The year's Federal Congress carried the important amendment to the Constitution, which widens eligibility for membership to admit to the League volunteers for service overseas. The Federal decision was the climax of a long and concerted effort to make our organisation an embodiment of justice, reared upon the firm foundation of reality. In doing so, the most potent reality that had to be faced was the self-evident truth that the conditions of service in the recent war were vastly different from those of its predecessor. The very magnitude of the actual and potential theatres of war gave rise to all sorts of complications and perplexities in deciding who should and who should not be members of the League; and, in doing so, they multiplied almost to infinity the border-line cases which caused so many heart-burnings in the early days of the League's history.

The arguments for and against any alteration to the constitution, as it was between the two wars, should be familiar to everyone by now. It may be as well, however, to remind readers of the League's attitude towards the eligibility question, as expressed by congress after congress, during the war. There have been attempts, here and in other States, to spread the belief that the League is governed by the older men who are averse from any change to the constitution. That suggestion is part of an insidious propaganda which aims at splitting the League by dividing the young Diggers from the old. The arrant foolishness of this malicious statement is shown by the fact that, when discussing such an important issue as widening the eligibility qualification, the older members of the League did not feel justified in making a decision that would be binding on future members while those younger men were away on service. Rightly or wrongly, the older men agreed that the decision should be deferred until there were enough younger men in the organisation to give an authoritative expression of their views on the matter. During the past 18 months there was a swing of opinion against postponing a decision any longer. It was known that influences outside the League were taking advantage of the delay by playing off one organisation of ex-servicemen against another, while, within our own ranks, it was felt there was no longer any valid reason for waiting.

It cannot be contended that the amendment to the constitution will please everybody.

On such a complicated issue, with so many arguments for and against the change, returned men would be far more likely to abide by the decision of the majority. In this case, the disagreement is between the two war's, should there be a swing of opinion now. In the meantime it should be remembered that, as the State Executive in Anzac House, on that occasion advised the servicemen, past and present, to pull together in the realisation that one big organisation can exert more influence and wield more authority than a number of smaller shows.

Since the Federal Congress, Press reports from the Eastern States have given undue prominence to reports of discontents, and the threats of individual sub-branches to secede from the League. More recently, the New South Wales President (Mr. Ken Bolton) and the Queensland Branch have declared that this talk of secession and disruption is not to be taken seriously. The Federal President (Mr. Millhouse) also scours the idea of secession. Indeed, it would be interesting to know what proportions of the sub-branches mentioned in the news actually voted in favour of a break-away movement.

Sub-branches throughout Australia have already been advised not to enrol new members, other than those qualified for membership under the old constitution; until instructions have been received from League headquarters. There are certain legal points that will have to be fixed up before these instructions can be issued. In the meantime, it should be remembered that, as the Federal President pointed out, the decision was a majority decision arrived at by constitutional means. If democracy means anything at all to this League, members, irrespective of their personal feelings, should abide loyally by that decision. The amendment to the con-
stition is one that widens the entrance to a strong and influential organisation. Such a widening will increase the strength and influence of the League to an immeasurable degree. We know this influence will be used for the good of the British Commonwealth and of Australia for the benefit of the service man and woman and their dependants, and in the cause of public service and public decency. The increased weight of public opinion that can be swayed by a larger and united League is something to be feared by the influences outside, who can best further their plans by keeping the service men and women of the country split up into a number of bodies pulling in different directions. The decision to widen eligibility is a bold and generous decision, made with an eye to the future of the League and the future good of Australia, and whether it meets with individual approval or not we feel sure that sub-branches and members generally will extend a hearty welcome to all those who join within the extended eligibility.

TRADE COMMISSIONERS

The Minister for Commerce and Agriculture (Mr. W. J. Scully) has notified the R.S.L. that his department recently appointed nine assistant Trade Commissioners, eight of whom are ex-service men. Four of the selected men are now undergoing training and will shortly go overseas to their appointed positions. The remaining five will then take up duty in the department for a short period of intensive training before being posted abroad. These nine appointments cover the following posts: London, New York, Washington, Bombay, Calcutta, Shanghai, Cairo and Chile.

Mr. Scully also points out that his department recently invited applications for seven positions of Trade Commissioners in New Zealand, N.E.I., Hong Kong, Cairo, South Africa, Singapore and Bombay, and it is considered that with all these recent and pending appointments, and the existing establishment of overseas Trade Commissioner posts, there can be no question of any failure to explore avenues for the extension of Australia’s overseas markets as suggested by the League.

Moreover, it will be observed that the policy of training suitable ex-service men to fill these important positions abroad is already in operation in the department.

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LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN
The New B.E.S.L. President

Viscount Louis Mountbatten, one of the dynamic figures of World War II, is the new President of the British Empire Service League. He succeeded Field Marshal Lord Milne at special council meeting in London on November 6.

In an official announcement on behalf of the B.E.S.L., the Federal President of the R.S.L. (Mr. Eric Millhouse) explained that Lord Milne, who is 80, has resigned because of ill-health. Mr. Millhouse paid a warm tribute to the distinguished services rendered by Lord Milne as head of the parent body of leading Empire ex-service organisations and as a soldier who had served in the Sudan, including Khartoum, in the Boer War and in the 1914-18 conflict when he was G.O.C. 27th Division and British Salonica Force.

“Lord Milne presided at the seventh biennial conference of the B.E.S.L. in Melbourne in 1934,” said Mr. Millhouse, “and when he was elected President in 1936, following the death of Earl Jellicoe, he spared neither, time nor energy in his fight for improved conditions for Empire ex-service men and women. The R.S.L., as the only Australian constituent member of the B.E.S.L., has reason to be grateful to his Lordship for the way he has assisted us with many problems. I am happy to say that he remains one of our patrons. While regretting Lord Milne’s resignation, I join with all R.S.L. members in applauding the appointment of Viscount Mountbatten. He will bring to his important position a unique understanding of the welfare needs of all men and women who have served, and the B.E.S.L. is indeed fortunate in securing a man of his outstanding character and calibre. We in Australia can expect his whole-hearted co-operation, for Viscount Mountbatten deeply cherishes the life membership of the R.S.L. conferred on him while he was here on a visit earlier in the year,” added the President.

Mr. Millhouse has sent appropriate messages to both Lord Milne and Viscount Mountbatten on behalf of the R.S.L. members.

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The Land Conference

THE LAND SECTION of the 30th Annual State Congress was opened in the Board Room of Anzac House by the State President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson) on Monday afternoon, March 30, 1946, at 11 a.m. The Chairman of the Land Committee (Mr. J. Cornwell, M.L.C.) presided. A welcome was extended to the Minister for Lands (Mr. A. H. Panton), the Director of War Service Land Settlement (Mr. R. W. Bosisto), the Chairman of the Commissioners of the Rural and Industries Bank (Mr. R. W. Bosisto) and the Liaison Officer for the Commonwealth Director (Colonel H. B. Norman). All, with the exception of Colonel Norman, addressed delegates. Mr. Fyfe, explaining the reason for many delays, summed up the position by stating that it was not as hopeless as the Land Committee's report had indicated.

In presenting the Land Committee's report, Mr. Cornwell stated that the only way to establish a farm successfully was "the hard way." The individual concerned must have the will to combat the setbacks inseparable from agricultural pursuits. There was not enough land available that measures up to the standard set by the authorities. The purchase of individual farms for re-allotment has been thwarted by the present pegged Treasury prices. Potential sellers were not disposed to sell on those terms. Mentioning that, to date, not one serviceman has been placed on the land, the report considered the Government's scheme was mainly academic. It recommended the raising of the present pegged prices. Recent official statements made it clear that the land, the report considered the Government's scheme was still a dream.

