Controlling Atomic Energy

"If science could find a method of using hydrogen instead of uranium in the generation of atomic energy, it would undoubtedly be possible to create a bomb one thousand times as effective as the one dropped on Nagasaki."

—Professor Marcus L. Oliphant.

out that the significance of atomic energy's peacetime potential may be more easily understood when it is realised that one pound of uranium is equivalent in productive capacity to 1,500 tons of coal. However, there is another side to the picture. Professor P. M. S. Blackett, a British scientist who, like Professor Oliphant, was one of those engaged in the production of the atom bomb, states: "It will take a considerable time, say 20 years, before atomic energy can be harnessed for normal industrial commercial use." He added that the capital expenditure involved in such an enterprise would be gigantic. If there is a gleam of hope in this, it lies in the possibility that what might be a retarding influence in peaceful progress might also be a restraining influence on preparations for war.

It would be blinding out the guiding lights of history if we were to shut our eyes to the regrettable facts that neither fears nor expense have ever acted as deterrents to war. Time and again have nations, ill-clad and halt-fed, with empty coffers but full courage, fought on till they brought wars to a victorious conclusion. Horrifying inventions have appeared on the field of battle before today, but, so far from preventing wars, they have not by themselves always made victory possible. The "Greek Fire" of Saracen times did not prevent the Turks from over-running the Balkans. The first use of gunpowder in war was an epoch-marking event in feudal times. Its effect on public opinion was comparable with that evoked by the German use of poison gas in 1915. Shakespeare was using no mere figure of speech when he spoke of "villainous saltpetre," and Bayard, the personification of all that was best in the age of chivalry, never gave quarter to musketeers. During the Peninsular War, the French protested that the British use of the rifle was a breach of the rules of war and threatened reprisals against riflemen. It is interesting to recall that, in the same era, Lord Duneldon, the most famous of the British Admirals in the generation after Nelson, claimed that he could produce a gas from sulphur that would destroy any fleet or fortress. The project was squashed because it was not...
considered chivalrous. For similar reasons the use of smoke screens by Her Majesty’s Ships was forbidden during the Crimean War. Modern sequels have shown that the most enlightened public opinion cannot prevent the use of devastating devices in war, any more than the fear of such devices, by itself, can prevent wars. Before 1939, pacifist professors used to paint lurid pictures of cities being drenched by gas from the air. There was no absurdity in their forecasts, but it was only the knowledge that Britain and America could retaliate far more forcefully that prevented the Germans and the Japanese from using gas during the recent war. So it might be with the atom bomb.

At present, the problem of the future of atomic energy in relation to war is being approached from two directions. One is the international control of production and use, and the other is keeping everything that can be known about the new weapon a closely guarded secret. Unfortunately, the secrets of science cannot be kept hidden for ever. That, however, is no reason why the secrets should be disclosed prematurely. The efficacy of international control, like security and other formulas of this post-war world, can be assured only if every nation plays fair. Further, no system of control can be accepted by the world unless it is accompanied by a pooling of knowledge and sharing it with Powers, who, frankly, are not to be trusted with these secrets. Professor Oliphant thinks that Russia, even if she works alone, will have the secret of atomic energy within five years. Russia’s Mr. Molotov has complained that Britain and America alone have knowledge of the formula and ingredients of the atom bomb. Why this should worry Russia or anyone else is hard for normal people to understand. What it amounts to is this: the world’s deadliest secret is shared by the two branches of the English-speaking race, who are the only people that can safely be trusted with such knowledge.

Before it can be discovered independently by other Powers, the U.N.O. must devise some effective and acceptable system of control, because on that point the whole destiny of U.N.O., and perhaps of mankind, must be decided.

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Only men of exemplary character are accepted. As a result the Corps consists of specially selected men accustomed, and still subject to, discipline as members of a service organisation and therefore of particular value in all classes of employment.

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THE LISTENING POST — Page 2
Defence Policy Through The Years

From a Speech in the Senate by Colonel H. B. Collett...

How much we owe to the experience and aid of the people of the British Isles may not be fully realised. But, through the ages, since the time of Alexander the Great, certain principles of defence have been in force and unchanged. As we well know, it was Alfred the Great who, in devising a plan for the protection of England, organised a navy to operate in conjunction with his small land force. That was the genesis of the "blue water school," which, for centuries, by persisting in its advocacy of a strong fleet, has rendered us such service, and never more than in 1939-45. Alfred and the school were natty-minded. So, for a thousand years of our history, there have been strivings to secure appropriate coordination between the sea and the land forces.

In Australia, in 1902, two years after Federation, General Sir Edward Hutton propounded the first scheme for our defence, by means of an army designed to co-operate with a British naval squadron. During the next decade, we provided the nucleus of our own fleet, and followed that up by seeking the advice of Admiral Sir William Henderson, who visited us and submitted a report based on a conception that the Indian Ocean and western seas would be strategic focal points of the future. Sir William's views were never fully implemented, because of the outbreak of war in 1914, but the existence of the battle cruiser Australia and its supporting ships drove the German squadron from these seas, and made possible the occupation of New Guinea. The Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Jellicoe, came to Australia early in 1919. After that, our naval policy was re-oriented and with what results no effort of memory is required to appreciate. It should be pointed out that the actions at Copos Island, the Falkland Islands, and the battles at Dogger Bank and Jutland were effective in winning the war of 1914-18 as were the successful operations in the Coral Sea, Midway Island and the Solomon Islands, in respect of the campaigns of 1939-45. They prepared the way for the land forces, which are the deciding factor in the winning of all wars.

General Hutton's plan for our volunteer army was revised in consequence of a visit from Lord Kitchener in 1910. His views were accepted by Parliament, and the progress made with his new scheme was reported upon, early in 1914, by General Sir Ian Hamilton. The outbreak of war in the following August found it only half developed. It was again examined about 1919 and 1920 by Generals Chauvel and Brudenell-White, and certain modifications were approved in regard to organisation and equipment. For an overall review we had, in 1934, the benefic of a visit from, and the advice of, Lord Hankey, who had been secretary to the British War Cabinet and the Imperial Council of Defence.

During World War I, aircraft made their appearance as a weapon and a potential strategic force. It was two army officers, Trenchard and Salmond, who correctly visualised their future. In 1928, Air-Marshall Sir John Salmond visited Australia and made recommendations which were not only adopted, but had been more than implemented by the Australian Government before the opening of hostilities in 1939. To this report we owe, among other things, the construction of the Air Force Station at Pearce, Western Australia. The fact that 1939 found us unready was mainly due to the actions of the Scullin Government, during its term of office.

