THE RATE OF REHABILITATION

In spite of almost self-congratulatory statements by Federal Ministers and Departmental officials connected with rehabilitation and post-war reconstruction, there is a growing impatience among servicemen at inexplicable delays in almost every aspect of rehabilitation. Unless the lag is overtaken, the delays are likely to become worse as the work of demobilisation is accelerated.

In recent weeks officials of the League and of other servicemen's organisations have complained about the unsatisfactory rate of rehabilitation, particularly in regard to land settlement and the Commonwealth reconstruction training scheme. Much was hoped from the visit of officials connected with the work of post-war reconstruction, including the Director-General (Dr. Coombs) himself to the State earlier in the year. Perhaps it is early to expect results yet but, so far, there has been much explanation but little improvement.

There is, however, one hopeful sign. There seems to be a general agreement that the delays in placing men in jobs, delays in providing them with decent homes, and, to a minor extent, delays in fitting the younger returned men into a vocational training scheme, are caused by shortage of materials. It is generally admitted also that much of the shortage of materials, and especially of building materials, results from avoidable delays in coal production. In fact, the Premier (Mr. Wise) told a deputation recently that if the coal position were right, the unemployment position would be vastly improved, if it did not disappear altogether. Earlier in the present month the position of employment, throughout Australia, as well as in our own State, was officially described as satisfactory, and the statement was supported by figures and percentages.

Such a "satisfactory" position, however, is no augury for the future. We want more than temporary or dead-end employment for our men. Personal experience over many years has shown that there was never, except during the worst part of the depression, much difficulty in placing men in unskilled work. The main difficulty today is in placing the man who has no special qualifications, but is ambitious enough and educated enough to want something better than pick-and-shovel work. That has always been a difficulty, and will remain a difficulty until our entire educational system has been overhauled. In the case of the discharged serviceman, vocational training plans have been mapped out, but these plans are, at present, circumscribed by shortage of materials, shortage of facilities for giving the necessary instruction and, above all, the iniquitous quota system which denies entrance into some vocations to many. In fact, many trades have closed their doors to the discharged servicemen altogether. One can see and sympathise with the point of view that the number of men to be trained for a particular vocation should be determined by the absorptive capacity of that profession, industry or trade; but by what factor is the quota to be determined? All recent reviews of the position suggest that the eye of those responsible is too much on the present and too little thought is being taken for the future. The League desires the industrial committees to take the long view and give to those eligible the chance that has been promised.

For instance, a curious feature connected with the building trade was mentioned in a recent report from the State Executive’s Rehabilitation Committee. It was pointed out that while activity in the building trade is reported to be at low ebb, there was practically no unemployment in that industry. This posed the question as to whether there would not be a need for more trainees in the future, and underlined the need for accelerating training. The shortsightedness of the present policy is apparent when it is realised that no State other than Western Australia offers greater opportunities for development, yet it is in this State that reconstruction training is lagging lamentably. A warning against allowing the present position to persist was uttered by the State President (Mr. Anderson) before the end of last year. “If some action is not taken quickly to break down the barrier of no training in many trades and restricted training in others,” he said, “our future vacancies will be filled by tradesmen from the Eastern States, and our lads from the services will be the swag-carriers and the unskilled labourers of the community.”

The League has proposed that the complete rehabilitation of service men and women should be controlled by a Commission responsible directly to Parliament. The present method of administration is far too cumbersome, and greater co-ordination is badly required. One constant irritation from which the returned man suffers is the difficulty in finding which particular department controls the various phases of rehabilitation. In many cases the administrators themselves have been uncertain of their responsibilities and authority. No fewer than six departments control rehabilitation. They are Repatriation, Post-War Reconstruction, the Attorney-General’s Department, Labour and National Service, Social Services, and Works
and Housing. It is thought that one Commission to cover all the activities of these administrations which affect service personnel would be less costly, more efficient and of greater convenience to the discharged men and women. A recent Press report, however indicates that the League's proposal is unlikely to be adopted. The League has also suggested the appointment of an Assistant Minister to co-ordinate all the activities of rehabilitation.

In the meantime, the position remains obscure. Ministers and Departmental representatives admit that it is very evident that Western Australia has been very far behind the other States in the matter of rehabilitation. Of course they meant that the dilatoriness of the Federal authorities has been more apparent than in the mostly lower-populated States. Dr. Coombs has promised to look for a solution of our difficulties. Accordingly, we refrain from further comment until we know what will be the result of his recent visit to the States. If it brings results, all will be well, but the League will not stand for continued delay. Failing a greater acceleration a united move by the League is essential and irrespective of whose toes are to be trodden on just demands must be conceded.

The State President's Monthly Newsletter

Post-War Reconstruction

Perhaps the most important business of the League during the month has been the visits to Western Australia of the Director General of Post-War Reconstruction (Dr. H. C. Coombs), the Director of Re-Establishment (Mr. R. F. Archer) and the Director of Technical Training (Mr. E. P. Eltham). Many discussions took place between League officials and these representatives of the Government, and every opportunity was taken to see that the ex-serviceman's point of view was expressed to them. There appears to be little prospect that the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction (Mr. Dedman) will come to the West at present, and this is disappointing.

The League has made the approach but finds itself unable in W.A. to make personal representation to him. The Government officials admit that the rehabilitation schemes are not working well in Western Australia, and some very plain speaking took place; but the position is far from satisfactory and no improvement can be expected until some strong action is taken by the Government to enforce the provisions of the Act. The officials are powerless while the Government fails to insist on compliance by all organisations concerned. We cannot depart from our criticism while the small number of franchises exists. It is too early to comment on whether results have been attained from the visit of Dr Coombs, Mr. Archer and Mr. Eltham, but you will all be kept advised of the progress made, and it is to be hoped that this long lag of waiting for training will be altered. Preference has also been most disappointing and up to the present the only policing of the Re-Establishment Act has been that done by the R.S.L. We have within the last few days received word that the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor will police the Act and can take the necessary action to bring prosecutions if necessary. This should be made widely known and the League kept informed of definite breaches of the preference provisions in order that the matter can be brought under the notice of the Crown Solicitor. The office of the Crown Solicitor is Atlas Buildings, Esplanade, Perth, and ex-servicemen can make their inquiries personally.

Rehabilitation

In the report of the Rehabilitation Committee at the last State Executive meeting, quite a number of individual cases were submitted which involved matters of urgency. They related to sales of motor vehicles by the Government; applications for petrol licences; bread zoning; fishing industry and purchase of boats; export of timber from the State; and training anomalies. Other matters related to land, housing and rural training. It was also decided that in view of the outstanding assessment appeals awaiting determination, the numbers of which are increasing, we again urge that an assessment tribunal be appointed in each State periodically. The numbers are mounting at present and urgent action is necessary by the Government.

Membership

Membership is very important at present, as our standing with the Government and the public is determined by the strength of our organisation. It has effect in many ways, particularly in relation to our prestige, so far as other organisations are concerned, and representation on committees. Our numbers have grown during the past year and we want every member possible. It is very important that all subscriptions be renewed, and sub-branches are asked to concentrate on this matter. Each sub-branch should have a live membership committee, and the committee would have a responsibility to see that subscriptions are renewed and all eligible persons in their district are enrolled.