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Mr. Panton's Address

Mr. Panton congratulated Mr. Cornwell on the Land Committee's work. He said that the report was an excellent one. However, he challenged the contention that the only way to settle men on the land successfully was "the hard way." Mr. Panton reminded delegates that "the hard way" had cost the country 243,000,000, was not sufficient, and that the present pegged Treasury prices. Potential sellers were not disposed to sell on those terms. Mentioning that, to date, not one serviceman has been placed on the land, the report considered the Government's scheme was mainly academic. It recommended the raising of the present pegged prices. Recent official statements made it clear that the land, the report considered the Government's scheme was still a dream.

Mr. Fyfe's Explanations

Speaking for more than an hour, the Director of War Service Land Settlement (Mr. Fyfe) explained the causes of delays in acquiring and preparing land for settlement, and in settling service applicants on farms. Mr. Fyfe said the R.S.L. Land Committee was doing the right thing in telling the prospective settler exactly where he stood in relation to the scheme. The outlook is not hopeless, because there has not yet been one serviceman settled on the land. The scheme will eventually be appraised, not by the number of men settled, but by the number of men who have made a success of their holdings. Common wealth and State officials are aiming at the successful settlement of servicemen on the land. The scheme and its standards have already been acquired.

After discussing the methods of inspection, classification and valuation of land, Mr. Fyfe said the property bought must be capable of returning to the settler the basic wage, plus enough to enable him to become the owner of the stock, plant, and structures. The Commonwealth has already been acquired. It is estimated that about 600 farms will be obtained. He hoped these would be ready in a few months for connection with dairy farms, the Department has not been able to get enough men and plant for development work. There are 365 men employed, but several hundred more are wanted. A number of additional bull-dozers are also needed.

Conference Criticism

On the resumption of business by the Land Section, after the luncheon adjournment, delegates were critical of the official explanations given in the morning. The first six items on the agenda, which were motions of criticism, were referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Yeates (Upper Swan), Robinson (Gutha), Brown (Yandanoooka), Stewart (Gnowangerup), Scott (Boyanup), and Sykes (Jandakot). The Committee was instructed to inquire into delays in settlement and to make recommendations for the acceleration of the scheme. The Committee drew up the following statement, which was adopted unanimously, after three clauses had been added:

"The main cause of delay appears to have been the many differences of opinion between the authorities in this State and the Commonwealth as to what constitutes an economic farm unit. As a result, there were long delays, and many conferences have had to be held to settle this question. Even after agreement, the State appears to have no financial power. Every little detail has to be referred to Sydney or Canberra for decision, with consequent exasperating delays.

"With its knowledge of the Soldiers' Settlement Scheme after the 1914-1918 war, this conference is of the opinion that due precautions should have been taken to prevent any repetition of its failure. It is of the opinion that what is being done today is too slow and too cumbersome. It has a more practical character to suit the State's requirements. The methods of rebuilding and replanting farms have been very much behind the needs. This has considerably delayed the progress of the scheme, and has added a great deal to its cost. Other causes of delay are lack of housing material; difficulty in obtaining land under the Land Purchase Act; rigidity of prices, as pegged at 1942 values; and delay in the allotment of farms already purchased. As the State is a partner with the Commonwealth in this scheme, and will bear two-fifths of any loss that may be sustained, and as State officers are carrying out the scheme, the cost of which is borne by the State, we recommend that the Commonwealth give more ready acceptance to the State's suggestions; and that a more realistic view be taken of land settlement. The conference also recommends that the machinery of practical nature be approved, realising that the success or failure of the methods provided, providing he has reasonable chances, will depend largely on the man himself.

"The conference considered that much more modern machinery should be made available to the Director (Mr. Fyfe) to enable him to recondition farms as quickly and cheaply as possible. This is considered urgent. It is also considered that the housing necessary should be given priority, and that any endeavour should be made to have both land and housing available so that the men are ready. The suggestion, that the Land Purchase Act be amended, shows that land not used to the best advantage can be more readily acquired by resumption. Conference urges that the Commonwealth authority be asked to agree with the suggestion made many months ago by the R.S.L. Land Committee, and supported by Mr. Fyfe. The suggestion was that approved.
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settlers be placed on approved farms, on some working basis, thus protecting the farm, and giving the intended settler some employment and hope for his future. Practical training for approved settlers should be commenced at once, thus fulfilling the promise made in propaganda issued in official pamphlets, in the Press and over the air.

"Conference asked that a definite statement be made by the authorities as to what will be done with regard to applicants classified for poultry, dairy, market gardens and the like, as there does not appear to be anything done for these classes of applicants up to the present."

When the statement was discussed by conference, it was decided to add the following: "Conference urges that a more vigorous and progressive land settlement policy be adopted by the Commonwealth and the State Governments; that the relevant Land Act be amended to provide for compulsory, residence on, and high taxation of unoccupied and unused lands." Conference also considered that the results of the Commonwealth and State plans for war service land settlement are negligible and lamentable; and that before the R.S.L. can agree to the Government's claims of honest endeavour, we require very definite acceleration of the settlements plans and a guarantee that all approved ex-service applicants will be settled on suitable properties.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed and later confirmed by the General Congress:

Congress requests the Government to endeavour to place settlers on land in districts, the condition of which they are conversant. That the Land Committee shall press for the highest priority to be given to the building or reconstruction of homes on farms allocated to approved ex-service settlers.

That the provisions of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act (No. 9 of 1919) should be extended to discharges' servicemen of the 1939-45 War, with particular regard to Section II of that Act, which relates to concessions of half rates to holders of land under C.P. leasehold conditions.

Congress views with concern the lag in training of returned servicemen, under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme.

In view of the difficulty the State Director of Land Settlement is having, in obtaining sufficient wheat and sheep farms to fill the bill; and whereas, whilst the war was raging its fiercest, and while our men were still enduring all the dangers and hardships of war, certain people were able to purchase for themselves various farming properties that, in some instances, were the pick of their respective districts, this Congress urges the Government to resume such of these properties as are suitable for service land settlement.

That the appropriate Land Acts be so amended as to provide for an easier method than the existing method for the acquisition of utilised or unutilised land, for the purpose of the settlement of ex-service men.

That the Land Settlement leases, made under the War Service Settlement Scheme of leases in perpetuity, be altered to allow of an option of purchase to service settlers.

Congress is greatly dissatisfied at the delay in service land settlement, and is of the opinion that the basis of estimating the productivity of individual farms under consideration for service settlement is not sufficiently elastic, and that full use could be made of local committees in an advisory capacity.

Congress is of the opinion that a £1,000 loan for re-establishment is insufficient for all cases, and should be increased to £3,000, and that the rate of interest should be two per cent.

That the Rural and Industries Bank of W.A. should not exert influence to induce applicants for rural loans, under the Re-establishment and Employment Act, 1945, to transact ordinary banking-business with that bank, without frank explanations of all the issues involved.

That the State Government be asked to delete the provision whereby the Rural and Industries Bank insists on the payment of 10 per cent. of purchase price before an approved service settler can acquire a farming property.

That the Commissioner of the Rural and Industries Bank be approached requesting that interest to all servicemen on the land, discharged from the first and second World Wars, be made uniform.

Marketing

That the Government be asked to make an exact investigation of the cost of producing milk, with a view to determining whether the price paid to the producer is fair and reasonable.

Congress affirms the necessity for the introduction of price stabilisation of primary products, covering cost of production and a fair return to the producer, with the provision of adequate funds for the off-seasons, to supplement prices when costs are above market values.

That the Federal Government be approached through the Federal Executive with a demand that the surplus funds resulting from the British Wool Purchase Agreement be distributed to woolgrowers.

In view of the statement by the Federal Government, that it has no intention of discontinuing the collection of 2/- a bale under the Wool Use Promotion Act, we protest against the high contributory charge of 5 per cent. which growers will pay under the new Wool Disposal Plan.

That, in order to assist the rehabilitation of returned servicemen of the 1939-1945 War, the Federal Government be asked to pay full realisation price for wheat produced by them in the 1945-46 season.

Congress supports the policy of price stabilising in regard to primary products.

When the cost of wheat production is arrived at by the Commission to be set up by the Federal Government, the State Government be asked to write down service settlers' properties, to enable them to produce wheat at such price.

