or 74 per cent., were in the U.K. Forces.

New British war cemeteries like the old are being reverently tended by ex-service men gardeners. The new cemeteries are already being laid out and constructed on the model of those of the 1914-18 war. All headstones, whether of general or private, will be uniform in size and shape as a symbol of equality of sacrifice. During the Second World War, the local authorities devotedly maintained the British cemeteries, but now the British gardeners are back again. The actual damage has not been so great as might have been expected. The numbers of graves are happily fewer in number than those of the first world war, but they are far more widely scattered; but we are certain that wherever our fallen lie the War Graves Commission will tend their hallowed resting-place in perpetuation of their honoured memory.

A.T.K. writes: "Hands off Indonesia" is the craven cry of rats in our midst whilst the Indonesians continue to murder defenceless women and children. In the eyes of these red "patriots" we should keep our hands off anything that is decent and sincere. Unfortunately, war stirs up the still pool of peace, bringing to the surface much slime and filth from the bottom. At present Russia is interfering in the internal affairs of Persia and other countries, and appears to covet the Persian province of Azerbaijan. I will call my "Digger" but if these red antlers start a "Hands off Persia" campaign.
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With the end of the war and the consequent proposed reduction in the strength of the Forces, early action was taken for the disposal of medical supplies, which were in excess of the anticipated peace requirements. Coincident with the surrender of Japan, urgent inquiries for medical supplies for the relief of distressed populations in areas such as China, Indo-China, Java and Borneo were received. Immediate efforts were made to meet these requirements through the agencies of U.N.R.R.A., Netherlands Indies Civil Affairs, Australian Red Cross Society and the British Borneo Civil Affairs Unit. With the resumption of civil administration in areas at present under military command, arrangements are being made to make available medical equipment and supplies for civilian hospitals, and the equipping of local medical services in areas such as Papua, New Guinea, Northern Territory and British Borneo.

Mrs. A. M. MacDonald, widow of the late Ron MacDonald, who was fatally injured in a motor accident a few years ago, has started business as a florist in the Royal Arcade, Perth. The late Ron MacDonald served with the 26th Battery during the first war against Germany, and no doubt his mates and others will support Mrs. MacDonald in her new enterprise.

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**MT. LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD SUB-BRANCH**

**£20,000 Memorial Building Scheme**

After lengthy discussions and negotiations the Mt. Lawley-Inglewood sub-branch is now going ahead with a scheme for the erection of a memorial building. A fund has been opened with £20,000 as the objective, and it is intended to commence building as soon as funds—and permits—permit.

Briefly, the sub-branch has purchased a block of land on the north side of Beaufort Street, next to the corner of First Avenue. On this it is proposed to erect a memorial hall which will also be a civic and social centre for the district. In addition to sub-branch offices, etc., there will be a large hall and other rooms for social functions, including concerts. The main hall will be designed with special attention to acoustics, with a view to attracting visiting artists and thus give to Mt. Lawley and Inglewood a form of entertainment which has long been lacking.

Rolls of Honour in a permanent form, possibly on vellum, will be maintained in a suitable place in the building. These will contain the names of those who paid the supreme sacrifice and of all residents of the district who enlisted.

The Perth Road Board has agreed to purchase the adjacent block on the corner of First Avenue. This they will lay out in the form of gardens and a children's playground, thus not only providing a suitable setting for the memorial hall, but also filling another long-felt want in the district.

From the start of the discussions the road board lent a willing ear to the committee's proposals, and when the inevitable difficulties were ironed out, they entered wholeheartedly...
into the scheme. The thanks and appreciation of the district are due to the members for
their enthusiastic co-operation and support.

Groups are being formed to help raise funds and volunteers in all areas are required.
Each group will have an area allotted to it and
will be responsible for contacting the non-member residents.

Donations to the fund can be claimed as a
deduction for taxation purposes and for the
benefit of those who make weekly subscriptions;
receipts will be issued at the end of each
six months. The first thousand pound
mark has already been passed.