A retrospection of the war of 1939-45 brings into relief and justifies the mention of: (1) The ineffectiveness of our Army at the time of the outbreak. (2) The vigorous and immediate action taken by the Menzies Government for participation with the Empire in a great and prolonged war, and the wisdom of its basic arrangements. (3) The gallantry and efficiency of our forces in many campaigns fought in many parts of the world. (4) The proof of the value and the need for the maintenance of training institutions for officers of the three services and of the necessity for continuing the system of exchange of officers between Great Britain and the Dominions. (5) The failure of the Government to recognise adequately with rewards the great services rendered to the nation by the senior commanders of the forces. (6) The voluntary efforts of ex-members of the forces, and the people as a whole, at a stage when the nation was endangered. (7) The failure to form a National Govern-
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<td>Army Blankets 15/- and</td>
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ment at time of acute crisis—such an action would have heartened the people, encouraged our Allies, and improved the administration of the whole war effort. (8) The success of the Government's negotiations with the governments of the United States of America, and the victories which followed the concerted effort of the Allied forces in the Pacific. (9) In view of the needs of the Empire and the free services given by other Dominion and Allied troops, the error committed in restricting the sphere in which Australian armies might operate—even for the purpose of succouring our countrymen in captivity. (10) The mistake committed in maintaining in Australia two armies with dissimilar conditions of service—this was wasteful of manpower, costly to administration and engendered amongst our own people, ill-feeling that only the passage of many years will eradicate. (11) An error in completely withdrawing our Army from the Middle East operation—our non-representations in the battles in Tunis and during the campaigns in Sicily, Italy and even on the old Western Front, in which our Navy and Air Force took part, has left a blank in Australian history and has not enhanced our military prestige. (12) A recognition of Australia's vulnerability in the Pacific and our seas to the north need for an intensive study of changing political conditions, and the promotion of friendly understanding with peoples who share our ideals and culture.

I may have been critical, but that has been done in order to emphasize certain points. As to the future, we should have confidence. I believe that we have had our lesson, and that Governments and people alike, whilst supporting all measures possible to ensure world peace, will combine to urge that there shall be no lack or failure in measures to protect ourselves from outlaw nations. In this, is the essence of the contract.

R.S.L. AND POLITICS

A news item, which was given prominence in the Press, was the fact that it became necessary for the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson) to inform the Collie Sub-Branch that no member of the R.S.L. has been expelled because of his political views. The Sub-Branch had asked the State Executive to make known the position of Communists in regard to the League. The Sub-Branch expressed the opinion that no member could be expelled solely on account of his political utterances and alleged that a member had been expelled by the last State Congress because he was a supporter of the Communist Party. In his reply, Mr. Benson states that no member of the League can be expelled solely on account of his political leanings. He gave an emphatic denial to the allegation that a member was expelled by the last Congress as the result of any political party affiliation, and pointed out that the case referred to arose from happenings quite outside anything political.

The question of the exclusion of Communists or members of any genuine political party, as such, has never arisen in Western Australia. The Victorian State Congress, last year, carried a resolution declaring that Communists were not eligible for membership of the League. A similar motion was rejected by the New South Wales Congress, in the following month. A Federal ruling on the point was that a member can be expelled only for some specific act of subversion, or other conduct calculated to make his membership undesirable, and it was suggested that any member suspected of disloyalty might be obliged to take an oath of loyalty to the principles and constitution of the League.

So much publicity was given to the matters arising out of the Victorian and New South Wales Congresses, and to the act of expulsion in the Western Division, that it seemed why the matter should be raised now, unless one is to assume that it is another quaint little intrigue like that launched by the stooges for outside organisations against the "Listening Post" during the past two years. There should certainly be no misunderstanding as to why the member referred to was expelled, especially as Collie Sub-Branch was represented at last year's Congress. The offence had nothing to do with politics.

EMPLOYMENT

Hereunder is a copy of the reply received from the Minister for Postwar Reconstruction, to representations made regarding suitable employment to ex-servicemen. It reads—

"It is the constant endeavour of my Department to provide for the successful re-establishment of ex-servicemen in civil life. To ensure that full and suitable employment shall be available to all ex-servicemen, the Central Ex-Servicemen's Bureau, within the Commonwealth Employment Service, has been established. This Bureau affords special assistance to every ex-serviceman who seeks its assistance.

"That some ex-servicemen on discharge may have difficulty in obtaining suitable employment immediately; or, through circumstances beyond their control, may experience a period of unemployment within the first year after discharge, has been appreciated. For such persons and their dependants a Re-Employment allowance, at a more generous rate than the Unemployment allowance available to members of the general public, has been provided under the Re-Employment and Employment Act, 1945.

"The Commonwealth Government is committed to a policy of full employment and its efforts have been constantly directed to the development of the Australian economy so that suitable employment will be available to every person desiring it. It is felt that this policy has been successful and will continue to do so. Should ex-servicemen or women, through no fault of their own, experience unemployment after the period during which the special benefits of the re-employment allowance are available, then they will, in common with all members of the community, have access to the general unemployment and social service benefits provided by the Government.

"It is felt that the Government has already made provision as recommended in your resolution and that I cannot do more than confirm that it is the Government's intention to provide every assistance that can reasonably be expected for the successful re-establishment of ex-servicemen and women."

LOCAL MEDICAL OFFICERS

The following Resolution was adopted by the 31st Annual Congress of the League, reading—

(a) That the duties of Local Medical Officers be made more simple in making returns of examinations of ex-service personnel.

(b) That when, in the opinion of a Local Medical Officer, urgent hospitalisation of a member is necessary and the treatment required is not available locally, the Local Medical Officer be empowered to issue a rail warrant to the capital city of the State involved, having first communicated with the Repatriation Commission for the purpose of arrangements being made for the admission of the member as an inmate.

To which, the following reply was received by the Chairman, Repatriation Commission:

(a) The returns of examinations now required to be furnished by a Repatriation Local Medical Officer are simple. The medical report forms are also simple in set-up and, in cases where a special examination is required, the form to be completed by the Local Medical Officer corresponds closely to an insurance form. It would be difficult to simplify the returns and/or set-up of the medical reports and still retain the value thereof.

(b) In connection with this question, the position is that the practice advocated by the resolution is already provided for, without the Repatriation Local Medical Officer having to keep and issue rail warrants. When a Branch Office has been advised by a Local Medical Officer that rail transport is necessary, the station master, at the centre concerned, is authorized by telegram to issue the necessary travel ticket on behalf of the Department and, in actual practice, has proved most satisfactory, both as regards the patient and the Local Medical Officer.
The New Year is upon us and as we look to the future it is perhaps well that we look back over the year left behind. This time last year, the world was indeed at peace, but we had not got that time to acquire a full realisation of the fact. For many, the years of danger, suffering and sorrow were still too near for peace to bring consolation for the loss of loved ones, relieving the burden of sacrifice, so patently borne through six nightmare years. The past twelve months, however, have made possible the return of more normal states of mind. For the R.S.L. as well as for the nation, the year has been one of planned endeavour. Among the achievements of the past twelve months, one can point to Favesham House, which was officially opened on December 15th, by the Lieut.-Governor, Sir James Mitchell, and Lady Mitchell, in the presence of a large representative gathering of sub-branch and women's auxiliary representatives. On Christmas Day, there were nine guests in residence, and we feel that this is the beginning of a very successful enterprise. R.S.L. House, in Perth, is another achievement which has been filling a long-felt want in the city for about six months. The War Veterans' Home Appeal was given a very gratifying response by the public. For this, one must thank the publicity given by Press and Radio, and unceasing work of sub-branches and their auxiliaries throughout the State. With the New Year, a start will be made with the campaign for the extension of the State War Memorial, so that the men who gave their lives in the recent war can be commemorated as well as the fallen of the First World War. Last month, a Sydney paper referred to the R.S.L. as the watchdog of the service men and women, and praised its efforts when reviewing Federal Congress items. For instance, Congress seeks a raising of war pensions of those fully incapacitated to at least 65/- per fortnight, with a corresponding increase in all other war pensions. Other matters about which Congress was far from happy were service land settlement, housing and preference in employment. Rectification of the anomalies in the Re-establishment and Employment Act, and a general tightening up of the preference clauses, is something for which the League must fight an unending battle.