Congress is strongly of the opinion that the export tax on rabbit skins is extremely unfair, and should be abolished.

That the Associated Brokers in Western Australia be requested to reduce their commission on all stock sales from 5 per cent to 3 per cent.

General

That country members are concerned at the recurrence of malaria among members, and press for a supply of the necessary medicine being made immediately available, especially to dairy farmers, who cannot leave their work to go to hospital for treatment.

That dairy cows or heifers be either sold with a guaranteed approximate calving date or just as forward or backward springers.

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CONGRESS affirms the desirability of the State Government carrying out full-scale surveys and complete engineering investigation of drainage of the water-shed that may be diverted to the coastal plain to conserve the alluvial soil now being carried off from cultivated lands; and to impound the waters for irrigation purposes.

That the R.S.L. continue to press for legislation to provide for a standard mortgage instrument, in which the inclusion or addition of a personal covenant clause is prohibited; or any other clause, without the expressed permission of a Stipendiary Magistrate, who shall deem such clause just and equitable.

That a small colony be established by the Commonwealth, in each State for dealing with ex-servicemen who are considered incapable of farming in a general way for profit, but for whom medical men have considered, and in some cases recommended, light work on the land as necessary for health reasons.

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 service settlement.

NOTICES OF MOTION

It was resolved that Messrs. Thorn, Stahl and Ferguson-Stewart consider a motion objecting to conscientious objectors and aliens holding property that could be used by returned servicemen, and report to the General Congress.

That the relevant clause in the Re-establishment and Employment Act, providing that application for rehabilitation assistance must be made within twelve months of discharge, be amended to provide for ex-service personnel discharged before the operation of the Act.

Congress considers the present principle of differential rating, contained in the Electoral Act, is definitely detrimental to the full development of the South-West, and protests to the Government that the uniform rating be implemented so as to give equality of opportunity to the districts outback, as to those which are more conveniently situated.

Congress considers that all cattle supplied to discharged servicemen under the Land Settlement Scheme should be guaranteed free from tuberculosis.

The following items were deferred for consideration by the incoming Executive:

That the State Government be asked to give priority to the establishment of an Agricultural College at Chapman Research Station.

That the 1914-18 Soldier Settlement Scheme have the opportunity of coming under the 1939-45 scheme.

LAND COMMITTEE

On the submission of the chairman, it was resolved to recommend to the main congress that the following be co-opted to the Land Committee: Messrs. B. C. Chambers (Waroona), W. Overheu (Corrigin) and Arnold Potts (Kojonup).

OFFICIAL HISTORY

The Minister for the Interior, Mr. H. V. Johnson, announces that Mr. Chester Wilmot has been chosen to write Volume II of the military series of the official history of Australia's part in the War of 1939-45. This volume will deal chiefly with the Siege of Tobruk and the El Alamein Campaign.

Mr. Wilmot's appointment was approved by the War History Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Ministers for Defence, External Affairs and the Interior.

Mr. Wilmot was born at Brighton, Victoria, in 1911. He was educated at the Melbourne Grammar School and Trinity College, University of Melbourne, where he obtained the degrees of B.A. and LL.B. In 1937-39, he travelled in Asia, America and England as leader of the Australian Universities Debating Team. He joined the A.F. in 1940 as war correspondent for the Australian Broadcasting Commission and was then stationed in Libya, Greece and Syria, the siege of Tobruk, and the 1942 campaign in New Guinea. In 1943, he wrote a book on the capture and siege of Tobruk, and edited and wrote the words of a documentary film, "Sons of the Anzacs," produced by the Australian War Memorial Committee.

Later he became a war correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation and was one of its outstanding reporters during the campaigns in Europe. He is now completing a book (entitled "Great Crusade") on the final campaigns in Western Europe.

RETURNED SOLDIER POLITICAL CANDIDATES

Mr. HARLEY COLEBATCH

Mr. Harley C. S. Colebatch, who is a candidate for the vacancy in the East Province of the Legislative Council, is a returned soldier of World War I. He is the older son of Sir Hal Colebatch, M.L.C. He was born in Perth on the 18th April, 1897, was educated at Guildford Grammar School and was a Prefect there. Almost immediately after leaving school he enlisted in the A.I.F. and served with distinction in an artillery unit in France.

On his return to Australia he took up journalism and for many years has been the Editor of the "Northam Advertiser." He has lived in Northam, most of his life and is a very prominent citizen of that town. He has served twice as Mayor for 12 years in the aggregate; his last term was from 1936 to 1945, so it will be seen he was Mayor of Northam all through the years of World War II and gave most valuable leadership in Northam's part in the war. He has always been an active member of the R.S.L. and has been president of the Northam sub-branch on two occasions and he is still on that sub-branch's executive committee. At one time he was a member of the State Executive.

He has always been interested in the Boy Scout movement and has for many years been a prominent member of the local association. He is at present president of the Northam High School Parents and Citizen's Association and vice-president of the East Northam P. and C. Association. During World War II he offered his services and was appointed Manpower Officer for Area 28A, which important position he held during the war. He is a Justice of the Peace and has been for very many years. Mr. Colebatch has travelled extensively and since his return from World War I has, on two occasions, in 1924 and 1934, been to Great Britain and the Continent. He has been to the Eastern States many times and was a delegate to Journalism Conferences on different occasions, both at Canberra and Sydney. He knows them exceptionally well. Mr. Colebatch has made a special study of politics and is in every way well fitted to represent the East Province in the Legislative Council. He is married with three children.

R.S.L. CRICKET ASSOCIATION

After the many hours devoted by the enthusiasts last year in an endeavour to re-establish the association on a sound footing, it is pleasing to note that 16 teams have been entered in the competition this year. This is believed to be an all-time record.

Office-bearers elected at the annual meeting were:--Patron, State President (Mr. J. W. Anderson), President, Mr. A. Dick (Bedford-Morley Parks), Vice-President, Mr. N. Cott (City of Perth) and Mr. Davenport (Bedford-Morley Parks), Secretary, Mr. A. Cook (City of Perth).

A hearty welcome was extended at the last general meeting to that old stalwart of the game, Mr. Bert King. Incidentally, Bert is the only-life member of the R.S.L. Cricket Association.

As well as the competition games which commenced on Sunday, November 16, at Wellington Square, a Town v. Country match will take place during the forthcoming C.W. Week, and a week-end trip to Busselton has been arranged for.
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THE LISTENING POST — Page 8
Personalities

- If anyone knows the whereabouts of Pte. Shorten or Shorter, who served with No. 3 Coy., Imperial Camel Corps, and was a P.O.W. in Turkey in 1917, please communicate with the State Secretary at Anzac House.

- Mrs. A. L. Pendergrast, the widow of Harold Pendergrast, who served with the R.A.N. during the 1914 scrap, has re-opened the catering business which ill-health forced her to relinquish a few years ago, and has taken into partnership her son Ron, late of the R.A.A.F. and a member of the South Perth sub-branch. The address is 245 Suburban Road, South Perth.

- We regret to report that Mrs. Colley, of the Victoria Park auxiliary, is still on the sick list. The small grandson of the auxiliary secretary, Mrs. Prue, is progressing favourably towards recovery from an attack of pneumonia.

- Members of Mr. Hawthorn-North Leederville received a severe shock when they learnt of the death of their fellow member, Harvey Campbell. Although he had been in indifferent health for some time his death was a surprise to his friends. He served with the 78th Searchlight Battery, 2nd A.I.F., in the recent war. He was a very popular warden of the S.S.L. To his widow and relatives we extend sincere sympathy. Condolences are also extended to the Cooley family on the death of their father, Ern Cooley, and to Paul Mayes and family on the death of their mother.

- Our Mr. Hawthorn correspondent reports that Harry Blunt is progressing favourably at Wooloroo, and sends his best wishes to all members. Sid George is up and about again. Tom May is showing a slight improvement, and Bill Bates would like to see anybody calling out his way. Vic Christenson is still in Hollywood. A. Handcock is in Ward IX, Royal Perth Hospital, and J. Neeson is at Edward Millen.