Anzac Day

Anzac Day this year will be the Victory Anzac Day. Plans should be prepared early. It is desired that services in the city and the country should be the greatest ever.

Points on Acquiring a Business

From a Broadcast Talk by Lieut.-Col. J. E. Mitchell on March 7

With the return from active service of so many young men who have been able to have a fair sum of money, which, together with their deferred pay, enables them to consider the advisability of purchasing a business and starting on their own account, it is necessary that a careful study be made of factors governing the purchase of such businesses.

Firstly, it is necessary to consider the kind of business one would like to take up.

The next consideration is the personal suitability of the purchaser for the type of business desired. The point must never be lost sight of that practically every business demands meticulous personal service to the customer in order to ensure success.

Then comes the question of location. In the case of a mixed business within an established shopping area there is constant competition with existing allied businesses. This demands a high standard of salesmanship and keen, personal service. With a business in a suburb or in a country town which, more or less, is in the nature of a monopoly for that area, the amount of personal effort required in order to maintain custom is, perhaps, not so great. The point must never, however, be lost sight of that the businessman is always on the job.

Now comes the type of shop—whether “lock-up” or with “residence attached.” The former must be considered in the light of distance from existing living accommodation to ensure protection whilst the shop is unattended.

Having come to a decision on what is required, the prospective purchaser meets the agent or advertiser, who gives a brief outline of turnover, which covers the weekly or monthly takings, rent payable, net profit, plant, fixtures. It is then advisable to inspect

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the business and ascertain the price, which may be quoted on the "walk-in walk-out" basis. This covers a price for fixtures, plant, stock and "in-going," or, in other cases, may merely cover fixtures, plant and "in-going" and stock at valuation.

In the case of walk-in walk-out, it is advisable to list items of furniture and plant and place a valuation on each item, remembering, for instance, that a refrigerator costing, say, £100 some four years ago would today represent only about one-half of that value, provided it is in working order. As certain also whether all items of plant are free of any encumbrance and not in any way tied up with a Bill of Sale or Hire Purchase Agreement. Examine stock carefully, and see whether the various items are such as will be readily turned over and ensure quick sales, or whether they could be classified as "dead stock," which covers goods which may lie on the shelves and not have a ready sale. Estimate the value of such stock, then by taking your estimate of valuation of furniture, plant and stock, the balance of the purchase price would represent in-going or goodwill.

The necessity for careful valuation of stock applies also when a business is taken over with stock at valuation. The possibility of quick turnover of stock is important.

In the matter of turnover, endeavour to get substantiation of figures quoted either by perusing a copy of the Income Tax return or books of account. From the turnover figure it is possible to estimate the gross profit, based on the usual percentage for the class of business involved. The figure usually adopted for the majority of businesses is 16 per cent. to 20 per cent. on turnover. Having arrived at the gross profit, obtain details of expenses such as rental, stationery, wrapping, light, power, advertising, delivery charges and any other expenses peculiar to the type of business being considered. You will then be able to arrive at an estimate of the nett profit.

Next, give full thought to the amount being paid for goodwill. This item is something intangible, and really represents the price you are selling to the seller for the right to serve the customers who are dealing with such sellers. Its valuation is based on the earning capacity of the business, and at the present time, with the large demand for businesses, it will be found that goodwill is quoted at a very high figure. If you can see that the amount of nett profit likely to be obtained from the business would enable you to recoup the amount paid for goodwill within two years, after taking out a reasonable return for your labour and the capital employed, it would be considered a fairly good proposition.

Lease of premises is extremely important. If a large amount of in-going is paid, the purchaser must be sure of continued tenancy for a period which would enable him to make good the amount so expended. Quite a few cases have occurred recently where landlords have been able to either raise the rents or dispose of premises, to the detriment of new purchasers of businesses.

A further point which must be considered is the continuance of existing businesses, as it must be realised that trading conditions for the past few years have been abnormal, especially in regard to suburban trading caused mainly through the inability of the large city shops to keep up deliveries, and also the existence of rationing and price-fixing.

Consideration must also be given to further capital required after purchase, for all merchants' accounts must be settled monthly and, if the business is of the credit type, there

is always delay in collection of shop-keepers' accounts, which would overlap the due date for payment of merchants' accounts.

As a final word, start right and keep proper books of account, thereby avoiding taxation troubles, and being in the position of knowing exactly how the business is progressing. Keep details of your fixtures, fittings and plant as depreciation on these is an allowable deduction. Goodwill, however, is not a deduction, and must be separated from the purchase price.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

"For the moment the problem of unemployment is one of the city, rather than the country," according to the opinion expressed in the report of the Rehabilitation Committee, which was submitted to the State Executive at a meeting held recently. "Of demobilised men," the report went on, "experience has shown that about 50 per cent. exercise their reinstatement rights; about 25 per cent. seek departmental help in finding work and the remainder pass beyond the ken of the Department of Labour and National Service." The employment service of the department is a growing one. Both employers and employees have to be educated to use it. When suitable work cannot be offered, the applicant is awarded either an unemployment benefit, paid by the Social Security Service, or, in the case of an ex-serviceman, a re-employment allowance, paid by the Re-establishment Department. The work test is not applied so strictly in the case of an ex-serviceman, some consideration being shown for the difficulty in settling down. In the placing of applicants for work, determination of suitability for specific occupations is a developing function of the department. Its staff numbers about 100, and every male officer is an ex-serviceman. At present, the department is carrying out adjustments and generally policing the preference clauses of the Re-establishment and Employment Act. Men who are in doubt as to their treatment under the preference clauses should get in

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touch with the department. The report states that the principle factors contributing to the present difficulties of placing returned men in jobs in the city appear to be: refusal of families from the country to go back, thus overloading the city problem; displacement of men by women; refusal of many men to resume heavy labour, such as brick-making, timber-hewing and the like; and the increased ambition for a calling of a higher occupational status.

FOR SECURITY

Another Loan Campaign has commenced and this time the Government is asking for £70,000,000 by April 16. This one is rightly named the Security Loan. There is a tremendous volume of procuring power in the pockets of the people today. This is good, but it also could be a tremendous danger. Money is only worth what it can buy and an uncontrolled spending orgy during a period of shortage of goods could ruin our financial economy by destroying the value of our currency. The best means of maintaining financial stability is to invest our money in Commonwealth Loans. This will also enable the Government to redirect the high incidence of taxation which obtains today, and to honour its pledges to the men and women of the fighting forces. We must play our part as a partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations in the struggle for security and solidarity and to do this we must see that our own house is in order. This is not a party political loan. Leaders of all parties recom mend the fullest support. What we need in this State is a very large number of subscribers. We may not be able to subscribe large amounts, but few people cannot afford to purchase at least one ten pound bond.

We remind potential subscribers that in subscribing they are not tying up their money. It can be cashed at any time by any bank, never was as easy as a 45 note and no questions are asked. We urge all to make their idle capital serve both themselves and their country.

Our individual responsibilities did not finish with the end of the war. We dare not, and will not, default on the promises we made to our fighters, most of whom are our members, when they stood with their bodies between us and a vicious enemy. Money must be found for their repatriation and rehabilitation.