The Federal President has called a special congress of the League in Melbourne on February 13, for the purpose of reconsidering the resolution passed at the last Federal Congress regarding eligibility. The attitude of the Tasmanian Branch is interesting. It has expressed itself in favour of rescinding the previous Federal resolution and supporting a 14-day period for all members, throughout the Commonwealth, on the question. It was recognised that the membership clauses be widened only if 51 per cent. of members vote as the plebiscite, if more than 50 per cent. of votes cast are in favour, and if a majority of the States are in favour.

Mr. O. J. Williams has tendered his resignation as a member of the State Executive owing to his living out of town. He is now as Darlington and, knowing his splendid work in the past for the League, I feel sure he will be an acquisition to that district. Mr. R. Stoddart is the new member of the Executive. He served in the recent war and has been a very active member of the Press sub-branch. He is a member of the legal profession and should do well on the Executive. Another transfer is that of Mr. Norman Elliott, who was appointed a Country Vice-President at last Congress. He has recently been in the hills districts, and was to have taken up duty with the Education Department at Moora after the school holidays, but now will be stationed at Denmark. As a member of the State Executive he gained valuable knowledge of League affairs apd, before his discharge from the Air Force, acted as Rehabilitation Officer. He will be helpful to members in the Denmark and Albany districts.

On behalf of the Executive and myself, I extend to all members a most successful year in sub-branch activities. There is much evidence amongst sub-branches of the seriousness with which members, both old and new, are facing up to the problems and responsibilities of the future. This is as it should be. If the League is to maintain that policy of service in peace as in war, each sub-branch must be interested in everything that pertains to the welfare of ex-service men and women, their dependants, and those of the fallen. There are the problems of reparation, rehabilitation, pensions and employment; the care of our sick and ageing comrades, hospital visiting, etc. In the wider and more national sphere, there are the problems of peace and defence which must be approached in an enlightened spirit, if the objectives achieved in war are to be consolidated in the years ahead.

COUNTRY HOSPITALS AND OPERATIONS

The Federal Congress passed the following resolution:

That representations be made to the Repatriation Commission where country servicemen, as the result of war injuries, have to be treated upon for non-urgent cases, the authority be granted to the local Repatriation doctors, or ex-service doctors in such areas, to perform such operations in the main hospital centre applicable to the respective country district.

The Chairman, Repatriation Commission, replied:

"I desire to advise that, in general, a Repatriation Local Medical Officer would report the case to the Repatriation Branch Office and each would be dealt with on its merits, having regard to the treatment required and the facilities available in the locality and the wishes of the ex-member concerned."

BUILDERS' REGISTRATION

An item submitted by Gosnells Sub-Branch to the State Congress recommended that the Builders Registration Act be amended to permit of the grading of registered builders:

A Class: All Buildings.
B Class: Buildings up to £3,000.
C Class: Jarrah-Weatherboard and Asbestos Dwellings up to £1,500.

The Minister for Works, Mr. A. R. G. Hauke, to whom the matter was submitted, has advised the League that it is not practicable to amend the Act along the lines suggested, and further points out that an amendment to the Act was made during the 1945 session of Parliament to enable any ex-service man able to show that he possesses a reasonable knowledge of building work, to be registered without examination.

FEMALE EMPLOYEES

On November 26, the member for Flinders (Mr. Ryan) asked the following question in the House of Representatives:

"Has the Treasurer been informed that the Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia has protested against the failure of the Taxation Department to carry out the instructions of the Government in regard to the retraining of female employees with a view to the employment of ex-service men in their places? Have such instructions been issued? If they have been, what steps does the Government propose to take with a view to ensuring that they will be obeyed?"

Mr. Chifley answered as follows:

"I find that the Government issued an instruction that females occupying male positions should be replaced as soon as possible by persons entitled to preference under the Re-establishment and Employment Act, 1943. This instruction was issued to permanent heads of all Government Departments on June 11, 1946. It is a fact that a protest was received in July, 1946, from the Victorian Branch of the Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia stating that the League was not satisfied with the rate at which certain female employees in the Taxation Department were being replaced by ex-servicemen. "I have discussed the matter with the Commissioner of Taxation, who informs me that wherever it has been practicable to obtain returned soldiers to replace the female employees concerned, that has been done. Most of the female employees concerned, however, are employed on income tax assessing and similar technical work for which they had to be specially trained. Because of the heavy arrears of work which had accumulated in the Taxation Department during the war period, it has not been practicable to replace them by ex-servicemen, in technical positions, with officers who have no training or experience in the particular duties. "Schools have been established within the Taxation Department for the purpose of training newly-appointed officers in income tax assessment and other technical work. In making appointments to the department for the purpose of the training course, the provisions relating to preference to returned soldiers have been observed."

THE LISTENING POST — Page 6
Repatriation Information

By E. S. Watt.

In this article, I will explain two aspects of Repatriation: that of the types of pensions and the rates payable to dependants of deceased and incapacitated soldiers and that of Service Pensions.

Widows of those whose death is accepted as due to war service receive a pension of 100/- per fortnight. This pension is not subject to a means test.

Widowed Mothers

The main essential is that the deceased son must have been unmarried and his death due to war service. His mother must have become a widow prior to, or within three years of, his death. Widowed mothers or unmarried mothers of deceased soldiers who were born out of wedlock are included, provided that the deceased unmarried soldier was brought up by them and that soldier's death was due to war service.

The pension is paid in accordance with the rate of Army pay of the deceased soldier and, being in accordance with the First Schedule is known as the schedule rate, providing:

(1) That schedule rate is below 100/- per fortnight.
(2) That prior to enlistment of her son, the widowed mother was dependent upon him or would have been but for his enlistment before he reached a reasonable earning capacity.
(3) That the widowed mother is resident in the Commonwealth, or any Territory of the Commonwealth.
(4) And would not be in receipt of an income from all sources (including the pension) exceeding 100/- per fortnight.

Under these conditions, pension may be increased so as to allow a total income from all sources of 100/- per fortnight, but at no time will pension be reduced below schedule rate.

Should a widowed mother remarry, it is incumbent upon her to notify the department immediately this takes place and she signs an undertaking to do so at the time of grant of pension.

Other Mothers

Other mothers is the term applied officially to mothers of deceased soldiers whose death was due to war service, and where husbands are living. These pensions are subject to a means test.

It is not necessary for them to have been dependent on their son, prior to enlistment. Providing that the income of herself and husband does not exceed 180/- per fortnight, or, in the case of a mother whose husband is deceased, 90/- per fortnight, they are given a pension at the schedule rate, i.e., in accordance with the rate of Army pay received by their son, or 180/- in the case of two parents, 90/- in the case of one parent; less income where ever is the lesser.