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Due to the industrial hold-up we will be late in completing this issue of The Listening Post. With a small auxiliary engine we have succeeded in setting the type, but when it will be posted, and what form it will be in, we are unable to tell on this 15th day of November. We have not failed to publish in the 26 years of our existence, and we intend to find some way of getting the paper to our subscribers.—Ed. L.P.

- The new Federal Cabinet is stepping off with at least one distinctive advantage over any recent Government. Both the Defence and the Army portfolios are held by men with war service. Mr. Dedman, who adds the Defence portfolio to that of Post-war Reconstruction, served as a commissioned officer in the Border Regiment during the war against the Kaiser, and he had subsequent service in India before he left the Army and came to Australia. The new Army Minister, Mr. Cyril Chambers, of Adelaide, is a dentist by profession. He served in the recent war with a dental unit in Northern Australia and New Guinea with the rank of Captain. Another returned soldier, who has joined them in the Cabinet is Mr. R. Pollard, M.H.R. for Ballarat, for whom Ministerial rank came as a birthday present. He was 52 on the day Caucus selected the new Ministers. Mr. Pollard is one of the old type of Labour members who came to the front by the hard road. As a young man, he worked for some years on a travelling chaff-cutter and straw-press. When employed by a Melbourne engineering firm, he studied sitting and turning at the Workingmen’s College at night. His war service was with the 6th Bn. of the First A.I.F. and after the war he had experience of more hard work as a soldier settler. His background and practical experience should well fit him for the job of Minister for Commerce and Agriculture.

- Back in the State on three months’ accumulated and sick leave is George Seager of Waroona. He was one of the earliest contributors to The Listening Post, and to the Red Page of The Western Mail, when that feature was published. His articles and
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snappy verse, to which he signed the characteristic pen-name "Starman," were a source of delight to Red Pagans and an older generation of L.P. readers. During the 1914-18 war he served in those motor launch boatillas, mostly on the East Coast of Africa, the formation being popularly called the "Maree Lloyd's" by them. When the recent conflict occurred, George was rejected for service on the score of age. Uncle Sam, however, was not so fussy, and our old friend went to sea again in the Navy of our Allies. He has had four years of strenuous service in the South-West Pacific and holds the rank of Master Pilot, under the Stars and Stripes. This time, he has brought home a fund of reminiscences which he hopes soon to publish in book form.

- For many weeks those who listen to organ recitals every Sunday from the National Stations have greatly missed the playing of Anthony North. People have known "Tony" North as an organist and an announcer for the Australian Broadcasting Commission, but not so many know that Tony is an ex-serviceman. Before coming to Australia, he held a commission in the Indian Army, and had seen service in the war of 1914-18 and a subsequent scrap on the Indian Frontier. He had a few years on full-time military duty during the recent war. A long and dangerous illness, which necessitated a very complicated operation, has forced him into temporary retirement. All who know him wish him a speedy recovery.

- Western Australia is to lose one of the State's pioneers of broadcasting through the impending transfer of Roy Glenister to Brisbane, as assistant manager for the Australian Broadcasting Commission in the northern capital. Roy Glenister is a Dinkum Digger who joined up with a Victorian battalion when war broke out in 1914. He went all through that show and finished up in "The Anzac Coves," the 1st Divisional Concert Party, which toured Britain and Australia after the 1918 Armistice. He commenced broadcasting under the original set-up in Western Australia, in the days before the A.B.C. took over, and was one of the A.B.C.'s first announcers. During the Second World War, he went to New Guinea with the status of a war correspondent, in charge of the A.B.C.'s mobile broadcasting unit. There are not many aspects of broadcasting with which he is not familiar. Before going to New Guinea he was in charge of the concert sessions, and he still sings in the A.B.C.'s concert versions of Grand Opera. On the administrative side, he is second-in-command of the National stations in Perth.

**Varia**

- Thousands of men and women, recently demobilised in the United Kingdom, are leaving the congested cities for the countryside, where they are bringing about a revival of rural industries which, for centuries, have produced some of the nation's finest craftsmanship. These recruits to traditional country crafts receive expert help and advice from the Rural Industries Bureau. This is a State-aided organisation which was set up as long ago as 1923 by the British Ministry for Agriculture, to encourage rural industries in England and Wales. Instructor craftsmen of the Bureau continually travel to countryside, advising on the installation of new plant, supervising and giving training, and providing an up-to-date advisory service on methods and markets. Craftsmen whose work has a special bearing on food produce have naturally been receiving encouragement. Small country engineering shops, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, cart and trailer builders, and rural brick and tile yards are the main objects of the Bureau's attention.

- An undistinguished writer in the anti-British Chicago Tribune has declared that the United States should 'just take whatever Pacific islands round the coast of Australia it wants. Fortunately, he did not think of the Indian Ocean, for the Chicago Tribune is due for a bad attack of headline hysteria when it is revealed that Western Australia is hanging on to Rottnest, Garden Island and the Abrolhos.

- Wartime shadow factories in Britain have been converted to produce prefabricated aluminium dwellings. Housing experts of 20 countries have been investigating this means of coping with the United Kingdom's great housing shortage. Aluminium houses are now being made at five former munitions works. Exhaustive tests have been applied to these new-style dwellings, which are now declared to be as durable as brick. All-weather trials to which they have been subjected include being frozen, having steam pumped into them, and being exposed to an 80 miles-an-hour gale, which was artificially created for the occasion by the exhaust of a Beaufighter aircraft. Many of the dwellings have been constructed from aluminium taken from scrapped bomb-nights. The Government has an order for 54,000, to be completed by August next year. When the contract is fulfilled it is intended to make a beginning with aluminium school buildings for the additional pupils who will have to be accommodated through the raising of the school-leaving age.

- War Correspondent Geoffrey Hutton, who saw the German Army collapse on the eastern front, says that the Goebbels propaganda had been so effective among the German other ranks that, when captured, they thought the Russians would shoot them out of hand, or send them to the mines in Siberia. When the Red Army finally broke into eastern Germany, thousands of Germans legged it for the west, preferring to surrender to the British or the Americans. That attitude recalls what happened in East Africa in 1918. The German leader, von Lettow-Voorbeck, who kept the field till the end, refused to surrender until about a week after the official armistice. When asked why, he explained that he feared the British would shoot him as a guerrilla. He added that he had tried several times to surrender to the Portuguese, but he could never catch them.

- A returned P.O.W., who was something of a scrapper in the old days, has told us that, in the early days of his captivity, the boys often went in for a bit of boxing to keep their spirits up. The Japanese guards were deeply interested in these exhibitions of the "noble art" but they were not allowed to indulge in it themselves, because it was feared they might "lose face." They probably saved face in more ways than one.

- The French paper "Le Monde" recently had this to say about the conduct of British soldiers in the occupation zone of Germany: "The English soldier does not indulge in trade. He avoids condescension, arrogance, vulgarity and familiarity, and knows how to keep to himself and make himself obeyed and respected without hurting the susceptibilities of the inhabitants."
State President's Monthly Newsletter

The War Veterans' Home Appeal is now nearing its objective, but as we have not quite reached the £40,000, I hope sub-branches and women's auxiliaries will maintain their interest until the final objective is reached. Any spare funds from patriotic funds which are not now operating could be earmarked for the War Veterans' Home Fund.

R.S.L. Paversham House at York is now open and is receiving guests. Members are asked to try a fortnight at Paversham. It is ideal for a holiday, rest or convalescence. Every modern convenience is available: billiard table, recreation room, excellent meals. The building is cool, spacious and prettily situated.

Often one is asked, "What is the League doing, or what has it done for the young soldier?" If one were to go back through the archives for the past 35 years or so there would be enough to fill a large volume; but we are interested, of course, mostly at the present time in its efforts to assist the younger member. The League has never sought blames publicity for its works; sceptics, perhaps, seize this fact to question the worth of our organisation.