Donations may be sent to Mr. E. T. Wall,
the chairman of the building fund committee,
8 Maepherson Street, Mr. Lawley.

South African and
Imperial Veterans

Slogans that were popular nearly half a cen-
tury ago, songs of what is now almost a by-
gone age, and battles long ago, were recalled
with pleasing vigour on December 4 when
the South African and Imperial Veterans
and their guests assembled in Monash House
for the association's Christmas Social. There
was a bright array of war medals, some of
which are almost museum pieces, in these
days, but, in most cases, time has touched
the veterans lightly, although the general
president (Brigadier-General A. J. Bessell
Browne) stated that the average age of the
association members was 69 this year.
With his usual vim and good humour, the
president (R.S.M. John Woods) presided over
a happy and most enjoyable function. Among
the guests were Colonel H. B. Collett (State
Executive), Capt. Bailly (Old Contemptibles)
and Messrs. Shearer (T. & P.D. Association),

Eric Davies (10th L.H.), A. Cook and Mc-
Gowan (Perth sub-branch). Excellent har-
mony was provided by an orchestra of ladies,
aided and abetted by a ventriloquist and two
vocalists. The interest of members was cap-
tured by a breath-taking tumblerturn by
Miss Jean Smith, whose grandfather won the
Victoria Cross during the South African War.
Another highlight of the evening was the
impressive recital of R. C. R. Call (R.S.M.)
W. Lewis (2nd Scouts Guards). After this,
the warlike strains of the Coastal Scottish
Pipers set men's hearts afame. The toast
of the association was proposed by Colonel
Collett and responded to by Brigadier-Gen-
eral Bessell-Browne. Dr. Nelson proposed
"The Fighting Services" and an abiding response
was made by Mr. Shearer. Vice-President
Fred Bateson's toast of the Second A.I.F.
was most enthusiastically received, and Mr.
Alan Cook, the new secretary of Perth sub-
branch, responded. Captain C. R. Collins
proposed the Artists, Visitors and the Press.

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Total Annual Income Exceeds £20,000,000

Fire Marine Accident
Anzac Club.—The report of the Anzac Club Committee recommended that the committee of the Management, Finance, House and Club Committees should take place on Tuesday evening, December 4, at 8 p.m.

The report referred to the shortage of beer supplies and the continuance of action with the Customs Department, the Imperial Printing Company Limited, was recommended.

Reparation Committee.—The report of the Reparation Committee referred to action being taken to improve the conditions of one of the inquiry on behalf of a lad in the Services who contracted a serious illness. As a result of the action, the serviceman had been granted £250 compensation plus medical expenses up to £100.

Wooroloo Sanatorium.—Mr. O. J. Williams, Resident Officer, reported on conditions at Wooroloo which he had inspected as the League's official visitor. Report stated that 72 ex-service patients were at the Sanatorium at present, including 3 Allied servicemen. The report recommended the taking over by the Reparation Department of six wards, thus bringing all service and ex-service personnel together.

A canteen had been established at the institution and the Red Cross Society was issuing supplies. The report was welcomed and was thanked for his report, which was adopted.

Soldier Settlement.—Mr. Chamberlain, the League's representative, reported that his work was progressing with satisfaction and included the report of the Servicemen's Community and the question of employment at present, including 3 Allied servicemen.

The conditions at the present (Mr. Anderson) presented little difficulty. As a result of the action items that wore even, but in regard to quotas our representatives became so enthusiastic with the Park members showing them how to find the peg in many fantastic ways that they slumped badly. Never mind, southerners, patience will make perfect, so keep plodding, you have plenty of seats to make up. During November, 82 new members enrolled, bringing the total membership to within one of the 700 mark. Figures are pleasing, but we should be more pleased to make the acquaintance at meetings of all members now joining. Meetings are now being made attractive for members, so we hope for larger attendances from the New Year onwards, when meetings will be held twice monthly, namely, the second and fourth Thursdays at Swan Street Hall (just behind Wesley College). So note the dates and the time and wear your collars, so that those service day friendships, which were ever so dear, may remain as they are.