The League has always given practical and generous assistance in the raising of money to pay for the war. Members have been in the vanguard of State, suburban and country organisations, and it is hoped that the fact that all the money raised will be used for war and rehabilitation purposes should spur members to even greater effort. After all, it's largely self-help.

GREETINGS FROM WAKEFIELD

By Anzac

(Our correspondent, Mr. Herbert Battey, served with the R.A.S.C. at Cape Helles, in the Gallipoli Campaign, and in Egypt. He formed many friendships with Australian soldiers in those strenuous days and, as his letter shows, he does not forget old friends after all these years.—Ed., L.P.)

The wife and I are alone this Sunday evening, January 20. We have seven sons and daughters, all married, 11 grandchildren. Our youngest lad is now in Austria, another son is in the Navy at Gombo. We two are in the serene and yellow periods of our lives, and it's our golden wedding day next November... What memories! as one sits by the fire on this bitter, cold, frosty night! I think of those days of 30 years ago: Anzac Beach, Cape Helles, Mudros, Hell Spit Corner. Who ever thought we'd be alive and kicking 30 years after that immortal episode! Tonight, I wish to tell you about you in The Listening Post, The Reveille and The Western Mail; we admire your fighting spirit in seeing to it that the man who has served and endured receives a just reward.

Your organisations seems to me to be more spirited than those in this country. More power to your elbows. Fight the good fight for your comrades.

Your Mother Country has been very lax since the World War I, especially in the housing problem. This city of 40,000 inhabitants built fine county councils, towns halls and churches, but neglected to clear away the wretched slums that existed under the shadows of those buildings. My comrades and I salute Australia for what she has done towards saving the Mother Country from destruction, and also for your magnificent help in sending food to our shores. Grave would have been the position after we had endured so long if you had not come to the rescue.

May God bless each one of you, Diggers and Anzacs. May your harvest be abundant. God speed the plough; I have a niece whose husband has a farm at Gabbit, and two nephews have another farm near there, so I know your trials; but I know full well that you will do all you can for your Mother Country in time of need.

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It is a far cry from the exchange of diplomatic representatives with Chile and Australia's present shortage of superphosphates, but it should remind one that Chilean nitrates have always played a big role in the world's economy. Before 1914, both Germany and Britain accumulated large piles of Chilean guano, but not enough. No sooner had war been declared against the Kaiser than both countries realized how badly they had underestimated the amount of explosives that would be needed. The German Navy tried to blockade the Chilean coast to prevent the British from getting any more. The British Navy, however, had the same thought at the time, and the British Navy won. When Germany was cut off from Chilean nitrates, she remembered that her scientists knew a way of kishhing nitrogen from the air. They got from the air all the nitrogen they needed for the duration of the war, both for fertilizer and for high explosives.

Large areas of Italy were deliberately flooded by the Germans and turned into malaria-plagued swamps. Thousands of Allied soldiers contracted malaria in a particularly deadly form. Mr. P. G. Shute, assistant military officer to the British Ministry of Health, flew to Italy with 1,000 mosquitoes in a muslin bag. There, he told 68 British soldiers in a hospital, that if they allowed the mosquito to become infected by biting them they would save the lives of thousands of their comrades. Every man volunteered. Back in England the War Office appealed for human ‘guinea pigs’ from fit fighting troops. Two hundred were bitten and contracted malaria. On these men Mr. Shute tried out new drugs, which were to replace quinine. So successful were the experiments that quinine, in improved form, was flown to Italy and our troops were restored to full health and strength.

A young officer, who had escaped from an Italian prison camp to Switzerland, cabled to his father: "Prodigal hopes soon return home shortly. Anything you wish bring with me?" His father cabled back: "Delighted hear news. Bring fatted calf."

A Sunday school teacher had told the kindergarten class about the birth of St. John the Baptist, and was endeavouring to reconstruct the story with the aid of pictures.

"Now, who is that?" she asked, pointing to a costume of the well-known Archangel Gabriel hovering in the top left-hand corner. "Paratroop," the youngsters replied.

One reason why the Japanese found very few collaborators in occupied Burma was the entire lack of sympathy for the Japanese troops. The people of Burma was prepared to admit that the Japanese was a fine soldier but they cordially detested him as an individual. The food rations he was given were disgusting to the more educated Burmese. It seems to have been their habit to mix all the rations up together, into a sort of pig-swall, and eat them so. When crows were short, the Japanese office had their meals served up in bed-pans. One story is told of a Japanese soldier eating a tin of furniture polish, thinking it was jam, and liking it. The Japanese civilians, on the other hand, were easier to get on with. They dressed neatly and ate in a civilized manner.

Many of them spoke English with a strong American accent. What was more to the point, they were more considerate in their dealings with the people of the occupied country.

Somewhere in England there is an R.A.F. flight-surgeon who fell 18,000 feet from a burning Lancaster without a parachute, and did not break a single bone! He has a certificate from German doctors to say his story is true. He was a rear-gunner in a Lancaster which burst into flames when hit by flak. The flames swept down the fuselage, burning his parachute and scorching him. With the choice of a slow death by burning or a quick one by leaving the plane, he decided to get out of his gun turret and jump. The next thing he knew he was in a hospital bed, surrounded by a number of German doctors. He was suffering from burns around the face. He was badly bruised, but not a bone was broken. The Germans wanted to know where he had hidden his parachute. He explained that he had gone out of the plane without one, lost consciousness and knew no more. They then revealed that he had hit a tree which had broken his fall. He then fell in a deep snow bank beneath it—more than three miles without a broken bone.

One of the many stories told about Field Marshal Montgomery concerns an incident that occurred when he was G.O.C., South-Eastern Command. In a list of films available for the troops, he saw one entitled "The Red Army. He sent for it and ordered all officers in his command to a compulsory parade to see the film. The day came. He went on the stage before the screen and gave a vivid and informative lecture on the importance of the Russian war machine. He asked all to pay the closest attention. The theatre darkened. On the screen flashed the title, "The Red Army: The Story of the Life of Ants."

16th Battalion Association

The social evening at Anzac House on February 13 was a complete success. About 200 members and their wives and friends attended. All enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and many members remarked on the way the evening was run. The supper was a surprise. There were platters of sandwiches and various dishes. The committee thanks all those who helped to make the evening such a success. The next get-together will be on Anzac Day. A good meal for the comrades is desired. Committee members, please note the change of address in this issue.

ANZAC SERVICE SHEETS

Sub-branches are reminded that Anzac Service Folders, similar to those used at the Explanade service but with local particulars on the front page, are procurable from the Imperial Printing Co., Ltd., 397 Hay Street, Perth.

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Personalities

Lieut.-Colonel M. R. Jeanes, M.C., of Adelaide, who commanded the 2/43rd Battalion (Ninth Division) in the North Borneo campaign, recently visited Perth and was present at the reception given to Mr. Tom Starcevic, V.C., who won his decoration while with the 2/43rd in Borneo, by the State Executive at

Le-Col. M. R. JEANES, M.C.

Anzac House. Lieut.-Colonel Jeanes was an original member of the battalion and won his own decoration by leading a brilliant raid against the Africa Corps during the early critical days of El Alamein—it was, in fact, the first blow by the Ninth Division against Rommel in 1942.