During the war it was the foremost organisation in making representations on matters of importance. My mind goes back to a few of the successes of the League which returned handsome dividends to those in the Forces and their dependants. Increased rates of pay, interest on deferred pay, increased wife and dependants' allowances were amongst many achievements of the League. Perhaps I might run through a few more that come to mind. Extension and expansion of benefits under Repatriation and other similar Acts to the new Forces. Establishment of veterans' canteens. Reduction of postal rates. Pre-embarkation leave to visit home, irrespective of State. Free travelling facilities to go home on the death of illness of wife, child or near relative, or serious upsets to home or business. Wearing of original A.I.F. colour patches.

Payment of sustenance while awaiting employment, and grants of tools, faxes, etc., to take up employment. Cancellation of income tax on deferred pay. Reinstatement of "A.I.F." on headstones. Introduction of "Request Hours" in Army. Free issue, on discharge, of greatcoats and pullovers, etc. League representation at the Discharge Depot. Regulations to make it obligatory for employers to reinstate returned ex-servicemen. Increased rates of pensions and increased quotas for housing for ex-servicemen have been gained by the League. The R.S.L. is always foremost in meeting the Government, and it is upon the League that the Government relies for constructive thought. What a handsome return for the membership fee! The League acted as the watchdog for the men of the Services whilst they were, away, and is continuing to do so. It was persistent League agitation that increased the demobilisation cheque of discharged personnel. I do not want to labour League effort, but I think we should keep ex-servicemen acquainted with our effort, as the League as always taken the lead in these things.

There are a number of changes on the newly-elected State Executive for this year. Messrs. H. E. Smith, J. E. Mitchell, C. L. Harvey, W. N. Elliott, C. G. Wilson and W. Reece retired, while Messrs. O. J. Williams, W. J. Hunt, J. Fitzhardinge, F. R. Murray, F. Stahl and D. Paton are the new members. Of the whole of the Executive, Messrs. Craig, Halcombe, Fitzhardinge, Murray,
The Federal Congress

Federal Congress in Melbourne will go down as one of the most momentous in the history of the Returned Servicemen's League with that great Australian institution emerging more powerful than ever as a champion fighting the cause of those who served their country in her darkest hour, pressing for their just rights on their return to civil life.

Never before has this parliament of the Diggers been called upon to deal with such a controversial batch of social and economic problems, but much good was accomplished, and, from Western Australia's viewpoint, there can be considerable satisfaction at the outcome of deliberations.

In Hughie Leslie and Jim Craig, the West was represented by a true veteran and the youngest of all delegates, and both proved dour fighters in presenting their State's resolutions. The job came easy to Hugh Leslie, M.L.A., and there was admiration for the manner in which Jim Craig, not one bit awed by the big occasion, handled his share of the work.

To the lot of the West fell the job of introducing the proposal to widen membership of the League to all who volunteered to serve anywhere, who served six months continuously and were honourably discharged. The discussion on this highly important matter was strictly in camera, but Hugh Leslie had the satisfaction of seeing the resolution carried 9 to 4. Both Messrs. Leslie and Craig were at the best pressing for concessions in land settlement and reconsituctional training courses, and they were successful in having such resolutions as the following carried:

The Commonwealth Government to pay ex-servicemen full realisation price for wheat produced by them in the 1945-46 season.

That a small colony be established to rehabilitate ex-servicemen who are incapable of farming in a general way for profit.

That the period of payment of re-establishment allowance to accepted C.R.T.S. trainees be extended until such time as—
1. they are called up to commence training; and
2. they are found suitable interim employment.

That all gift duties be waived on gifts to settle or establish co-operative enterprises.

That the present £10 allowance for tools of trade be increased to £60.

That war pensions be not considered as income for any purpose whatsoever in the assessments of benefits available to ex-service personnel as civilians.

That the Commonwealth Government arrange for X-ray examination for T.B. of all discharged personnel two years after date of discharge.

That the Commonwealth Government provide special scientific facilities for fit disabled and partly disabled personnel to become useful citizens.

That the rate of interest on War Service Homes be no greater than 2 1/2 per cent.

That a branch of the War Service Homes Commission be established in Western Australia.

Mr. Leslie was particularly critical during the debate on housing problems, and he urged the Commonwealth Government to speed up the programme in the West.

"We are nowhere near the target of 3,300 homes," he declared, "and it is about time those in authority realised the urgent needs of ex-service personnel."

He then successfully moved that the Commonwealth Government be requested to ensure that a greater number of men be trained in the building trade and that every effort be made to release essential materials and thus do away with bottle-necks that apparently exist in distribution and allocation of housing materials and retard private building.

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Both Mr. Chifley and Dr. Evatt, in supporting the principle of U.N.O. Trusteeship, have followed the lead set by Britain. Many of us would have preferred straight-out annexation of the former Mandated Territories, but the Australian Government's announce-ment that Australia must be recognized as the sole trustee of these islands have been very reassuring, especially as it has been made clear that the Territories will be put in a state of defence and used as naval and air bases. In the days of the Mandates, any preparation for the defence of Mandated Territories would have been in contravention of the terms of the Mandates. By scrupu-lously adhering to those terms, Australia gave Japan a covered approach to her own front door.

Hitting Below the Belt

Now that the Federal elections are over, many will feel inclined to express the utter disgust they must have felt at the cad-dish tactics pursued by a section of the local week-end Press. In particular we refer to the despicable campaign of personal abuse of Colonel Collett, which reached its crescendo of hysteria as the election approached. When men enter public life they must and do expect criticism of every type, and from every type. That is one of the inseparable adjuncts of democracy; but it is not unreasonable for them, and for their constituents, to expect that the criticisms be based on their political utterances and performances.
Lying by innuendo, and attempts at personal belittlement, though the characteristic weapons of the papers concerned, are not the legitimate weapons of political controversy. Of course, most people know why the vernacular Press adopted this attitude, but it is hard to understand why at least two returned men on the staffs of the papers were made the cat's-paws of calumny, unless one infers that their chiefs had an exaggerated notion of the importance of such men in League circles. Executives who have had no war service themselves are not competent to assess the influence that one returned man has over others, but it is obvious that the intention was to sway the votes of the younger Diggers against Colonel Collett. Personal malice was apparent in almost every word written.

Colonel Collett's age and his services to the League have nothing to do with his politics, yet it was blatantly asserted that his services to returned men have been over-rated, and it was broadly hinted that he is too old for Parliament. Only base ingratitude or purblind ignorance could suggest that the returned men of this State, and of Australia, have not benefited greatly from the services rendered by Colonel Collett. Under his wise leadership, the League in Western Australia reached an altitude of usefulness and dignity which won it the respect of all classes of the community.

Before he was nominated for the Senate, he was urged to stand for the Federal seat of Perth, when the seat would have been his for the asking. There was something commendable as well as dignified in the Colonel's rejection of the offer while he was State President. In other words, he did not wish to exploit the League for his personal or political advancement. Contrast that attitude with the conduct of his principal detractors who whined in print and twisted on their party when selection ballots and election results did not go the way they wished. It was Colonel Collett's services to returned men that won him the nomination for the Senate which, by the way, was also unsought as far as he was concerned. Acknowledging this, the Colonel, with experience second to none of the requirements of the ex-service men, made their care his special duty in the Senate, and many of the privileges enjoyed today by pensioners and others are the result of his keen advocacy. When he vacated the office of State President, League members recognised his services by giving him an overflow send-off in the big drill hall at Francis Street. That was one of the biggest and most eulogistic gathering of Diggers ever seen in Perth. The men of that decade knew what the Colonel's services to them and to the League were worth.

As to his age—he is by no means the oldest member of the Senate—and there are many older men in the House of Representatives—it may well be said that age is a physical rather than a chronological matter. Verdi was 74 when he composed "Falstaff" and 80 when he composed "Otello." Lord Roberts was as old as Colonel Collett is now when he went out to South Africa as Commander-in-Chief, and Winston Churchill is older than the Colonel. Anno Domini may be a stumbling block for the average man, but there are no signs that Colonel Collett's keen mental vigour is impaired. It may be said with equal justice that comparative youth is not always a criterion of intellect and ability.