Thirteenth Federal Congress.—The State President (Mr. Anderson) presented a report of the delegates to the Congress, which included the report of 80 items submitted by the W.A. Branch which included the report of 584 items. The report contained all W.A. items that were endorsed and a number of items from other States which were considered worthy of endorsement. (It was resolved as follows):

(1) To print and circulate a copy of the report to circulate amongst sub-branch officials.
(2) To send a letter of appreciation to Mrs. McKinnon, the President of the Women's Auxiliary State Executive, for the provision of morning and afternoon tea.
(3) That the W.A. Branch delegates be thanked for their services.

The State President then gave a resume of matters discussed, and decided upon at a conference held this week at the State branch, at a meeting of the Federal Congress and at a meeting of State Presidents called by the Federal President.

Rehabilitation.—Letters expressing resentment and dissatisfaction regarding the absence of authority in connection with phases of rehabilitation and lack of financial support, were received from the Western Auxiliary of Victoria Park, Harvey and West Leederville-Wombey sub-branches.

A draft scheme to be sent to implement provisions of existing legislation, including the allocation of canteen funds and to see that in the situation in which war veterans' homes are not over-filled. It is hoped to be able to evacuate the local war memorial. Miss Betty Hartley, the sub-branch president, was one of the finalists and did a good job in raising.

SOUTH PERTH

At the general meeting held on November 22, we had the honour to welcome Mr. J. B. Thompson, as a guest, who was invited to address the meeting, including the president and secretary of Gloucester Park 'sub-branch', at a very enjoyable evening at indoor games. Over all, honours were even, but in regard to quotas our representatives became so enthusiastic with the Park members showing them how to find the peg in many fantastic ways that they slumped badly. Never mind, southerners, patience will make perfect, so keep plodding, you have plenty of seats to make up. During November, 82 new members enrolled, bringing the total membership to within one of the 700 mark. Figures are pleasing, but we should be more pleased to make the acquaintance at meetings of all members now joining. Meetings are now being made attractive for members, so we hope for larger attendances from the New Year onwards, when meetings will be held twice monthly, namely, the second and fourth Thursdays at Swan Street Hall (just behind Wesley College). So note the dates and the time and wear your collars, so that those service day friendships, which were ever so dear, may remain as they are.

Geraldton

The Mock Wedding organised by the women's auxiliary and held on November 30 was an outstanding success. Members of the sub-branch who took part were Olive Moss and George Anderson (bridesmaids), Val Canning by April and Charlie Gunner (bridegroom's mother). Two members of the sub-branch in Roy Skinner and Bruce Leatham were chosen by the Ladies' Auxiliary and the Municipal Council at the recent municipal elections. Congratulations to Roy Skinner, who has been elected as councilor for the district.

The current President (Mr. J. W. M. Anderson) is expected to arrive in Geraldton on December 21 and hopes to spend a fortnight's leave here. A social meeting has been arranged for the evening of the 21st and all members of the sub-branch are requested to make an urgent effort to be present. An invitation is also extended to all members of other sub-branches who may be visiting Geraldton to attend. The enemy allied question in Geraldton is still causing great dissatisfaction amongst members, and recently a resolution was passed requesting that something tangible and practical be done for the sons of the sub-branch. The decision (John Roger) recently celebrated his 60th birthday and seems to have gone strong. Congratulations, John. Outside sub-branches are earnestly requested to listen-in to our broadcast talk over 6GE every Thursday night at 9.30 p.m. and to send in to the Geraldton public office (Mr. A. B. Rutherford) any material they have for broadcasting.

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W A Y N E S T A T E

Sub-Branch Activities

MAYLANDS

At the last meeting President Sep Norton presided over a large attendance of new members and a welcome visitor in Mr. Waddington. The meeting was well attended and the financial report was heavy and included Secretary All Cook, who is in hospital. The sub-branch paper, "All Quiet in the West," is being well received.