The March meeting of the Mr. Lawley-Inglwood sub-branch was a special visitors' night and as such produced a proportionately large attendance. Nearly 200 were present to see the presentation of the League's Certificate of Merit to Mr. Claude Taylor, the Chief Clerk of Swan Barracks. During his many years' service in that position—and before—he has deserved well of returned men, as he has invariably maintained the policy of preference and carried it out to a degree which was almost the maximum. With him the returned men got full preference whenever it was in his power to give it. Furthermore, his vast knowledge of rules and regulations, etc., has always been available to the League through the proper channels. The presentation was made by the State President (Mr. J. Anderson), who remarked, amongst other things, that the certificate he was presenting that night was only the twelfth awarded in this State.

Claremont has among its members a man with an eagle eye. This eye has found its way among the new members and dug them out for various jobs. Harvey Rae is one of the champions at finding a 'way of giving the younger members an interest in their social duties and to see that when there is a job to be done. Anyhow every cloud has a silver lining and Harvey has found that with so many new chaps, he has created a rod for himself in the way of being a voting power.

Many readers will be pleased to know that Rupert Holmes of the Claremont sub-branch is on the mend. Rupert is a late member of the R.A.A.F. and has been in Bethesda Hospital with pneumonia.

A jovial young cuss named Alf Jenneway, of the Claremont sub-branch, has an acquisitive way with him. Alf was a member of the 2/23rd A.B.O.F. Park Engineers came back with a nice dose of Malaria and every now and then takes a trip to 110 A.G.H. at Hollywood. Alf's latest turned out to be rather painful as when he was in hospital he collected a large and fierce bunch of boils and for a few days was only to be seen looking over his shoulder. However, we have good pleasure in reporting Alf back on the job and doing good work on the committee.

Claremont sub-branch has now among its members a printer in the person of Mr. C. H. Wade. Friend Wade has been in the army for a long time and is anxious to get back into civilian harness.

Claremont sub-branch reports that Mr. Anderson, a member from the 1914-18 war is out of hospital and back at meetings again. There is something about an old soldier isn't there?

Major Hugh K. MacLean, who was well-known in this State before the war, died suddenly in the Royal Melbourne Hospital, early this month, after a sudden illness. He came to this State before the First World War and settled on the land. Before the recent war, he was secretary of the National Party of Western Australia. He served in the 1914-18 war with the 44th Battalion, and in the recent war, he went overseas again as Assistant Commissioner for the Red Cross Society in the Middle East, arriving in Egypt in March, 1945, with the 3rd Australian Division. When he returned to Australia, he joined the army and saw further service in New Guinea. At the time of his final illness, he was attached to a special unit in Melbourne.

Mr. E. J. Williams, who has been appointed British High Commissioner in Australia, was secretary of the No-Conscription Fellowship, and a member of the "Send-Off Russia" Council, during the War against the Kaiser. A war, record like that should certainly earn him the service men and women of Australia.

A hard-working member of the Mt. Hawthorn-North Leederville sub-branch, Les. Longbottom, has also been on the sick list. S. George, Bill Scales and Tom May are still progressing, while Ted Bren-Turner has taken a further step along the road to health. We join with Mr. Hawthorn and other pals in wishing them complete restoration to health.

Former journalist, Keith D. Russell, is the latest returned man of the recent war to join the staff of the Australian Broadcasting Commission in Perth. He had five years eight months of service with the R.A.A.F. in various areas, including the South-West Pacific, and is now a member of the Subiaco sub-branch.

Members of the 12th Battalion will regret to learn of the death of John Woods Whittle, V.C., D.C.M., who died at his home in Glebe Point, Sydney, on March 4. Born in Tasmania in 1882, he served with the Second Imperial Bushmen in the South African War of 1899-1902 and with the 12th Bn. in the First World War, during which he won his two decorations. Between the wars, he served with the Remount Depot in the Territory of A.A.S.C. at Hobart. He was a hefty, genial man with a host of friends wherever he went. In his spare moments he was a good all-round athlete, and held for a while the amateur heavyweight boxing championship of Tasmania. He was awarded the V.C. in 1917 for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty near Boursies, France. He left a widow, three daughters and one son. Another son was killed in action during the recent war.

Recent appointments to the staff of the Federal Office are those of Mr. J. C. Neagle as General Secretary, and Mr. J. A. K. Wicks as Assistant General Secretary. Mr. Neagle was State President of the Victorian Province, and one of the delegates to the Federal Congress, which was held in Perth last year. He has a sterling record of many years of League work. Mr. Wicks was recently discharged from the Army after service with the 2/28th Bn.

Vacancies on the State Executive were caused by the recent resignations of Messrs. R. A. Wood and C. R. Cornish from the positions of trustee and delegate respectively. Mr. H. E. Smith, a former member of the State Executive, who has had vast experience in League matters, has been appointed trustee, while Mr. J. Whitley, president of the North-East Fremantle sub-branch, succeeds Mr. Cornish as a delegate to the Executive.
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Mrs. Prue, secretary of the Victoria Park auxiliary, has been having a happy time recently. Her daughter Ronnie has returned from Sydney, while daughter Barbara has presented her mother with a grandson. Before they enlisted in double harness for the duration, Barbara and Ronnie were V.A.D.'s. Their brother, Flight-Sgt. Jim Prue, is home for discharge.

Wedding bells have been ringing for daughters of members of the Victoria Park auxiliary. Miss Jean Fisher became Mrs. Len Harvey. Miss Susan Tollefson (late of A.W.A.S.) is now Mrs. Arthur Price. Her husband is a returned P.O.W. We wish them all the best for the future.

Gloucester Park sub-branch and the 32nd Battalion Association have both suffered from a visit by the Grim Reaper. Among the comrades who answered the Last Call were Isaac Powell and Bill Podmore, both members of the Old 32nd. For many years Isaac was the tram driver who ran the trains along the different metropolitan and suburban routes. For the past two years he had been employed at the carbarn at Isaac was to be seen propelling trams along the leaves a son in the Merchant Navy and three brothers, sister, Ronnie has returned from discharge.

Sadller, Lewla was in charge by all who knew him.

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W.A. Aged Sailors & Soldiers' Relief Fund
Writing the other day to a sub-branch president, Colonel Collett, who initiated a fund and is one of its trustees, said:—

Your inquiry as to the purpose and conditions of the W.A. Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Relief Fund prompts me to set out the full case for the League.

In the early days of the W.A. Branch those persons occupying its responsible offices realised that in order to fulfil one of its main purposes, i.e., to afford prompt and adequate aid to comrades who might encounter adversity, substantial means must be provided.

At that period, the annual Poppy Day appeal, instituted by the Prince of Wales, had not been placed upon a satisfactory basis; consequently, the League had to depend for amelioration funds mainly upon donations from the public and the proceeds of lotteries conducted with popular approval and support, by the League itself. But, this latter process came to an end in 1932.

In that year the State Parliament passed the Lotteries Control Bill, and from then onwards lotteries were a government concern. However, the committee in control, recognising the recurring nature of the calls upon the League funds, has since made much appreciated annual grants toward meeting them. The depression years from 1929 onwards made heavy inroads into the League's resources.