The defeat of the Colonel in the recent Senate election must have given intense joy to these Press executives and their stooges, but the men of the old 28th and the old Diggers who love fair play resent the low tactics used. Irrespective of party political leanings, they commend the Colonel for his unsullied devotion to their cause over the years. He continues to command the esteem and goodwill of his host of friends and the mud that was thrown at him in the hope that some of it would stick has not bestrafed his reputation, but has had a boomerang effect on his detractors.

2/4th Machine-gun Association

The 2/4th Machine-gun Association reunion held on October 10 at the A.N.A. club was well attended. Several country members took the opportunity whilst in Perth to renew old acquaintances. The increased attendance on the previous function, together with many apologies received, was very gratifying to the committee and clearly indicates the growing interest in the Association. It is hoped to have the next function on or about next Anzac Day.

Scabbards Off

By Pip Tok.

- When they were in Perth, the visiting English cricketers spoke highly of the part Dr. Evatt played during the recent Peace Conference in Paris. Dr. Evatt won the admiration of the British public, they said, as one of the few conference delegates with the courage to stand up to Mr. Molotov. The Australian Minister for External Affairs actually carried on the great Australian tradition of outspokenness. William Morris Hughes was similarly eulogised in 1919 because he was one of the few men at Versailles who was forthright enough to oppose the appeasement policy and to demand the return of the mandated territories. If Wilson had had his way, New Guinea and the other mandated islands would have been given back to Germany. Billy Hughes prevented this calamity. The Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) also won many friends in the United Kingdom by his naturalness. The British people have much greater respect for the Dominions' representatives who is content to be himself than for the visitor who tries to be a carbon copy of someone entirely different.

- The way the semi-educated curiosities who run Communist papers in Australia have been referring to Mr. Chifley and Dr. Evatt as "stooges of Imperialism" is distinctly amusing. What is this Imperialism which is so abhorrent to these folks who admire every country but their own? Since the war Britain has taken the lead in offering to place mandated territories on the agenda. The British people have conducted this policy in a manner which has been regarded by the world as one of the greatest steps towards absolute independence. Britain is in conference with Egypt on a revision of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936, which will complete the country's progress towards total independence and enlarge her boundaries at the same time. During the war Britain respected the neutrality of Bire, at a time when bases in Southern Ireland would have been of inestimable value in the action against Germany in Dublin was a clearing-house for the reports of German spies. The long-sighted courage and fairness which actuated Britain has had the
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effect of turning potential enemies into sincere friends. Perhaps that is what most annoys the critics of British and Australian statesmen. So far, Russia has not suggested any form of trusteeship for Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, or any of the other European lands she seized for the alleged protection of her western frontier during the war.

The appointment of Mr. Forde as Australian High Commissioner in Canada has been the subject of much unfavourable comment throughout Australia. Forde's defeat in the recent election has been ascribed to many causes, not the least of which was his studied rudeness to Army officers. That rudeness was resented bitterly by the other ranks. The administrative massacre of the 1st Armoured Division was another difficult hurdle for any Army Minister to get over, while the Old Diggers remembered that Mr. Forde, although of military age, was not one of us in the former war. The Canadian appointment was obviously a consolation prize for his defeat at the polls; but it might have been worse. There had been talk of making him next Governor-General.

Whoever was responsible for changing the time-honoured commemoration of Armistice Day on November 11 to the Remembrance Day observance on the nearest Sunday will have no reason for being elated at the result. In plain Australian, this year's observance was a flop, for which the unforeseen strike conditions cannot be blamed. Because of the strike there was no gunfire at 11 a.m. and there was a very meagre attendance at the handing over ceremony at the State War Memorial; but, apart from this, one missed the sharp contrast between the normal stir and bustle of the city, with the solemn hush of the two-minutes' silence. Even had the trams been running, that impressive contrast could never be provided at that particular hour on a Sunday. There is no valid reason why November 11 should not be known as Day of Remembrance for the fallen of both wars. What makes the change more difficult to understand is the fact that it has been brought about, like so many similar changes, by those who had least to do with beating the enemy in the line of battle.

In his Monthly Newsletter for November, the State President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson) drew attention to the fact that seven of the incoming State Executive are returned men from World War II, and the same is true of two country vice-presidents. This means that about one-quarter of the Executive are new men. Further, most of the older members, who were re-elected in recognition of past services, are very far from being decrepit. These facts amply refute the mischievous tactics of those who fire off barrage of bombast and beef-extract in the Press in an effort to split the League by asserting that the younger men are dominated by the old.

State Executive

At the meeting of the State Executive on October 18, there were present Messrs. Anderson, Edmondson, Sten, Davies, Monashbridge, Craig, Holcombe, Ferguson, James, Thorn, Yates, Collalt, Oden, Hunt, Watt, Bateson, Fitzhardinge, Williams, Murrar, Healy, Stahl, Paton and Ferguson-Stewart.

The State President extended a cordial welcome to new members of the Executive and to delegates who were re-elected this year.

A letter was read from Major Howard, Manager of the N.C.C. Team, acknowledging good wishes.

The various committees and representatives of sub-branches in electorates were then named.

State War Memorial.—It was resolved that the offer of the Press sub-branch to assist in raising funds for alterations and additions to the State War Memorial be accepted, and that a special account be opened with an approved bank in the name of the State War Memorial Appeal Account.

R.S.I.L. House.—Report of the operations of the R.S.I.L. House showed a very satisfactory state of affairs, and indicated that good service is being done. It was resolved that appreciation be expressed of the work of the management and staff of R.S.I.L. House.

Imperial War Graves Commission.—The State President read a letter from the Secretary-General of the Imperial War Graves Commission, recommending that a servicemen's cemetery be created. It was decided to refer the letter to a committee of three, consisting of the State President, Mr. E. E. Watt and Colonel Monashbridge.

Next Meeting.—It was resolved that the next meeting of the Executive be held on Wednesday, November 8, to restore regular meeting nights to sequence.

Sub-branches.—The appointments of officials as advised by Dunsarri, Rosserdien and Greylands sub-branches were confirmed.
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THE LISTENING POST — Page 18
The general meeting was held on November 6, when eight new members were welcomed by the president. Mr. M. J. Bader, who had been appointed as the Acting Chairman, decided to suspend the monthly dances with the advent of hot weather, and serious competition from other activities. However, all the activities of the social committee will be turned to preparing for the Christmas Tree auxiliary in the preparation of a children's Christmas Tree. It is hoped to resume the monthly dances when the weather becomes cooler.

**COMO**

The general meeting was held on November 6, when eight new members were welcomed by the president. Mr. M. J. Bader, who had been appointed as the Acting Chairman, decided to suspend the monthly dances with the advent of hot weather, and serious competition from other activities. However, all the activities of the social committee will be turned to preparing for the Christmas Tree auxiliary in the preparation of a children's Christmas Tree. It is hoped to resume the monthly dances when the weather becomes cooler.

**FREMANTLE CITY**

At the general meeting on November 7 congress delegates reported back on the report of the delegate to conference, was handled after which members passed a motion to try out the dart boards which have recently been acquired as part of the equipment of the sub-branch. Money was also raised to pay Melville sub-branch in answer to their challenge in the field of juvenile sports. The monthly dance held on November 2 was a great success. It was decided to suspend the monthly dances with the advent of hot weather, and serious competition from other activities. However, all the activities of the social committee will be turned to preparing for the Christmas Tree auxiliary in the preparation of a children's Christmas Tree. It is hoped to resume the monthly dances when the weather becomes cooler.

**SWMBOURNE**

The general meeting was held on November 6 and drew a moderate attendance of members. A recommendation from the committee for the taking over of tennis courts at Allen Park was adopted. One of them showed interest in the matter at one of the recent meetings. Tennis parties are now much in evidence on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings assisting towards making these courts something worth having. Thanks go to the Nedlands Road Board for the ready manner in which they acceded to our request for this area and for the assistance they are giving us. Another matter which members have under consideration is the need to keep the courts at Allen Park in a better condition. The sub-branch are giving full support to the proposal of the Sports Club and are considering the merits of both.