Mr. G. L. Rowell, president of the local war memorial, Miss Betty Hartley, the sub-branch president, was one of the finalists and did a good job in raising.

WHY NOT THE RETURNED SOLDIER PRINTERS — IMPERIAL PRINTING COMPANY LIMITED

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The Listening Post for December, 1945
The War Veterans Home appeal committee of the sub-branch and auxiliary "finished off," the so-called sporting writers say, respectfully, a tidy sum of £230 has been contributed, which is a good effort and was an uphill battle to collect, especially with the sub-branch committee casting a morose and speculative eye at all drifting bullish within its mental vision; said sub-branch boasts better than for a modest thrash and two to make our hall fit for increased membership to debate in. The thanks of the sub-branch are due to the women of the auxiliaries who served on the War Veterans committee and who worked so hard and well to make it a success.

MUNDJONG-JARRAHDALE
At the last sub-committee meeting it was decided that members would visit Serpentine in the near future with a view to a social evening for the Serpentine sub-branch of the Returned Sailors Association of Western Australia. This meeting was held on Thursday, November 9, at the home of Miss E. D. Albright, who has been appointed as Secretary of the Serpentine Branch.

OSBORNE PARK
The fortnightly meeting held on November 9th was very well attended, Jack Wickskey occupying the chair. There was a large attendance at our annual smoke which was held in November, and all present had a very enjoyable evening. Our fortnightly Ladies Meeting was also well attended, the president would like to see more of the members attend. It was pleasing to see Bert Dainel at our last meeting, which was held on November 11th, and lastly, Mr. All Mitchell is still very ill and all wish him a speedy recovery.

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M. HAWTHORN-NORTH LEEDELLER
The fortnightly meetings held during November were very largely attended, and it looks as if the hall will be too small if the attendances keep increasing. During the month 70 new members joined up, and it is good to see the younger members coming along. All were given a warm welcome by the president, Mr. J. W. Hawthorn, who presided at all the meetings of the sub-branch and auxiliary who assisted in making it a success. A committee was put in the last meeting for which much of the smooth working can be seen in the way things went. The committee includes all those members of the sub-branch and auxiliary who assisted in making it a success. A committee was put in the last meeting for which much of the smooth working can be seen in the way things went. The committee includes all those members of the sub-branch and auxiliary who assisted in making it a success.

ARMADALE
Concern was expressed at the monthly meeting held on November 14 at the unsatisfactory operation of the Housing Scheme in this State as applied under the Rehabilitation Housing Scheme, and especially to men wishing to use it. The operation has not been made despite promises to the contrary. A committee was put in the last meeting for which much of the smooth working can be seen in the way things went. The committee includes all those members of the sub-branch and auxiliary who assisted in making it a success. A committee was put in the last meeting for which much of the smooth working can be seen in the way things went. The committee includes all those members of the sub-branch and auxiliary who assisted in making it a success.

CABINER
At the meeting held at Cabin on November 2nd, Mr. A. J. Martin was called to the chair, and it was decided that the meeting was to be held at the home of Mr. A. J. Martin. All funds raised by the sale of stamps were donated to the Associated Commonwealth Relief Fund. Two delegates were appointed to attend the next road meeting to assist the committee in making the best arrangements for the meeting. The committee will be instructed to write to the Lands and Survey Department asking for pamphlets to be

★
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MARGARET RIVER

A very lively Metropolitan Police weekend was experienced by the sub-branch. On Saturday, November 10, a successful sports meeting was held, the main events being ring events, throwing the sheaf, cross-cut sawing competition and various side-ways. The meet was well attended, although the weather was the feature of the afternoon. It was won by Jim Waterhouse and Jack Richards of Busselton, two Diggers of the recent war and members of a forestry unit. They slud through a 14 m run

Kojonup

There was a good attendance at the monthly meeting on November 23. Mr. H. Parnell was in the chair. A letter from the Muradup branch of the P.P.A. asked for information regarding names for an Honour Board to be erected at Muradup. It was resolved to advise them at a later date. It was resolved that the sub-branch again ask Mr. Fyfe when he might be expected to visit Kojonup, as the sub-branch is anxious to arrange suitable publicity. All members were unanimous in the opinion to Mr. Fyfe's meeting. An invitation will also be sent to Mr. C.G. Evans, Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Watts, M.L.A.). The congress delegations were thanked for their services.