For example, a mother applies for a pension, her husband earns £5/- per fortnight and that is their sole income, the deceased soldier received 8/- per day Army pay, which provides for a pension at schedule rate of 57/- per fortnight, but as these pensions are subject to the means test, she would receive 20/- per fortnight only.

Foster Mother and Step Mother

Providing that the deceased soldier was brought up by her from an early age, are also classified as parents under the Act, and are entitled to a pension under the same conditions generally as just already explained in the case of Other Mothers.

Children

Children of incapacitated soldiers who are under 16 years of age at the time of application are entitled to a pension which will be paid to a trustee—generally the mother.

It is based on the pension received by the ex-soldier, who may be in receipt of 100 per cent. (i.e., 100/- p.f.), when a pension of 18/- per fortnight is paid on account of the child, or 50 per cent. (i.e., 50/- p.f.), when 9/- per fortnight is paid, and so on.

At 16 years of age, the pension is cancelled, but if in the opinion of the Commission the child is unable to earn a livelihood and provided that an application is received within 12 months of the termination of the child's pension, a pension may be granted as follows:

Under 19 years of age, if ex-soldier is in receipt of 100 per cent pension, 18/- per fortnight, and lower rates as explained. Over 19 years of age, the rate of pension usually paid to a wife (i.e., if ex-soldier in receipt of 100 per cent. pension, 44/- p.f.) or less in accordance with the degree of incapacity of ex-soldier. The pensions of children over 16 years of age are subject to the means test, the rates shown above being the maximum payable subject to deduction of income.

The children of deceased soldiers whose deaths were due to war service are, of course, pensioned on a more generous scale, receiving besides, additional benefits.

Service Pensions

Differ entirely from War Pensions, insofar as eligibility is not dependent on the acceptance of an ex-member's disabilities as being due to war service, but are subject to a means test whereby the income of a service pensioner from all sources, including pensions, must not exceed 107/- per fortnight, or an aggregate of £210/- per fortnight for man and wife; and the value of his assets, excluding the home in which he resides, must not exceed £650 (or £1,300 for man and wife).

Subject to the above limitations regarding financial circumstances, there are three main grounds for eligibility, viz., (1) Old Age; or (2) Permanent Unemployability; or (3) Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Those qualifying for the grounds of age are:

A male who has attained the age of 60 years and has served in a theatre of war.

A female member who has reached 55 years and embarked for service abroad.

The maximum grant of service pension in both cases is 67/- per fortnight, and no service pension is payable to dependants.

Eligibility for permanent or temporary incapability service pension requires that the member is permanently incapable, by reason of physical or mental disablement, of being employed in a remunerative occupation in which, in the opinion of the Commission, he

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can reasonably be expected to obtain regular employment and he must have served in a theatre of war, or, in the case of a female member, embarked for service overseas.

If an ex-member is suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, a grant of Service Pension is subject to the same financial circumstances as in the case of old age and permanent unemployment, but service in a theatre of war is not necessary.

A grant of service pension to a married ex-member, either on the grounds of permanent unemployment or Pulmonary Tuberculosis, also entitles his wife and his first four children under sixteen years of age to a grant thereof, provided that, in 1914 War cases, his wife was married and his children born prior to October 2, 1931. The maximum rates payable in these cases are as follows:

- Member, 65/ per fortnight.
- Wife, 44/- per fortnight.
- First Child, 10/- per fortnight.
- Three Other Children, 5/- per fortnight.

Only in the case of grants on the grounds of Pulmonary Tuberculosis is a service pension and an invalid or old age pension payable at one and the same time.

NURSING

Many ex-service women may not be aware of the benefits available under the Reconstruction Training Scheme for those who wish to train as nurses.

In the first place, the Government, in an effort to combat the acute shortage of nurses throughout Australia, has raised the age for eligibility from 21 to 25 years. This means that any ex-service woman who enlisted or before her 25th birthday is eligible for full-time training in nursing, and, as long as she is accepted by the matron of a training hospital, she will receive the financial benefits available under the scheme. Her weekly rate of pay while training will be equivalent of the salary of a “C” class sister, namely, 43/5/7, plus board and residence. In addition, benefits include an annual allowance of up to £10 for books and £20 for equipment, uniforms and instruments essential for training.

Should the trainee wish to continue training to obtain her second and third certificate, she may do so under the scheme, but any financial assistance given after the third year will be in the nature of a loan.

Ex-service women, therefore, who are selected for this training will receive the full award wage throughout the three years as a trainee, and will have no living or training expenses.

Of interest to ex-service members, is a recent decision that, in addition to the third certificate for which they may train under the Reconstruction Training Scheme, a course in the care of the pre-school child is now included. This course should be particularly valuable to sisters who have ideas of working in Child Welfare Centres.

Any members who are interested in any aspect of nursing training are advised to get in touch with the Ministry of Postwar Reconstruction at Yorkshire House, Perth. Phone: B 2481.

PAY IN LIEU OF LEAVE

The following resolution was passed at the last Federal Congress:

"That in respect of the period in which pay is taken in lieu of leave, the liability of the Defence Authorities for sickness and accident benefit to any ex-serviceman apply to the last day of that period. Repatriation benefits notwithstanding."

The Minister for the Army, in reply, stated:

"From time to time, cases have occurred where a soldier awaiting discharge is granted leave pending the finalisation of his records, pay, etc. In such cases the soldier is on leave while still a member of the Army, and is eligible for full benefits as regards medical treatment and hospitalisation during the period of that leave.

"However, should a soldier-on discharge have accrued leave to his credit he is not granted further leave, but is discharged and in service and is not on leave. In the case of a member of the granted pay in lieu of the leave accrued. As in such a case the Army, he is not eligible for medical treatment or hospitalisation at public expense.

"This policy was adopted as being the most equitable, as if a member proceeded on a protracted period of leave prior to the completion of his discharge, he would continue to remain under Army control and not at liberty to enter continuous civil em-

ployment until finally discharged. As the situation exists at present a member is free to enter civil employment immediately following the date on which his discharge takes effect.

"If during such employment an ex-member should incur an injury for which he was entitled to benefits under the Workers’ Compensation Act, it would be improper for him to receive benefits from the Army also, and being a civilian and not under Army control, it would be impossible to admit the ex-member to an Army hospital for treatment.

"Having regard to the foregoing, it is regretted that the terms of the Resolution referred to cannot be acceded to."

A reply couched in similar terms was received from the Minister for Air.

RECONSTRUCTION TRAINING

DISPOSITION OF FULL-TIME APPLICATIONS AT THE END OF 1946

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>No. of Applications</th>
<th>No. of Applications</th>
<th>No. of Applicants</th>
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<td>1,474</td>
<td>1,163</td>
<td>729</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tech. Profess.</td>
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<td>999</td>
<td>657</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocational</td>
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<td>1,465</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,939</td>
<td>7,467</td>
<td>2,872</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

In August last, the proprietor of "The Listening Post" wrote to the State Branch requesting relief from the terms of the agreement entered into over 20 years ago, owing to the large increase in costs making the publication very unprofitable.