Having regard to the then probable future responsibilities of the League, the annual State congress of the time approved of the creation of an Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Relief Fund to be financed by the absorption of 50 per cent of the net proceeds of all Poppy Day appeals, together with such gifts, donations and bequests as might be made to it.

The fund was opened and later, in 1932, incorporated by Act of Parliament. The body of trustees appointed consisted of the State treasurer, the Registrar of Friendly Societies and of a representative of the League.

Broadly put, the purposes of the fund are: (a) To assist in such manner and to such an amount as might best meet the circumstances of each case brought under notice, e.g., by gifts in kind and/or in money; (b) by contributions enabling homes to be retained or provided; and (c) by augmenting pensions by the regular payment of appropriate amounts.

From the fund may be assisted not only financial members of the League, but also all such persons as are eligible to become members in respect to the 1914-18 war.

The promoters of the fund had it in mind to raise a sum of £50,000 so that its earnings might be sufficient, without drawing upon the capital, to meet all normal demands. The Act prescribed that for the space of ten years after its formation it should not be operated upon. However, the expected "building-up" of the principle was not realised owing to the impact of the depression years and the demands of the war which commenced in 1939.

After 1940 recourse could be had to the fund but the annual State congress, in that and following years, decided that the capital should be allowed to grow and continue to earn. Other funds in hand, were, it was believed, sufficient to meet demands of a nature not attributable to war service. Service pensions (first paid in 1936) are now assessed at 12½/ weekly for the man, 22/- for his wife, and a lower rate for any children over 16 years of age. The provision of this pension lessened the need for immediate calls upon the A.S. & S.R. Fund, nor was the augmentation of existing pensions found to be easy because of the incidence of the 'meats test'.

Notwithstanding these factors which have done much to remove the need for a well-established relief fund, the League takes the long view—borne of its past experience—and I am of the opinion that there still remain strong reasons for pressing on in the search for additions to the capital amount.

Many hundreds of the veterans of the war of 1914-18 are nearing the age when such type of aid, extended with discretion and true sympathy, will be most appreciated and confer the maximum of benefit. There are, too, 40,000 potential new members of the League who are only just laying down their arms. With an amendment of the W.A.A.S. & S.R.F. Act they also will be eligible for participation in any relief available. This fact should be an inducement to new members to assist in building up the capital sum to such an amount as will enable the League, in the future, to ensure help on a scale in keeping with the dignity of its reputation and the worthiness of its cause.
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The use of the A.S. & S. Relief Fund has also been closely considered in relation to the provision of home for veterans. For the erection of such homes a substantial sum, (£29,000) has recently been collected by special appeal. There may now be sufficient monies in hand for a commencement of the work but, in addition, the necessity exists for arrangements to meet annual charges for maintenance. The trustees of the A.S. & S. Relief Fund regard such a project with sympathetic concern and have set aside £9,000 as a first contribution.

The following are the current figures in relation to the Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Relief Fund:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount collected</td>
<td>£25,977 3 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest earned</td>
<td>5,275 16 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£31,233 0 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Invested in Commonwealth Bonds: £30,300 0 0 0
Cash in Bank: £933 0 2
Total: £31,233 0 2

The trustees of the fund of the League are governed in their actions by the laws of the land and have a duty to perform in ensuring that appropriate investment is made of monies not required for immediate use.

On the whole I think that you will agree that the purposes and conditions of this fund may be regarded with satisfaction by every member of the League. It is not intended that it should be looked upon as the source of a system of doles, but rather as a means by which a strong and virile organisation of the future may confer valued and lasting benefits upon those of our comrades and/or their dependents who may encounter misfortune.

A last word on League funds in general. It is as well to bear in mind that monies are not collected for the benefit of the individual members. On the contrary cash is required for the furtherance of the objects laid down in the League's constitution. No such thing can occur as the payment of "dividends". When the League breaks up—if it ever does—the balance of funds will be disposed of in a manner already determined and provided for in the constitution.

**POLICING PREFERENCE**

Most League members will agree that it was high time some departmental authority was charged with the work of policing the preference clauses of the Re-establishment and Employment Act. That work has recently been taken over by the Legal Advice Bureau of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. So far nobody has bothered very much about policing the preference clauses but to this end a good start might be made with several of the Commonwealth departments, especially Mr. Dedman's own Department of Post-War Reconstruction and Mr. Calwell's Department of Information, which have provided high-salaried but well-protected jobs for so many who were young enough and fit enough to have been running some of the risks of the war. During the recent censure motion debate in the House of Representatives, Major-General Rankine mentioned the glaring example of a non-soldier of doubtful patriotism who had been given an important job in the Munitions Department—and that job was not even advertised!

---

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Charles Herbert Simpson, who is a Liberal Party candidate for the Central Province in the coming election for the Legislative Council, was born in Victoria and came to Western Australia in 1902. He went to Rhodesia in February, 1914, and was there when war broke out in the following August. An incident prevented him from enlisting before 1916, in which year he paid his fare to England with the intention of joining the A.I.F. Unable to do this, he enlisted in the Royal Engineers, with whom he served until the end of the war. He returned to the State in 1920. Now 58 years old, he is a resident of Pindar, where he is in business as a general agent, besides being postmaster for the district. Mr. Simpson has a considerable knowledge of the Greenough district. He has lived for one year in Meekatharra, two years in Youanmi, one year at Paynesville and 24 years at Pindar. He is secretary of the Mullewa Agricultural Society.

Lawrence, Frederick Withers, the Liberal candidate for the West Province of the Legislative Council, was born in Bunbury 49 years ago and was educated there. He has lived in Western Australia all his life, with the exception of the period of his war service in 1914-18. He served overseas with the A.I.F. for three years. In 1936, he commenced another period of military service, joining

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At the outbreak of the recent war he was called up for duty with Coast Defence Units and ended this service with the rank of captain. For ten years he was a director of the South Suburban Omnibus Company and is now cashier of the Metropolitan Omnibus Company.

Mr. D. D. Johnstone has announced his intention of nominating as an Independent candidate for the South-West Province of the Legislative Council. Dave, who lives at Harvey, is a well known and popular member of the League. Born at Port Pirie, South Australia, 48 years ago, he went looking for the Kaiser’s scalp when only 17 years old. His service was mainly with the 9th Pioneer Bn. At Ypres, in 1917, he transferred to the 9th Divisional Signal Coy., finishing the war as a despatch rider. The war was followed by a spell of farming in the Mallee country of Victoria and across the Murray River in New South Wales. He came to this State in 1929. After varied experience in the wheat belt, he bought a property in the Harvey district in 1931. Since then, he has taken a keen interest in public affairs, having been a member of many committees. He has been secretary of the Harvey sub-branch for ten years, a member of the State Executive for four years, of the State Executive’s Land Committee for five years, president of the No. 1 District Committee for three years, and secretary of that body for four years. He was a delegate to the Federal Congress in 1940. In recent years he was one of the original members of the Harvey-Drakesbrook District War Agricultural Committee. Among the interests in which he is still engaged are the Grade Herd Testing Scheme, a State-wide competition which is Dave’s own baby. He is a director of the South-West Co-operative Dairy Farmers Ltd. for the area north of the Collie River. One of the objectives of the “co-op.” is to deliver best quality milk to the city consumer while paying the producer the maximum return. The milk is to be transported in bulk by road transport tanker. A man who has pulled his weight in so many and such varied activities should certainly be an acquisition to the State Parliament. Apart from this, we wish Dave the best of luck for his own sake, for he is the prince of good fellows.