**MUNDARING AND DISTRICTS**

The meeting at Glen Forrest was attended by 47 members, only about a quarter of the usual attendance. The secretary offered that the committee consider the matter of change of location of the social committee's secretaries. Mr. J. R. B. Bader, in his report on congress, an appeal for financial contributions to the League's work. Poppy Day was held on November 6 and raised a large sum of money.

**MANJIMUP**

In the absence of the president (Mr. L. Thompson) the chair was taken by Mr. S. O'Neill. The secretary (Mr. George Major) reported that membership is 301. The funeral fund membership is 21, the amount of $1 10/6 per annum.

**MOSMAN PARK**

At the meeting on October 31 the president (Mr. Whitaker) was in the chair. Most of the time was devoted to hearing reports from congress delegates, the report of the delegate to conference, was handled after which members passed a motion to try out the dart boards which have recently been acquired as part of the equipment of the sub-branch. It was decided to suspend the monthly dances with the advent of hot weather, and serious competition from other activities. However, all the activities of the social committee will be turned to preparing for the Christmas Tree auxiliary in the preparation of a children's Christmas Tree. It is hoped to resume the monthly dances when the weather becomes cooler.

**BEDFORD-MORLEY PARENTS Sub-Branch Activities**

Since October there has been a change of secretaries. Bernice Green is now sub-branch secretary, and his brother Ray is social secretary. Members are looking forward to the cricket season. Intending players, please give your names to Mr. Green.

**EXHIBITION**

Mr. W. H. Matthews presided over the meeting of 55 at the meeting on October 18. The secretary (Mr. P. A. Stevens) reported on congress doings. The sub-branch has formed a cricket team which will play social matches only and will not enter the association. The Tuesdays and Thursdays for the Res. Local on show day were fixed. The sub-branch arranged a War Museum on the show grounds. Mr. R. D. B. Underwood was assisted in the responsibility of collecting souvenirs for the exhibition. Mr. R. D. B. Underwood was given another of his interesting talks on December 20, his subject, this time, being the Kokoda Trail. From high authority it was learnt that the sub-branch's two young members, Alex Stevens and Brian Allen, created a very good impression at the Annual State Congress.

**MOUNT HAWTHORN-NORTH LEEDERVILLE**

New members are joining up at each meeting. The important item during October was a talk by Mr. W. H. Matthews. It was on the history of the sub-branch. It has been decided that the best members have had the pleasure of hearing. Another October highlight was a visit to Anzac House by the darts team. This was managed by Syd Pyman. Although the sub-branch's two young members, Alex Stevens and Brian Allen, created a very good impression at the Annual State Congress.
Women's Auxiliaries

NINETEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE Nineteenth Annual Conference took place in Anzac House on September 24, 25 and 26, when 127 delegates were in attendance. At 11 a.m., on September 24, the official opening by the R.S.L. State President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson) took place. Visitors to the opening ceremony included the Lieut.-Governor (Sir James Mitchell) and Lady Mitchell; Mr. Cornell (President Legislative Council) and Mrs. Cornell, Sister Clifton and Mr. Neagle (General Secretary). Sir James Mitchell was called upon to present the McKinlay Shield (won in sports competitions) to Mrs. Burgess, president of Subiaco auxiliary (winners for the 1946 season). Lady Mitchell spoke a few words of appreciation of the work of auxiliaries and her pleasure at being present at the opening of conference.

Mrs. McKinlay was again elected State President and Mrs. Stockman Honorary State Secretary. Mrs. McKinlay appointed Mrs. Mortimer (Narembeen) Country Vice-President and thanked Mrs. King of Bunbury for the excellent work she had done during her year as Country Vice-President.

Other officers elected were: Vice-Presidents, Mesdames J. R. Henderson and W. W. Prue; Trustees, Mesdames Brown, Randall and Kay; Committee, Mesdames Weeks, Burgess, Cullen, Dix, Hughes, Sherlock, Richardson, Crofts, Winsor and Herold. Three members of the executive did not seek re-election. They were Mesdames Jefferson, Newson and Taylor. Mrs. Taylor (Victoria Park) retired after 15 years of loyal and unselfish service as a member of the executive.

The agenda contained items relating to hospital, repatriation and rehabilitation, domestic items and also to general conditions sent in by country auxiliaries, and questions relating to the McKinlay Shield competitions. All were thoroughly discussed and satisfactorily dealt with, and throughout the conference the atmosphere was friendly. Delegates were all eager to gain information and help from reports given by those who entered into discussion on motions, and it is hoped that this conference will be of real benefit to those auxiliaries who sent delegates and especially to those new ones whose delegates attended for the first time.

Delegates were also well catered for on the lighter and social side of conference. On September 25 many delegates, with their husbands, accepted the invitation of Victoria Park auxiliary to their 18th birthday party. On the Wednesday night a united social for all auxiliary members was held at Anzac House to entertain country delegates. This was a very delightful evening of dancing and musical items. Thursday night was a picture night and on Friday night executive members entertained country delegates in their room at Anzac House, when supper was served and all enjoyed a real get-together evening.

Friday afternoon saw the closing of the conference.
on an extended trip to England, Mrs. McKinlay also ballowed her at the hotel in Fremantle. On October 9 Mrs. McKinlay and several members of the Executive accepted the invitation to the Shenton Park auxiliary's birthday party. On October 16 the State President attended a visit to country auxiliaries—on the 19th she attended Aradh-Beacon meeting; on the 21st, Bruce Rock; on the 31st, she attended the same meeting. On the 1st she was a guest at the dinner arranged by the Dongi-Quairading auxiliary to celebrate their 21st anniversary. The tour was completed by a visit to Faversham House. Mrs. Stockin reported that she had visited Lemnos, taking a gift of books purchased by a donation from the Dongi-Quairading auxiliary. On accepting these, the Matron expressed the opinion that no gift could have given more pleasure to the patients.

Mrs. Randall reported that she had visited the Fremantle auxiliary meeting and spent a very pleasant evening. She also depastied for the State President at an outing arranged by the North-West auxiliary for those from Sunset, Everlast, Edward Miller, and Home of Peace and Lemnos. Transport was provided by sub-branch members, and over 100 guests attended this outing.

Mrs. Burgess was elected by the Executive to be sports secretary for the ensuing year.

The State Secretary, Mrs. Stockin, asked for leave of absence to enable her to spend a holiday in Adelaide.

On October 24 the President attended the North Perth birthday party and a concert in Anzac House in aid of "War Veterans' Home Appeal. On Sunday, October 21, Mrs. McKinlay, with Messmates, Brown, Hughes and Kay, visited Claremont Mental Hospital, taking gifts to ex-service patients. On October 25, North Beach auxiliary entertained patients from Sunset to luncheon. Mrs. McKinlay, with Messmates Brown and Kay, attended this function. On October 31 Messmates McKinlay, Brown and Henderson attended Bollywood Hospital, where they interviewed the Matron to see what arrangements could be made for hospital visiting by auxiliaries. On October 3 Shenton Park arranged an outing for patients from Lemnos, Sunset, Edward Miller and Home of Peace. Mrs. McKinlay was present and reported that excellent arrangements had been made for the entertainment of patients. Mrs. Brown, Acting State Secretary, attended a fancy dress ball at West Leederville on October 26, and at the request of the auxiliary acted as one of the judges. On the same date Mrs. Henderson, Senator Vice-President, and Mrs. Weeks travelled to Pingelly, where Mrs. Henderson officially declared open a flower show arranged by the sub-branch, assisted by the auxiliary. Mrs. Henderson reported that the function was most successful, and that proceeds will be donated to the "Arms and Limbs" appeal. Mrs. Prue reported that she had been present at Sunset on Sunday, October 24, at the invitation of North-East Claremont auxiliary, when they entertained the ex-service patients to a sumptuous tea.