The State Congress, recognising the need for additional income, increased the annual subscription to £12/6 with 2/6 of this to be spent on an official publication. How this was to be implemented was left to the State Executive. Six months notice in writing on either side is provided for in the agreement for amendment or cancellation.

The State Executive has now given to the Imperial Printing Co. Ltd. notice of termination as from January 1, 1947, and a committee comprising Messrs. Leslie, Hunt, Halcombe, Lonnie, Murray and Olden has been appointed to investigate and finalise the new set-up.

A LEAGUE MEMBER IN JAPAN

An interesting letter has just been received from a member of the League with the Occupation Troops in Japan. In his letter, he writes: "The Minister, Mr. Chambers, was up here and he did get about and the men had their chance to talk to him, but he could not have seen as many men as he should have. Rush trips by Ministers are not so good. What is needed is a roving resident Minister with power to act on the spot. General Robertson seems to be out-generalled by MacArthur’s staff, and a resident man dealing only with B.C.O.F. matters should be a big help. The Department of Information needs a stir-up because more home needs is needed. Two inches of one page of "B.C.O.N." was devoted to a doctor being stood down by the B.M.A. for twelve months. None of us gives a damn about this doctor’s love affairs. What we need is the state of the labour market, progress of housing and social services, etc. Many boys would sign on again if they knew jobs were scarce.

"Publicity should be given back home to the drop in the V.D. rate here, mentioning the great work done by S. Leader (Doctor) Charles Frew, of Sydney. The rate here is as low as it could be, the dreaded matter being practically negligible in this area. The League stands high and many enquiries are made by eligible lads, who will be seeking membership."
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THE LISTENING POST — Page 10
At a recent meeting of the Bruce Rock sub-branch, former president Harold Wilkins was honoured with the presentation of a walking-stick. Harold, by the way, is out and about again, after another spell in Hollywood Hospital. He went practically from his bed to the meeting at the request of the sub-branch. Before presenting the stick, acting-president Stan Brown detailed "Wilkins'" record of service, which will not be beaten by many R.S.L. members. He was a founder member of the sub-branch when it was formed in 1919. He was vice-president for some years and president for 12½ years. He has represented the sub-branch at many State congresses and has been a country vice-president. The acting-president mentioned that the Totally Disabled Association helped to procure the stick that was presented. An interesting bit of service was also presented. In reply, Mr. Wilkins made a special appeal to all young Diggers to keep up the work of the League. He spoke very highly of the nursing attention he had received during various trips to hospital. Apologies were presented for the absence of the president, Mr. McGuigan, who was in Perth. Among the visitors were representatives of Narembeen and Shackleton-Kwoylin sub-branches.

Many of the British building tradesmen, who passed through Fremantle in the large Bay on January 3, had been in Australia, or had met Australians before. One of the men, Mr. E. Kendrick, was decorated for his exploits at Arrnhem. He served with the First Airborne Division, and later with the Sixth Airborne Division. It was in Tobruk in 1941 that he first decided on coming to Australia. "The Australians made up my mind for me," he said. "By the time I came out of Tobruk, I was an Australian. At least two of the men, Messrs. P. Robertson and W. A. Banting, spent some time at Fremantle during the war, as members of submarine crews." Several others have been at the port in other ships of the Royal Navy. Mr. M. Leonard, who was stationed at an R.A.A.F. station in Queensland while serving with the Fleet Air Arm, also knows Australians well. Several of the men who had been in Western Australia said they hoped eventually to live in this State.

Just before the year ended, Mr. Bill Hyde, one of the trustees of the Dalwallinu sub-branch, underwent a very serious operation. Latest reports from Dalwallinu say he has been making favourable progress and expects to be convalescing soon. He served with the 10th Light Horse during the first war against the Huns and their partners. The Rev. Bill Riley, of Dalwallinu (son of Bishop Tom, and a nephew of the late Archbishop), was operated on for appendicitis during December. We are glad to learn that he also is making good progress towards recovery. Another Dalwallinu stalwart who has been in hospital is Henry Frost, who has had a bout of rheumatic fever. We are glad to report that he is back at work again.

Jim Hill, of the Denmark sub-branch, has recovered from the illness which necessitated a long spell in Hollywood Hospital before the end of last year. We join with the sub-branch in the hope that his recovery will be permanent.

We join with the Fremantle City sub-branch in extending deep sympathy to member George Bradshaw, who has been officially advised that his son, previously reported missing, is now presumed dead.

Our Katanning correspondent reports that sub-branch secretary, Peter A. Stevens, has enlisted in the Noble Army of Beneficts. At the Christmas Party of the sub-branch on December 18, his fellow-members extended congratulations and best wishes. A wedding present, in the form of a cheque, was presented by Mr. W. Matthews, whose eulogistic remarks were supported by Mr. J. C. Pope.

The Federal Office has been asked to find pen-friends for two young English girls, who would like to correspond with Australians of the same age, and of either sex. The young ladies are: Miss Vera Salisbury (17), of 28 Stagion Road, Woodville, near Burton-on-Trent, England; and Miss Nancy Coxon (18), 123 Occupation Road, Albert Village, near Burton-on-Trent, England. The girls are apparently interested in some of the postwar conditions in Australia.

Congratulations to an old friend, Mr. C. G. Latham, on his recent election to the Legislative Council. He is an experienced Parliamentarian who represented York for many years in the Legislative Assembly, being also Leader of the Opposition and of the State Country Party. He left the Assembly when elected to fill a vacancy in the Senate, but was unseated at the ensuing election in 1945. Since then, he has been State Director of War Loans. Charlie Latham served with the 16th Bn. in the First World War, and has been in the Diggers ever since. While Leader of the Opposition in the State Parliament, he introduced the Bill to have the Licensing Act amended, so that the annual subscription to the League could also cover membership of the Anzac Club. Before the amending Bill was carried, the law demanded a separate subscription of at least £1 a year for club membership. The amending Bill received the generous support of returned soldier members in all three political parties of both Houses. It will be like old times again to be hearing Charlie Latham's voice in the State Parliament.

A welcome visitor at the December meeting of the Narrogin sub-branch was Clayton Waugh, a Narrogin lad who saw service in the Middle East and New Guinea. Since his discharge, he has been living in the Manjimup district, where he is an agricultural officer—and he has taken a wife with him. He is now a member of the Manjimup sub-branch.

To Mr. Hawthorn football and cricket fans, an interesting wedding was that between Shirley June Robertson and Lew Nathan, on December 28, at the Ross Memorial Church, West Perth. The reception was at the R.S.L. Hall, Subiaco. The bridegroom is a popular football player for West Perth and a cricketer player for North Perth. He is the eldest son of the Listening Post's Mr. Hawthorn correspondent, and served with the 2/10th Bn. throughout the recent war. A brother is still serving with the B.C.O.F. in Japan.

Gloucester Park Sub-Branch recently lost two members by death in W. H. (Bill) Green and Tom Hepworth. Bill served with the 108 Heavy Battery and, although he had been ill for some time, his sudden passing was not expected. Tom had been employed at the Government Tramways and latterly at the Swan Brewery.

On New Year's Day, the daughter of "Ham" McCaig, of the Gloucester Park Sub-Branch, passed away. Miss McCaig met with a serious accident a few years ago and she cheerfully carried her troubles, being an object lesson to many fit people.