Graylands

An extra large number of members and several visitors were present at the November meeting. Nominations for offices were taken, and voting will take place at the next meeting. Good progress has been made with plans for the erection of the sub-branch's own building. Mr. Bill Malcolm put forward many constructive suggestions. Arrangements are well in hand for a Christmas fete for the children of ex-service men. The visitors included Mr. N. Kelly, S. Senior, Australia, and Mr. A. Chamberland, B.C. Tucker (Claretmont), C. J. Nicholls, F. C. Myers, H. Arnold, J. J. Marshall and W. F. Meilach.

Malville

The president was absent from the monthly meeting through urgent private business. The secretary reported that the President, Colonel Dunkley, had been recommended for promotion to the rank of Colonel. The secretary welcomed four new members. Poppy sales netted another new record, as about 750 were disposed of in the district. The sub-branch had no Perth stand. As a result of the local effort for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, a cheque for £50 has been sent to the South Perth sub-branch in aid of their candidate. Collections for the appeal continue. The annual dinner will be held on December 3.

YEARLING

Sweeping changes were made at the recent annual meeting. President, Bill Honeyman vacated the chair, his successor being Flight-Officer Keith Tamberton. Flight-Sgt. Jim Barker succeeded Jack Bowes as secretary. Both. had service with the Royal Air Force. The meeting, which was well attended, included several members from the recent war. Finances are in a healthy position with £250 in hand. Of this amount, £50 will be donated to the Navy-Veterans' Home appeal. A sports committee was formed to provide entertainment for the troops. Johnny Lawton, the sub-branch's foundation president, moved a vote of thanks to the outgoing president and secretary.

North Perth

A very pleasurable feature of the general meeting on November 19 was the attendance of 97 members (including 10 new members). Each
new member was welcomed individually by the president, Mr. R. McLean. The president appealed to all members, new and old, to urge any problem arising out of either naval, military or air force service or civilian rehabilitation, pensions, etc., to come to the branch. Mr. McLean stressed the fact that he himself as president, also Mr. J. Paulson, Mr. E. O. Davies, vice-presidents and sub-branch lec-}


WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

STATE EXECUTIVE

Two well-attended meetings have been held since the issue of The Listening Post, and members have been busy with a
teen work. The State President has an unusual
call out of the country on her position. She
attended a social at Mokattam, arranged by Perth auxiliary, and on November 11 a Remembrance Ceremony in King's Park. She
was also present at the official opening of the
amenities hall at 109 A.G.H. at Point Walter on
November 16. Moore was invited by a visit from the
State President on the occasion of their first birthday party, and at the request of the auxiliary, he was asked to cut the birthday cake for the patients of the repatriation wards.

Progress is being made with the book of
mottos, to be sold in aid of the War Veterans' Homes, to be given as a special Christmas present to the patients. Mrs. McKain accepted the invitation to present it at this function.

On November 16, Mrs. Henderson (senior Vice-President), representing Mrs. McKain (who was unwell), and Mrs. E. Black, invited Lady Mitchell, who had consented to visit the hospital, to attend the afternoon functions held here by the R.S.L. and also to attend the afternoon functions here.

At the Christmas season is now fast approaching, the R.S.L. Auxiliary sub-branches have been very busy, and will dispense gifts and hospitality to all on behalf of the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is trying to get contributions from whom donations are received for this purpose. This is our motto for the Christmas season, and to help to make Christmas for all ex-servicemen in hospitals or homes a happy one.