OFFICIAL WAR HISTORY

The Minister for the Interior (Mr. Johnson) has announced the appointment of Major Dudley McCarthy and Squadron Leader John Herington as writers of volumes of the Official History of Australia in the War of 1939-45.

Major McCarthy, now 34, is a graduate in Arts and Education of the University of Sydney who, after graduation, sought experience rather than security. After a period of service with the administration of New Guinea on the Morobe goldfields and along the Shipping lanes, he returned to Australia and became a teacher of History and English at a high school and a freelance contributor to various magazines. In 1938, however, he left Australia again and the year immediately before the war he spent largely in Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies as a member of the staff of Quantas Empire Airways.

Major McCarthy enlisted in the 2/17th Bn. A.I.F. early in 1940, was later commissioned and sailed for the Middle East in October of that year. He served with his battalion in Palestine, Egypt, Cyrenaica and, after graduation from the A.I.F. (M.E.) Junior Staff School, with the 6th Division in Syria where he was promoted captain.

An interesting, if professionally risky, experiment at this time was his return to freelance journalism with a distinguished and widely-discussed article, “Retreat to Tobruk.” published in the August 13, 1941, issue of the Sydney Bulletin. The experiment was not officially approved and was not repeated.

McCarthy’s return to Australia with H.Q. 6th Division early in 1942 was followed by his promotion to major and service as G.S.O. 4, on the staff of both General Her- ring and General Stevens in Darwin, during the period which followed the initial Japanese raids on the Australian mainland. There followed a short period in New Guinea as an observer during the Kokoda campaign and return to the Northern Territory as brigade major, 23rd Infantry Brigade. From the beginning of 1944, except for a further course at the Staff School, where he graduated from the Senior Wing, he spent the remainder of the war as Australian Liaison Officer with the Sixth U.S. Army and in the Solomons with the Second Corps and the 3rd Division.

Major McCarthy is now on the staff of the Universities Commission.

Squadron Leader Herington, who is 29, will write the volume dealing with the R.A.A.F. in Europe and the Middle East.

After receiving the degree of M.A. with honours in history at the University of Cambridge in 1935, Major Herington worked with the Child Emigration Society until his enlistment in the R.A.A.F. in 1940. In the course of his work, he spent much time at the three Fairbridge model schools in Australia.

Squadron Leader Herington served as a Coastal Command pilot in England until, towards the end of the war, he was transferred to the R.A.A.F. war history section in Lon- don, where he has been preparing a preliminary narrative of the Australian share in the work of the Coastal Command.
FEBRUARY 13, 1946

At a special general meeting of the State Executive, at 7.30 p.m. on February 13, Mr. H. E. McKinnon was elected President, Mr. H. A. Wood, whose resignation was announced in an earlier issue, was re-elected.

Rehabilitation Committee—The rehabilitation committee reported on numerous meetings of committees and sub-committees, and also on individual investigations carried out especially at the league office. The cases related to sales of old service vehicles were of a somewhat different type from the applications for licences; bread zoning; fining industry and the purchase of export goods, then and training.

The State President announced that Mr. Coombs would meet the President of the Anzac House on Monday, and that Mr. Coombs would meet two representatives from the Executive at a conference on February 16, which would again arise by representatives of employers and employees. Messrs. Jen and Leslie were delegated to represent the Executive.

Land Matters.—The report of the land committee mentioned a number of cases for applications for farms, and the action taken by the various states in regard to the farmers' request that their properties be purchased by the state. The report also referred to the decision of the Federal Court in the case of Grimsby v. the Commonwealth and the government's intention to submit an appeal to the High Court.

War Service Homes.—A report dealt with the exceptions of the Federal Government in the 1946 building programme; statistics of the Commonwealth and State rental scheme, and a request that the government's per capita expenditure should be increased to 75 per cent, and that the amount of the advance be increased to £1,120.

Trustees.—The report of the Trustees related to eight cases for relief, and a request for assistance from other states. The report was adopted and approval was given for a dance to be held at Anzac House in aid of the appeal.

Finance.—After discussion with Mrs. McKinnon and Mrs. S. B. Smith, the committee decided that one half of each meal served at the Anzac club on Sunday evening, February 10, should be sold at 2d, and expenditure was £2.39.

Pension.—The following motion was agreed to: That in view of the outstanding assessment appeals awaiting determination, the numbers of which have increased considerably, the current assessment tribunal be appointed in each State. It was resolved to point out to the Government the saving in time and cost that would result from this arrangement.

Re-establishment.—The report of the Re-establishment Division referred to the establishment of a new division to deal with the re-establishment of former military personnel. It was decided that the division should be set up on a national basis, and that the matter would be brought up in the House of Commons very soon it was suggested that an amendment to the Commonwealth Constitution would be given if the Government appeared inclined to refer the matter to Federal Executive.

Resignation: Mr. Cornish.—Mr. Cornish person- ally was not in sympathy with the decision. Mr. Wood was instructed to write to the President, tendering his resignation with regret.

February 27, 1946

At the meeting of the State Executive on February 27, the following officers were elected: H. E. Smith and J. Herlihy—were re-elected.

Pensions.—A report was sub-missed by the committee that the amount of money paid out in pensioners' benefits to members of the R.A.F. and the R.N.Z.A.F. in the last financial year was £16,400. Expenditure was £2.39.

Re-establishment Committee.—A report was sub-missed by the committee that the amount of money paid out in pensioners' benefits to members of the R.A.F. and the R.N.Z.A.F. in the last financial year was £16,400. Expenditure was £2.39.

War Service Homes.—A report was sub-missed by the committee that the amount of money paid out in pensioners' benefits to members of the R.A.F. and the R.N.Z.A.F. in the last financial year was £16,400. Expenditure was £2.39.
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THE LISTENING POST FOR MARCH, 1946

Sub-Branch Activities

PUBLIC SERVICE

The New Victory Year has opened favourably, and the enthusiastic president (Mr. L. A. Robertson) has a strong committee to aid him in carrying on the good work. The sale of poppies last year was a good effort, nearly 1,500 being sold. Regret was expressed at the loss of a veteran member, the late Robert Tyler. There was a large attendance at the annual meeting in December. The next meeting was held on January 15. After business had been dispensed with, reference to rehabilitation was brought forward from the previous meeting. A letter was read from the daughter and family of the late Mr. R. Tyler. The daughter would like the opportunity of assisting the sub-branch whenever possible, and this offer was very much appreciated by all members. It has now been proposed to conclude each meeting with an open individual discussion, or a debate on alternative meetings. At the meeting on February 19, the individual discussion was on Rehabilitation.