The new medical superintendent of 110 A.G.H., Hollywood, is Dr. F. K. Wallace. He served with the A.I.F. in Libya, Greece and Tobruk. Tobruk and was awarded the O.B.E. for his work in Greece. He served through the Bourgainville campaign as A.D.M.S., 3rd Australian Division. Dr. Wallace was Government Medical Officer at Broome from 1936 to 1939. While at Broome, he acted as Resident Magistrate, in addition to the usual flying doctor activities.

Nedlands reports the death in Adelaide, on December 14, of Mr. Charles Vernon Dickens. During the First World War, he served in the 2nd Artillery Brigade of the A.I.F. on Gallipoli, and in France. During the more recent conflict, he was an energetic member of the Nedlands unit of the V.D.C., which he joined at its inception. He served with the unit until he was transferred to Adelaide in 1944. Members of the Nedlands V.D.C. will cherish memories of a quiet, unassuming and efficient officer and gentleman.

We join with the Nedlands sub-branch in congratulating Graham W. Leever, in his success at the recent Accountancy examinations. He is a son of an old sub-branch member, J. C. Leever. Graham had six years service in the Second World War, and is taking a rehabilitation course in accounting. In the recent Intermediate Examinations of the Federal Institute of Accountants, he tied for third place in the aggregate. He also passed in all subjects.
Messrs. H. A. Leslie, M.L.A., and J. Craig will leave by air on February 11 to represent W.A. at the special Federal Congress to begin in Melbourne on February 13. The Congress has been convened to re-open the question of eligibility for membership. The two delegates of the W.A. Branch have been instructed to speak and vote in the terms of the resolution of the State Congress held in Perth last October. This recommended the desirability of widening the membership rules to admit all men who volunteered to serve anywhere, and were accepted for active service, and who served for not less than six months, irrespective of where they served, and who were honourably discharged.

The late Dr. Donald Smith, who was called to higher duty early in the month, was a man well-known in professional and musical circles in Perth. Born in Sydney in 1892, he graduated from the Medical School of the University of Sydney at the age of 21. He went away with an A.A.M.C. unit in 1915 and served on the Western Front and later in England, where he gained extensive radiological experience. He married Frances Margery Chennell, an Australian nursing sister, in London in 1918. He was in Sydney for a while after his return, and then came to Perth, where he established the first qualified radiological practice in this State.

In 1930, he lost a leg as a result of his pioneer work in radiology. He had been president and treasurer of the British Medical Association in this State. The late Dr. Smith was interested in musical comedy production. Years ago, he was chorus master and later principal comedian for the popular Concert Artists' Society. On one occasion, he was offered a professional engagement by Sir Benjamin Fuller, but he declined the offer.

A fine soldier and a splendid man went west, in a very literal sense, on Sunday, January 12, when Herbert James Fowles was drowned, after the capsize of his dinghy, while he was attending to crayfish pots about two hundred yards off the coast near Geraldton lighthouse. To make the matter even more tragic, his brother, who lives at Armadale, had been the hero of a most gallant effort to lift a man from the path of an oncoming train at the Perth Railway Station. The late Mr. Fowles had been in the lighthouse service since he was 21. He had previously served at Cape Naturaliste, Point Cloates and Cape Leeuwin. An original 11th Battalion man, he served throughout the First World War with that famous hard-fighting unit, of which he eventually became

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THE LISTENING POST — Page 12
Regimental Sergeant-Major. His war service won him the D.C.M. and Bar, and the M.M. He left a widow and a grown-up family of three, to whom our heartfelt sympathy is extended.

* * *

- Captain H. S. Allen, master of the motorship Palana, which passed through Fremantle this month, is making his first voyage in the Merchant Navy after being disabled with the rank of Captain from the Royal Navy Reserve. During the war, he was in command of the repair ship, H.M.S. Artex, which was a unit of the British Pacific Fleet. He was last at Fremantle in a merchant ship as master of the liner Mooltan.

- Back in Western Australia, after an absence of 27 years, is Lieut-Colonel F. Bell, the first West Australian to win the Victoria Cross. He left this State as a member of the First Contingent to the War in South Africa in 1899, where he was wounded, and left again with the Sixth Contingent. It was at Breaka, on May 16, 1900, that he won the V.C. When retiring through a heavy fire, after holding the right flank, Lieutenant Bell (as he then was) noticed a man dismounted, returned, and took him up behind him. The horse, not being equal to the weight, fell with them. Lieutenant Bell then remained behind and covered the man's retreat till he was out of danger. Lieut-Colonel Bell served, during his long absence from Australia, under the British Colonial Office in Somaliland, Kenya and Northern Nigeria. He has lately been living in Herefordshire, but intends to spend at least a year in Western Australia. He is accompanied by his wife, whom he married in February, 1945.

- Returned soldier has succeeded returned soldier in the office of Chief Inspector of Schools of the State Education Department. The position became vacant through the retirement of Mr. E. A. Coleman, on December 31. Mr. Coleman, a graduate of the University of Sydney, came to this State from the New South Wales Department of Public Instruction in 1906. During the First World War, he enlisted in the 28th Battalion, in which he was wounded, and left again with the Sixth Contingent. It was at Breaka, on May 16, 1900, that he won the V.C. When retiring through a heavy fire, after holding the right flank, Lieutenant Bell (as he then was) noticed a man dismounted, returned, and took him up behind him. The horse, not being equal to the weight, fell with them. Lieutenant Bell then remained behind and covered the man's retreat till he was out of danger. Lieut-Colonel Bell served, during his long absence from Australia, under the British Colonial Office in Somaliland, Kenya and Northern Nigeria. He has lately been living in Herefordshire, but intends to spend at least a year in Western Australia. He is accompanied by his wife, whom he married in February, 1945.

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* * *

- The Federal President (Mr. Eric Millhouse, K.C.) and Mr. J. T. Wertheimer, of the Tasmanian Branch, have been selected to represent the R.S.L. at a conference of the British Empire Service League in London in July.

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**Vale Bill Lynas**

Australia lost an outstanding soldier and gallant gentleman, and many, a firm and true friend. Bill Lynas died suddenly this month. Walton James David Lynas, whose father, Sir Percy Wood, V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O., D.C.M., was killed in World War I, and whose mother, M. C. Lynas, V.C., C. de G., was killed in World War II, was a member of the first Contingent to the War in South Africa, where he was wounded. He was last at Fremantle in a merchant ship as master of the liner Mooltan.

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**EX-SERVICEMEN AND THE FISHING INDUSTRY**

This year's Annual State Congress carried a motion put up by the Fremantle City sub-branch requesting the State Government to appoint a Royal Commission with comprehensive terms of reference, to investigate the fishing industry for the purpose of controlling ex-enemy aliens and to secure fish for people on low incomes.