KULIN

This Auxiliary has done continuous and most efficient work in Coomalie since its inception two years ago. Their untiring effort for the sub-branch has benefited them considerably. They cooperated in the present Christmas appeal, and held a drive to raise funds for the Auxiliary sub-branches held here by the R.S.L. and also they have endeavoured to raise funds to provide Christmas gifts for all ex-servicemen in hospitals. The Auxiliary sub-branches have received $100 which they have raised by the sale of cakes and gifts, and donations to the value of £24 have also been made.

NORTH-EAST FREMANTLE

This Auxiliary has done continuous and most efficient work in Coomalie since its inception two years ago. They have made many friends amongst the members of the Branch, and all are grateful for the work done by them. They have been very active in the recent Victory Appeals held here by the R.S.L. and also they have endeavoured to raise funds to provide Christmas gifts for all ex-servicemen in hospitals. They have received $100 which they raised by the sale of cakes and gifts, and donations to the value of £24 have also been made.
MT. MARSHALL—Hotel Benzbubin; last Friday, monthly; President: W. H. Wright, Benzbubin, Secretary: V. J. Hamence.

MT. LAWLEY-INGLESWOOD—Wallsik Hall, Lawley Road, Mt. Lawley; President: W. R. Alexander, 11 Section Road, Secretary: J. L. Snowdon, 3rd Monday each month; Maylands; Secretary: Dan Fullerton, 4 Waverley Street, Subiaco.

MUKINBAH—Hotel Central Restaurant, when called; President: Nick Goodchild.

MUNDARING & DISTRICTS—All; Mundaring Hotel, 4th Thursday.

MUNDURING-JARBAHDALE—Mundaring Hotel, alt. 2nd Thursday, 8 p.m.; President: C. D. Edwards, Secretary: S. D. C. Byford.

MULLALOO—Hotel, 2nd Tuesday each month; President: C. W. R. Talbot.

Mundaring—Hotel, 2nd Tuesday each month; President: T. J. Touchell; Secretary: G. H. Sargent.

MURRA—Hotel, 1st Monday each month; President: A. H. Wilson, Narrogin; Secretary: J. W. Godwin, 9 Eston St, Narrogin.

NARBEROW-Memorial Hall, last Thursday in each month: President: W. E. McKinnon; Secretary: Mrs. E. E. Storer.

NARREWARRIN—Exhibitions, 1st Saturday each month; President: J. A. Wenzler; Secretary: Mrs. J. Wenzler.

NEWBERRY—Hotel Newbery, when called; President: H. W. Smith; Secretary: H. J. Young.

NEWCASTLE—Hotel, 1st and 2nd Monday, 8 p.m.; President: G. Calvert, Secretary: A. E. Searle.

NORTH EAST FREMANTLE—Town Hall, 1st Monday, 8 p.m.; President: J. E. Herlihy, 18 Moss Street, Fremantle; Secretary: W. G. Smith.

NORTH PERTH—Hotel Northam, 3rd Saturday, 8 p.m.; President: J. Rhys, Northam; Secretary: A. D. Ash, Northam.

NOWRA—Hotel, 2nd Thursday, 8 p.m.; President: W. G. Slater, Secretary: R. W. Grover.

OATLANDS—Hotel, last Monday each month, 8 p.m.; President: R. G. Plimer, 208 Fitzgerald Street, North Perth; Secretary: P. S. Evenden.

OSBORNE PARK—R.S.L. Memorial Hall, Main Street; President: S. T. Black, Secretary: C. D. Skuthorp, Meningrid. Pres. 2nd. Thurs. 8 p.m.

PARDON—Hotel, 1st Thursday, 8 p.m.; President: A. D. Ashley, Secretary: W. W. Smith.

PERTH—Police Office, 8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.—Mangal House, 23 King Street; every 3rd Tuesday; President: M. Lewis, 570 Hay Street, Perth; Secretary: J. S. Bower, 307 Murray Street, Albany.

PINDERRY—R.S.L. Hall, last Saturday in month; President: F. A. Earles, Secretary: C. C. Ford, Pinjarra.

PINEGULL—Memorial Hall, 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 8 p.m.; President: B. J. Cook, Secretary: E. A. Tidy, Venice.