DENMARK

Many returned men of both wars attended the meeting on February 19. Discussing the future, the elder men want the younger men to take office, whilst the latter are a bit diffident about coming forward just yet. A working compromise in the shape of a blending of the two was adopted. The retiring president, (Mr. E. Sorrier) said that pressure of business would prevent him from seeking re-election. This decision was received with deep regret. Mr. L. Stewart, (the secretary) was persuaded to continue in that office. The majority of the other office-bearers elected were returned men of the recent war. The soldier settlement scheme has brought an increase of returned men, and a greatly increased membership is expected.

SHACELTON-LOWLYN

Every boy and girl loves a picnic, especially if it is complete with all the trimmings. Members were fully aware of this, when they determined to organise an affair for the kiddies.
would remember for many a day. It was decided to call all school age, and pre-school age, from neighbouring districts, such as Panjan, Kwolyn, Shackleton, Bikin and Yarding, together in Shackleton, where the president of the sub-branch would distribute to each child, a Victory Medal. There were over 150 kiddies lined up on the "parade ground"; and the president fired a few questions at them on our Aus-trail, such as who was our last P.M., etc. They were too sharp for him though, and came through unscathed. Each child then filed past and received a medal from his hand. The crowd then moved over to a nearby sports ground, where races of all descriptions were run. Restrictions made it impossible to buy the required quantity of sweets to put a bag in each child's hand. (There was close on 200, including the toddlers) so members of the auxiliary came to the rescue with large quantities of home-made lollies. The food controller had been approached and he had given permission for a can of ice cream, and one of polar frost, to be given out amongst the youngins. As they developed a thirst, they were refreshed with a mug of soft drink, finally topping off the day with an orange or two each.

The children weren't the only ones who had all the catering done for them. The auxiliary ladies kept right on after their sweet-making, preparing and serving at a very busy afternoon tea to the 100 or more parents who also attended. Yes it was a big day in Shackleton, but members of the sub-branch can rest assured, that all concerned, thoroughly enjoyed it.

SHENTON PARK

There was a good attendance, including a number of new members, at the meeting on Saturday, February 6. The financial statement for 1945, revealed a healthy position. A pleasant surprise was the presentation of an illuminated model of the State War Memorial, set in a polished cabinet. This was the gift of the sub-branch's auxiliary. A hearty vote of thanks to the ladies was given with acclamation by the president C. Kleinman suggested the members should meet fortnightly, instead of monthly as at present, and that one night should be a social meeting. Activities planned for 1946 include a drive for the building of a memorial hall and clubrooms. An energetic committee is on the job, but the support of every member is essential. A vote in aid of the funds is to be held on the evening of Friday, March 25, on a block in Onslow Road.

MANJIMUP

President, Louis Thompson and secretary George Meara dealt with business very speedily at a well-attended meeting of old and new members on February 15. This was to leave the way open for the discussion of a club licence on the following night. The sub-branch has invited the State President, also Mr. F. Connolly and the Member for the district (Mr. E. K. Hooper, M.L.A.), to visit Manjimup on a Saturday night that will suit the visitors. When George Meara announced that membership had reached the 320 mark, he was warmly complimented on his persistent drive to keep up membership figures.

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Nine new members were welcomed at the meeting. Members were pleased to hear from Gus Duffield, a former member, who wished to be remembered to old friends. The cash levy collection amounted to £110, the War Veterans Home Appeal, £165. Food for Britain, £21/5/. Grateful acknowledgement was made of the reimbursement of a sum of £35, which had been advanced by the sub-branch as premium on the life insurance policy of a late member. The policy of £378 was on the verge of lapsing, when the sub-branch came to the rescue. As a result, the daughter of the late member received the sum of £212. The executor, an ex-member, thanked the sub-branch for its practical assistance in a time of need. At a meeting of 80 members on February 15, it was decided to appoint a committee to go into the matter of acquiring club premises.

MELVILLE

The annual meeting was held on February 14, and there was a good attendance. Six new members were welcomed. The sub-branch now has 106 members. One of the new members, Mr. W. Jones, received the P.M. at a recent investiture at Government House. He won the decoration while serving with the R.A.N. Harry Moore, who has been secretary for many years has been appointed welfare officer. For the past five years, he has done an outstanding job as officer of the Sportmen's Hostel in Murray Street. Work has started on clearing the land purchased by the sub-branch for a new hall and sports ground.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

The Airforce Association now has branches all over Australia. According to a recent estimate membership was more than 60,000 a month, of whom 5,000 are in Western Australia. A full-time State Secretary has been appointed, with a salaried staff. A magazine is to be pub-
NORTH EAST FREMANTLE

At the meeting on February 25, 143 new members were enrolled, and were welcomed by our president, Jack Herlihy, who by the way, has been elected to the State Executive. The sub-branch is pleased with Jack's elevation, and tender congratulations. Our secretary, All Doust, has gone for a couple of weeks on a well-deserved holiday in the fresh and invigorating air of Mandurah. We wish him a good and well-earned holiday, and hope that he will be greatly benefited by the rest from his arduous duties. At a recent meeting, the sub-branch acted on an amplifier system which should be a boon to members at future meetings, as it will enable those at the back of the hall to hear the business which is being transacted, a thing which was almost impossible before. The financial report indicated a sound, healthy condition. The sick reports were again most favourable, and we hope that these members whose names are on the sick list will soon be on the road to good health again. All other reports indicate that all projects are proceeding favourably and should soon be in full swing.

It is pleasing to note the increased attendance of committees lately, and we hope members will continue to attend in still greater numbers and so help to maintain interest in sub-branch activities.

NORTH PERTH

Financial membership at the general meeting on February 18 exceeded 600 and a good inflow of new members is evident in the excellent attendances at monthly meetings. An excellent spirit of co-operation prevails between the various sub-committees, of which there are a number operating. They include a building committee, whose objective is primarily the erection of a fitting memorial hall in North Perth. In close support of the building committee is a finance committee and an entertainment committee who are doing yeoman service. There is also a sports committee, the members of which are always on the lookout for sporting talent and constructive suggestions to improve and enlarge the sporting activities of the sub-branch. A problems committee consisting of a panel of sub-branch members who are fully competent to advise on problems arising out of pensions, medical, industrial, and housing matters, etc., too numerous to mention individually. And last but by no means least, is the hospital visiting committee, dedicated to the welfare of less fortunate comrades who are on the sick list and confined to their homes, or in a hospital.

PINGLEY

Saturday, January 26, was an important day in the history of the sub-branch. The first reunion in five years was held. Consequently, it was the first occasion on which men who served on the staff of the sub-branch, as the committee of the one sub-branch, eighty members were present. The State Executive was represented by Mr. R. Sten and Mr. G. Morton. Other visitors came from Narrogin, Brookton, and Pemberton. Mr. Herlihy welcomed the auxiliary officers in his usual efficient and in the provision of good things for the more nutritive parts of the minds. The committee have contributed greatly to the success of the re-union. During the afternoon Mr. Sten addressed a meeting held in the Masonic Hall, Robarts Road, 9 p.m. A first-class orchestra will perform, and tickets can be obtained from any member of the committee.
and young members are taking a keen interest in the work. The Crippled Children, who have just finished their camp at the Naval Base, sent the sub-branch a letter of thanks for the piano and five canteen donations some weeks ago. A dance organised by the social committee brought in over £50 for the Food for Britain appeal. Tom Shaw, who is going to sea again, has resigned from the dance committee. His loss was felt by the sub-branch, which met on Monday night, to elect a new president for Mr. J. M. Goodfellow. The meeting was called to elect a new president for the year. The sub-branch is well attended, and the new president was re-elected.