The Minister for the North-West (Mr. Coverley), in reply, refers to a letter that he addressed to the League last June, particularly to one part of the letter, which reads:

"I note your comments regarding the belief that this industry is controlled by aliens. It is true that a number of fishermen employed in our fisheries are of foreign birth, but the majority employed in the industry are naturalised British subjects. Many of the younger generation, while of foreign parentage—many of whom are now naturalised—are born in Australia, and would be regarded as natural-born British subjects. The Government, however, is considering a proposal which has been approved by the Commonwealth Government for the establishment of a training school for young men intending to enter the fishing industry as a livelihood, and this may be the means of enabling a greater proportion of men of Australian stock entering the industry."

"The question of the supply of fish in adequate quantities for all internal demands is one which—because of the nature of the industry—is affected by a number of unpredictable factors including those of weather conditions and fish behaviour, besides the existing shortage of material and trained personnel."

"The Government has appointed an Advisory Committee to investigate all aspects of this industry, which it believes can become of considerable importance to the State, and will consider the proposals and recommendations of the Committee, bearing in mind the points raised in your letter."

The Minister also states that the report submitted by the Advisory Committee is at present under consideration by the Government, and it is hoped to introduce the necessary legislation at an early date, "and I feel sure, continues Mr. Coverley, that if the legislation is passed in the form in which it is to be presented to Parliament, that the matters referred to in the resolution of your congress will be straightened out, and there will be no need to appoint a Royal Commission as suggested."

The training school referred to in Mr. Coverley's letter will be conducted under the Post-War Reconstruction Training Scheme. The training authority will be the Fisheries Division of the Department of Commerce and Agriculture. The first training course will commence at Cronulla, New South Wales, on January 7. The Deputy Director of Post-War Reconstruction (Mr. R. A. Wood) stated recently that those attending this school will receive instruction in all modern fishing operations. They will learn to make and repair all types of gear and will then take it to sea and use it in commercial fishing operations. The training received at Cronulla will equip them for positions in any section of the industry.
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Brotherhood In Arms
By C. R. COLLINS
(This is the Happy Warrior; this is he Whom every man in arms should wish to be.) Wordsworth.

It is early yet to appreciate, with any approach to accuracy, the significance of Field Marshal Lord Montgomery’s recent visit to Moscow. The outcome of the visit is still being woven by the looms of Time. The earlier Press reports conveyed little beyond the suggestion that the visit was a friendly gesture made by one great Army to another, at a time when the brotherhood of the battlefield was broken, but allowed by the suspicions of the council table. There can be no doubt, either, even allowing for the exuberance of Press reports, that the great British commander soon won the liking as well as the respect of his Russian hosts. Monty’s ability to tell a good story stood him in good stead. Like his Asiatic neighbours, the Russian appreciates a story for its own sake, while a capacity for merriment is one of the more amiable traits of the Russian character, even though it is frequently overladen by a sort of sadness and mysticism. There is something satisfying in the thought that Monty enjoyed his visit to Russia, and the Russians enjoyed Monty. In the affairs of nations, as in ordinary business relations, the personal touch is the most potent of all. There was direct evidence of this in the various meetings between Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin during the war. It was not the best thing for the world when that triangle of personal friendship was broken by Fate. The relations of history have alliances born of a common danger been broken by bickerings after the danger has been removed. The lack of understanding between Russia and the Western Allies was developing along dangerous lines when Lord Montgomery went to Moscow. Just before the visit, and possibly to pave the way for it, there were manifestations of a greater tractability on either side. Admittedly the hope that the visit may breed a greater understanding is wishful thinking, but wishful thinking is not necessarily a symptom of complacency. Without it, there could be no plans for the future, and the future itself would be a drab infinity utterly barren of achievement.

Writers and students of history are prone to speculate on what the results would have been had some great man acted differently at a given moment, or had some great event occurred earlier or later, or at all. Could England, for instance, have withstood the Spanish Armada had not the Atlantic storms come to the rescue? Or what would have been the result at Waterloo had the Russians entirely failed Wellington, as they very nearly did? Such speculations are always inconclusive, no matter how interesting they may be; but one cannot help believing that the history of Anglo-Slavia was wrought by a difference and a pleasanter course when I.ord Montgomery went to Moscow.

It is generally supposed that he was going to reorganise the Russian Army, whose administration had gone to pieces under the inefficient regime of the Tsar. That may or may not be true, but this, at least, is certain. The Russians of that era had a deep admiration for Kitchener. His great and successful career as a soldier inspired them. The organising genius he displayed in creating a new army almost overnight appealed to their imagination. It is no exaggeration to say that Kitchener was the one man of Western Europe whom the Russians trusted above all others and who could have held East and West together at such a critical time.

As with Kitchener, the name of Montgomery has appealed to Russian soldiers of all ranks. It is not the success of a battle leader so much as the personal qualities that contribute to that success which arouse the hero-worship that is latent in the most cynical of men. Like his great predecessors, notably Wellington and Haig, Montgomery is a man who can combine genius with humility, greatness with simplicity, and imbue such qualities with that loyalty without which the success of any of us is full of examples of intimate friendships between commanders. Marlborough and Prince Eugene were strong personal friends, as well as colleagues who won the Battle of Blenheim. Wellington, always loyal to the official superiors, who would have "scrubbed" him on the slightest evidence of failure, won the friendship and loyalty of the grumpy old Prussian, Blucher. One of the most thrilling stories of war is that of the way the old Field Marshal, harried as well as hurried his men along muddy Belgian roads, often disembarking the infantry himself, to help with his own hands while the gun wheels turned like the mire, so that his troops could arrive in time for the flank attack which completed Napoleon’s ruin.

In 1918, Haig loyally and without complaint accepted a subordinate position to Foch, just as in the more recent war, Montgomery gave similar loyalty to Eisenhower in two theatres of war.

Since the war, much has been heard of what it is becoming fashionable to call Monty’s army. No one can quarrel with the compliment thus paid to a great commander, although it is not altogether correct to speak of it as a new development. It is new in the sense that it seeks to adapt training to new, and even potential, conditions. It is old in the sense that it is a return to the spirit of the Ironsides, with whom the first A.I.F. had more in common than with any other force in British history. Only a Montgomery could infuse the element of human understanding into a system, which must also have its basis in discipline and efficiency. Only a man capable of deep human sympathies himself could be the proponent of such a system. Assuming the Russian Army leaders are aware of what is going on in Britain—and there are no grounds for assuming that they are not—Monty must have aroused their curiosity and stimulated their desire to make him an heir to personality, just as the British leaders must have welcomed the opportunity of seeing and helping with his own hands the man who endured so much before they threw the Nazis back across the width of a sub-continent. There is no suggestion of any pooling of military secrets, as there has been between Britain and the U.S.A. The Russian is not given to sharing secrets, whether for peace or for war. But the gesture of a personal call by one great Allied leader on the Army of another is a new link in a chain of friendship, placed at a time when a strengthening of that chain was sorely needed.

ANZAC CLUB MEMBERSHIP
All financial members of the League are members of the ANZAC Club in Perth. This was made possible by a special Act of Parliament, which was enacted shortly before the recent war. As with all other clubs, only members can be admitted and a commissionaire is placed at the entrance to ensure that the law is observed. To gain entry to the club, it is not sufficient to be a member; proof must be shown, and unless a badge with the correct financial crown is worn, or a membership card produced, entry cannot be permitted. Those who do not comply with the rules should not quarrel with the commissionaire for refusing them admission. The commissionaire is only doing the job he is paid to do.