PITARRA—Pitara, 3rd Sunday, 3 p.m.; President: S. G. Maria, Pitara; Secretary: W. G. Browning, East Pitara.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS—President: L. A. Robertson, 1 Bennocher Street, Victoria Park; Secretary: W. L. Boyd, c/o. 43 Christmas Street, South Fremantle.

QUAIRING-DANGIN—Hotel, Daring and Dangin Hotel alt.; 1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.; President: H. M. Growden, Quairading; Secretary: T. H. Growden.

SAFETY BAY-ROCKINGHAM—Lesser Hall, Safety Bay, last Friday in month; President: A. MacDonald, Rockingham; Secretary: C. D. Brown, Safety Bay.

SHenton PARK—Progress Hall, Onslow Road; 1st Wednesday in month; President: E. J. H. Boulger, Secretary: G. D. Subhaco; Secretary: E. F. Bishop, 55 Aberdeen Road, Shenton Park.

SHACKLETON-EKOLYIN—Kwooloo; 1st Saturday in every 2nd month, 9 p.m.; President: B. J. Lyell, Secretary: M. B. Joly.

SOUTHERN CROSS—Club Hotel, 1st Sunday each month at 9 a.m.; President: J. E. C. Beath, School House, Southern Cross; Secretary: T. E. M. Gowing, Subiaco.

SOUTH PERTH—Swan Street Hotel, 1st and 4th Thursday in month, 8 p.m.; President: E. J. C. Beath, Secretary: C. A. Crow, 22 Elizabeth Street, South Perth. Phone MU 1160.

SUBIACO—R.S.L. Hall, 61 Townsend Road; last Wednesday in month, 8 p.m.; President: H. W. Smith, 1st Hotel East, Mt. Hawthorn; Secretary: W. J. Fullerton, 205 Bay Street, Subiaco.

SWAN VIEW-GREENO—Swan View Progress Association Hall, 1st Monday, 8 p.m.; President: E. B. Hedge, Swan View; Secretary: P. M. Bourke, Morrison Road, Swan View.

TRAVELLERS—Travelling House, 1st Monday, 8 p.m.; President: R. H. Murray, Secretary: H. L. Wright, Travelling House.

UNION—Hotel, 1st and 3rd Monday, 8 p.m.; President: T. D. Milne, Secretary: J. D. Rose, Union.

WILTONS—Hotel, 1st Thursday, 8 p.m.; President: J. M. Wotton, Secretary, C. C. W. Wilton.

WILLINGAL—Hotel, 1st Wednesday of each month; President: B. T. Clark, Secretary: B. T. Clark; Secretary: D. J. Clark.

WILSON—Hotel, 1st Sunday of each month in month; President: W. L. Brown, Secretary: R. E. Brown, c/o. Anzac House. Phone 8350.

WILLIAMSTOWN—Hotel Williamstown, Cambridge Street, Leederville; 2nd and 4th Monday, 7.45 p.m.; President: C. A. Bolton, 39 Marlow Street, Wembley; Secretary: J. Beed, 180 Palma Street, West Perth.

WILSON—Hotel, 1st Thursday of each month; President: C. A. Bolton, Secretary: B. J. Packer, C. W. Whitby.

WINSLOW—Hotel, 1st Thursday of each month; President: C. S. O'neill, Secretary: J. M. O'neill.

WITHERS—Hotel, 1st Tuesday of each month; President: J. A. Cook, Secretary: J. A. Cook.

WOLLONGONG—Hotel, 1st Monday, 8 p.m.; President: H. W. Smith, 3rd Monday, 8 p.m.; President: E. J. H. Stuart, Secretary: T. L. J. Stuart.

WOMBAT—Hotel, 1st Thursday, 8 p.m.; President: J. W. Counsell, Secretary: W. E. Counsell.

YORKE—Hotel, 2nd Tuesday, alt. 2nd Thursday, 8 p.m.; President: J. D. McDougall, Talbot, York; Secretary: E. Sundeen, York.