During the month no.e auxiliaries have been added to the ranks—Cunderdin, Bruce Rock, Numperin and Capeel.

The following is an extract received from Mrs. McKinlay from a patient in Claremont Mental Hospital: "We are expecting a visit from the auxiliary of Marylands sub-branch, as I think it is their day, and I would like to pay a tribute to the ladies who have visited from Maylands in the past. They have just been splendid, and no matter how inclement the weather was they never disappointed us. Hats off to them!"

The following donations are acknowledged from auxiliaries for Christmas cheer and other funds:
- Christmas Cheer—Banbury, £5/5/-; Southern Cross, £10; Trayning-Yelben, £2/2/-; Mt. Helena, £2/2/-; Kulin, £5/5/-; Midland Junction, £2/2/-; Kuningarra, £1/10/-; York, £5; Boora, £5; Norseman, £2/2/-; Woolee, 10/-; Karr, £1/2/-; Bridgetown, £7/7/-; Brocket, £10; Noodlands, £2/-; Mundaring, £1/5/-; Norseman, £5/5/-; Gosnangup, £1/2/-; Leenara-Quairading, £1/2/-; Pitkara, £2/5/-; Bunick, £2/5/-; Brunswick Junction, £5/5/-; Collie, £10; Pinplay, £20; Subiaco, £6/5/-; Kalgurli, £2/2/-.
- Other Funds—Norseman, for Lemno, 10/-; Northam, for War Nurses' Hostel, £1/10/-; Norseman, for Legacy Club, £5; Midland Junction, for Legacy Club, 10/-; Midland, for Aged and Family Fund, 10/-; Midland Junction, Scholarship Fund, 10/-; Pinny, for Mission to Seniors, £1/1/-; Pinny, for Trafalgar Day Appeal, £1/1/-.

**SWAN VIEW-GREENMOUNT**

During the year members have been attending monthly outings in different members' homes. Quite a sum has been raised by these outings. Members co-operated with Macquarie auxiliary and all enjoyed a day at Glen Forrest on September 22, when men from Claremont who were driven by the Red Cross were entertained.

**MAYLANDS**

On October 13 the sick visitors, Messmates Johnson and Bristow, were taken by car to Claremont by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis. The children seem to appreciate these visits. On the first Friday in the month members paid their monthly visit to Lemnos, taking a concert party, and had a most enjoyable time. They also spent a pleasant afternoon out with the Totally Disabled soldiers. The children's ball on September 13 was a great success. On November 3 there was a river trip and picnic which provided a good day's outing.

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A.A.S.C. EX-SERVICEPEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION—A.O.F. Hall, corner Francis and Museum Streets, Perth; 2nd Thursday each month at 8 p.m.; President: Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Jones, A.D.S. & T., Crawley; Secretary: W. B. Kyle, Perth Roller Floor Mills, Perth.


AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (W.A. Area)—RAAF Renfrews, National House, William Street, Perth; 4th Thursday each month; President: C. A. Hine, Howard Hill (off Howard Street), Perth; Secretary: G. W. Chapman, Box R 1255, G.P.O., Perth. Phone B 5905.

ARMY COMFORTS COMMITTEE—House of the Younger Set, Wembley; First Saturday each month at 3 p.m.; President: A. Cunningham, 108 Rockwood Street, Mt. Lawley; Joint Secretaries: E. Henley and A. J. Snow, 301 East Victoria Street, Nedlands.

EX-MACHINE GUNNERS' ASSOCIATION—Gregson's, 32 King Street, Perth; Friday before Anzac Day and 2nd Friday in October; President: Mr. S. M. Gorton, c/o. Parker & Parker, Howard Street, Perth; Secretary: E. S. Everett, 156 Suburban Road, South Perth.

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (W.A. Branch)—2nd Floor Wellington Building, 168 William Street, Perth; 1st Monday in month; President: C. H. Hatcher, 9 Princess Rd., Nedlands; Secretary: J. T. Flum, 407 William St., Perth.

MEDICAL ARMS UNITS ASSOCIATION—Room 34, 5th Floor, Glodden Building, Perth; Quarterly; President: Dr. C. H. Leadman; Chairman: C. W. Brick, Holden Road, Roleystone; Secretary: H. W. Rigg, 26 Elizabeth Street, North Perth. Phone B 8394.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (W.A. Branch)—Room 52, Fifth Floor, Glodden Building, Perth; 1st Thursday in each month; President: J. F. Davies, 27 Dunbar Road, Claremont; Secretary: E. S. Pearson, Atlas Building, Perth. Phone WM 2172.

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—Monash House, cnr. Hay and King Streets; 1st Monday in each month; President: F. W. Botton, 407 William St., Perth; Secretary: G. Gumprich, 538 Hay Street, Perth.

THE IMPERIAL EX-SERVICEPEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—Monthly general meeting first Monday night in each month; Rechabite Hall, William Street, Perth; President: W. A. Lees, Royal George Hotel, Barrack Street, Perth; Secretary: G. H. Scullion, 187 Vincent Street, Leederville.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN BLIND ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; when necessary; President: D. M. Benson, Anzac House, Perth; Secretary: R. A. Halcombe, 65 Stanley Street, Nedlands (phone WM 6757).

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TOTALY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION—Room 53, Fifth Floor, Glodden Building, Perth; 1st Pension Day of the month at 3 p.m.; President: H. W. Rigg, 26 Elizabeth Street, North Perth; Secretary: C. C. Walker, 124 Walcott Street, Mt. Lawley.

6th BATTERY ASSOCIATION—Annual Reunion, Friday, October 11 (Show Week); President: C. W. R. Woolcock, Public Works Dept., Perth; Secretary: J. W. Kenny, 138 6th Avenue, Inglewood.

10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth, when called; President: W. J. L. Lileyman, 66 Barrack Street, Perth; Secretary: W. Newick, 39 Hatt Street, Mt. Lawley.

14th BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Committee, as arranged; 2nd Monday; President: Mr. H. Gardiner, 54 Fourth Avenue, Mt. Lawley; Secretary: M. J. Foster, 152 Coode Street, Como.

14th FOSTER ASAN—As advertised; Annual Reunion, Monday of Show Week; President: W. B. Garnett; Acting Secretary: J. S. Everett, 12 Jospeh Street, West Leederville.

22nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; nearest Saturday; President: R. A. Geddes, c/o. Militia Timber & Trading Co., St. George's Terrace, Perth; Secretary: R. C. McAlister, 5 Elizabeth Street, North Perth.

2/4th MACHINE-GUN BATTALION EX-MEMBERS ASAN—Mr. Ambrose Office, 3rd Floor, C.M.L. Bldg; committee meets 1st Tuesday in each month, 7.30 p.m; President: C. E. Green, 71 Mount Street, Perth; Acting Secretary: D. P. Pearson, c/o. W.A. Trustee Co., 135 St. George's Terrace Perth.

2/16th BATTALION ASAN—President: F. T. Mylne, 2nd Floor, Meade Chas, Barrack Street, Perth; Secretary: W. E. McKeehan, 92 Brandon Street, South Perth. Notification of meetings by circular or association notes in The Listening Post.

2/3rd BATTALION ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH)—Annual reunion, October 23, President: V. P. O'Dea; Secretary: L. G. Schofield, Shae-Val Hairdressing Saloon, Hay Street, Perth (opposite Criterion Hotel); Treasurer: G. Richards, c/o. Vacuum Oil Co. Pty. Ltd., St. George's Terrace, Perth.

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ARMIDALE—R.S.L. Clubrooms; 2nd Wednesday, 8 p.m.; President: F. J. Rider, Armidale.

ARMIDALE—R.S.L. Clubrooms; 3rd Thursday in each month, 7 p.m.; President: A. J. Fisher, Armidale.

ARMIDALE—R.S.L. Clubrooms; 4th Saturday in each month at 10 a.m.; President: J. J. Fisher, Armidale.

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