RETURNED ARMY SUBS

At a meeting on February 7, the following officers were appointed: President, Mr. G. J. Croasdale; secretary, Mr. E. J. Croasdale; treasurer, Miss Ashton, secretary, Miss Lunny; and Misses Davies, England and Gigg. The patriotic function committee is making good progress, and there will be a good attendance of both old and new members.

MOSMAN PARK

President Bill Crowe presided over a meeting of about 50 in February. Business was disposed of quickly, and two members of the State Executive gave valuable information to members. Mr. Tom Stan deal with rehabilitation problems and E. A. Davies told of the work he was doing in the sub-branch with the welfare of members.

CALTINER

In the absence of the chairman and vice-chairman, Jim McKenzie, the meeting held on February 23. There were 29 present, including new members, who are taking a great interest in sub-branch affairs. The sub-branch will meet on the 1st of each month to consider the sub-branch welfare, and the committee is doing well in this new district. Many calls are made for hard work, and all members are expected to turn up on time. Forty-four members are being enrolled at the February meeting, and 16 are expected to attend the March meeting. The committee is doing well, and the fund will benefit considerably from the committee's efforts.

ARNADEL

Mr. Spencer Gwyne presided over a general meeting on February 13. The financial statement showed a credit of £557, and a building fund account of £548. For the convenience of Byford members, the sub-branch will meet on the 1st of each month to consider the work of the sub-branch. The sub-branch will meet on the 1st of each month to consider the work of the sub-branch.

MADURAH

The annual general meeting was held on February 21. The sub-branch held a reception for a new president. The sub-branch is well attended, and the new president was re-elected.

KATANNING

More than 50 were present at the annual general meeting on February 15. Preceding the meeting, the sub-branch held a reception for a new president. The sub-branch is well attended, and the new president was re-elected.

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The Treasurer gave a good response to the record to servicemen’s homes. Touching on the subject of rehabilitation. Among other things, Mr. Anderson gave a clear and decisive explanation of the reason why the League had re-trained from entering politics. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded.

**MT. LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD**

The League’s Certificate of Service was presented to Mr. Claud Taylor, Chief Clerk, Swan Barracks, at the March meeting. The State President (Mr. A. P. Riding) and Mr. H. F. Wynne introduced the re-arranging of the hall, by putting the official table on the stage and using an amplifier, was a big improvement. A picnic cricket match and sports meeting was arranged for March 14. In the cricket match, thirty over 25, of those under that vigorous age. Each innings was limited to two hours, with races in the interval. Those interested in cricket should get in touch with the captain (Tom Cooper), Martin Lynch or Jim Hammond, as a good team will be needed for the pennant games next season. The next committee meeting will be on March 26 and the general meeting on April 3.

**WEST LEEDERVILLE-WEBLEY**

This sub-branch continues to hold fortnightly meetings on the second Monday of each month. Last meeting was held on March 11, when there was another large attendance. 17 new members being introduced by the president. Twelve new members had also been introduced at the meeting on February 25. We now have 794 men on the roll, of which 681 are financial. The sub-branch’s finances are in excellent order. The big move to augment the building fund is well under way and we hope the financial thermometer will rise considerably during the next three weeks. We are glad to welcome back George Newton, Montepic and J. Campbell, who have been on the sick list. Anzac Day arrangements are well in hand and the usual parade and ceremony will take place, Capt. Herd being appointed marsh. Mr. E. Zeiffert will deliver the address. An appeal is made to the residents of the district to send a gift to our hon. secretary the names of any of our comrades who have passed on so that we may complete the register of the honoured fallen. We are indebted to the Relax Concert party who gave us a community concert. The sub-branch netted £136. Fortnightly dances are held in the Perth Town Hall and the sub-branch’s building fund benefits considerably. We are sorry to hear that Jack Harvey, one of the Old Brigade, is on the sick list. Regarding cricket: Roy Johnston is moulding our team and any members interested are asked to get in touch with him. There are matches every Sunday and we will be in the competitions next season. Put moves to Anzac Day indicate that the local church services will probably be held on Sunday, April 28. Our old friend Fred Stout, who is now serving with the R.A.A.F. in England, has now returned to service and is making the most of his time here. A hearty welcome was accorded.

**CLAREMONT**

The presence of the State President (Mr. J. Anderson) at the meeting on March 7 was very gratifying. He will have his hands full from now onward. Preparations are well in hand for the annual social on March 21. It will be held in the Embassy supper-room. The general meeting on March 7 was well attended. Twelve new members were introduced.

**BASSENDEN**

President Dick Fry was in the chair at a well-attended meeting, the first business meeting for March. Invitations to members to be present at the annual reunions of the Belmont and Guildford sub-branches were accepted with pleasure. Membership of the sub-branch was increased. Mr. S. J. Browne, the membership secretary, is busy writing out receipts. The amount owing on the building fund has been reduced to £148. It is hoped that this will soon be paid off, so that a start can be made with the new Memorial Hall. Recent efforts of the social committee have brought in £12. It was decided to purchase more seating accommodation. A sports committee has been formed, and competitions are being arranged.

The social committee and the building fund committee are busy finalising arrangements for the coming season. The Friday night dances will commence on March 25.

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function was again made possible by the generosity of Southern Cross Auxiliary. The hospital committee and its rail friends paid $4 750 for 84 bedsides, gifts, taking gifts to the hospital on Saturday. Food and Repatriation visits were as usual.

The Anzac Buffet on Saturday, continued to draw large crowds of ex-servicemen, and with the closing of the Phyllis Court building in the city, this function is increasing in popularity. All visitors will find a warm welcome, and much appreciated, the service from the women of the auxiliary on duty.

Members of the Executive have now a new outlet for their generous support of the ex-servicemen at the new building for the group's use.

The Auxiliary is working hard in the interest of the welfare of ex-servicemen and is at all times ready to assist. The Auxiliary continues to work to improve the conditions of ex-servicemen and to bring to their attention any reforms or improvements that might benefit them.

VICTORIA PARK

The Auxiliary continued its valuable work during the month of February. Members were welcomed to the AGM, held on Wednesday and Saturday evenings at the Auxiliary's headquarters.

The first meeting of the Auxiliary for the year was on February 22. Members were welcomed to the meeting, and arrangements were made for the Auxiliary to continue its valuable work for ex-servicemen throughout the year.

The Auxiliary is working closely with the Department of Veteran Affairs to ensure that ex-servicemen receive the benefits to which they are entitled. The Auxiliary is also working with local councils to ensure that ex-servicemen have access to the facilities they need.

SHENTON PARK

During the latter part of 1945, members of the Auxiliary were present in the Progress House, Onslow Road, on December 15. It was a success socially and financially. The Auxiliary has supported many worthwhile causes, and is looking forward to the future with confidence.

The Auxiliary is working closely with the Department of Veteran Affairs to ensure that ex-servicemen receive the benefits to which they are entitled. The Auxiliary is also working with local councils to ensure that ex-servicemen have access to the facilities they need.