Members should also bear in mind that the institution is a club and not a canteen. Membership of a club implies that the holder of this privilege has a due appreciation of what the privilege implies. No act of his should bring the club into disrepute. There have been instances, recently, of members tossing their badges out of windows, to be picked up and illegally worn by others who are...
not ex-servicemen, but who, by such illicit means, gain entrance to the club under false pretences. This sort of conduct on the part of a member is a very cheap and nasty way of making a good fellow of himself. In such a case, the member lets the League down, leaves the club, and lets himself down, because he shows clearly that he is incapable of appreciating his own privilege and the rights of others.

VARIA

**Congress Delegate writes**: "Why all the fuss about the increase in subscription to 12/6? I was present when the Annual Congress was decided by a majority of 20 to 1 to increase the subscription. Surely Congress is the ruling body. If the State Executive did not carry out the decisions of Congress there would be a revolt of a row, and I would be in the thick of it. Anyone knows that the 10/- of 1920 is only worth 6/- today and there was no suggestion of extravagance or mismanagement at Congress when the Annual Report and Balance Sheet was being discussed. Many blokes who object to the extra 2/- per month would spend the whole 2/- in one shot at the local pub without a second thought. We must need an appeal of the last balance sheet shows that the larger responsibility involves a proportionately additional expenditure. Anyhow, the extra 2/- does not go to Anzac House. It is to be a subscription to the League's official publication. So we will get value for money. Let us be big-minded in this grand League and cut out the pettiness."

**The Sons of Soldiers' League Committee is holding an Athletic Meeting at the Leederville Oval on Saturday, March 1, 1947. It will be open to all sons and daughters of returned ex-servicemen:**

**The first annual meeting of the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion (A.I.F.) Ex-Members' Association is to be held on Thursday, February 6 next, in the 16th Battalion Drill Hall, Bazaar Terrace, Perth, commencing at 8 p.m.**

**South Africa is to build scores of thousands of prefabricated houses modelled on famous British "Aeron" design. The houses are intended for the native population for whom they will set a new standard in housing. The R.A.F. asks are more modest. The shell of the house is built round a steel frame and has a living-room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and separate toilet. Special features include many fixed cupboards and a refrigerator. An expert team can erect one of these houses in 107 man-hours. The houses to be built in South Africa will be a modified version of the Aeron. All the civil engineering work, distribution of material and the building will be organised and managed by U.K. engineering and other industrial concerns. Building plant and machinery will be shipped from Britain.**

**A big expansion in the Nuffield Organisation has been announced by Sir Miles Thomas, the Vice-Chairman. He states that the organisation would be taking over a £3,000,000 Ministry of Aircraft factory in Durham, North-East England, for the manufacture of automobiles and power farming equipment. "A beginning will be made with the manufacture of the Nuffield universal agricultural tractor. Its design is completed and prototypes are already helping some farmers get in their harvest. Tests and field trials are showing excellent promise," he said. The factory is expected to employ between 3,000 and 4,000 people. The selection of this location in Durham, which is a considerable distance from the main Nuffield works in Central England, is also in accordance with Government policy of smooth and wide distribution of industrial activities in U.K. as against the concentration of individual industries in a relatively small number of specified localities.**

**A firm of industrial engineers in Manchester announces that it is replacing many of its cars by a fleet of small aircraft. Air travel will enable its team of servicing engineers to cope with the 7,000 calls it receives yearly. This is only one of a number of such conversions to air transport by business houses in Britain in the last few months. Today many firms are obtaining staff aircraft for the use of their executives, salesmen, inspectors and travelling technicians. Three-seater, British-made Auster Autocrafts are the aircraft chosen by the Manchester engineering firm and these will be the first private business planes to be stationed on the city's new £1,000,000 airport at Ringway. Some North of England export companies are also operating their own planes for staff personnel and one Liverpool fast-moving business executive has his own Spitfire. This development is, of course, a natural outcome of the war in which, for six years, thousands of Englishmen served in the R.A.F., flying the world's most advanced types of aircraft and keeping abreast of the latest achievements in aviation research. What is remarkable is the speed with which it is progressing. It is only a year since the aircraft industry in Britain was able to divert even a part of its attention from the construction of war machines. Yet within these twelve months it has designed a wide range of new aircraft, from huge ocean liners to two-seater taxis, meeting many civilian requirements.**

**London airport is to have a new system of lighting which is a British invention. Pilots will be guided to the runway by powerful lights which will automatically show them the correct angle of flight. The air traffic control officer will be able to operate 2,000 lights on the airfield from the control desk by a unit control panel. Mr. T. F. Bird, who is Director of Airfields for Britain's Ministry of Civil Aviation, says: "This system is extremely safe and night flying risks will be reduced considerably."

**Two of the wooden walls of England are beyond repair and have passed into the ship-breakers' hands. One is the two-decked ship of the line, H.M.S. Implacable. Laid down in 1577, this veteran was a unit of the French fleet at Trafalgar, then called the Duguay-Trouin. She was captured in the battle, and re-named Implacable. The other ship is the Trincomalee (formerly H.M.S. Trincomalee) was built 20 years later. They were the oldest warships afloat in British waters, as Nelson's flagship, H.M.S. Victory, is now preserved in dry dock. Implacable was condemned in 1908, but was preserved through the good offices of King Edward VII. In 1923, she was reconditioned at a cost of £2,000, the money being provided by the Society for Nautical Research. During the recent war both vessels were used as training ships, but dry rot has gained such a great hold in their timbers that anything in the nature of repair work would be useless. Modern science has been engaged in the preservation of H.M.S. Victory. Her timbers have been sprayed with D.D.T. to check the watch beetles which play such havoc with wood.**

**Another warship to be broken up is the German cruiser, Derflinger, one of the ships scuttled by their crews after the surrender of the German Navy in 1918. The Derflinger was salvaged from Scapa Flow and taken to the Clyde in a 42,000-ton floating dock, towed by eight tugs. The vessel was still upside-down.**

**During December, Eastern States papers featured the flight of six Dakota aircraft from Central Luzon to Darwin with the famous war pilot, Clive ("Killer") Caldwell in command. Five of the planes carried the bodies of five small American reconnaissance planes as freight. The sixth carried wings and spare parts of the five smaller planes. The eleven planes were purchased from American Disposals at the Clark Field in Central Luzon. The purchasers were Aerial Transport Pty. Ltd. of Sydney, of which "Killer" Caldwell is managing Director. All the information he would give to interviewers was, "We are going to do private contract work, perhaps in Western Australia or West Africa."**

**The action of the New South Wales Branch in connection with a recent persecution of a Tobruk survivor illustrates how well the R.S.L. is living up to its reputation of being the watchdog of the serviceman. The case concerned a returned man who had been given a gaol sentence for the petty theft of a garden hose. The New South Wales Branch promptly obtained reports from two psychiatrists who stated there were no Repatriation facilities available for early treatment, surgery, convalescence, hospital care, and social re-adjustment of neurotics or psychotics. The psychiatrists emphasise the need in all States for proper treatment of these cases. The R.S.L. is urging the provision of special hospitals, in addition to worry-clinics, where servicemen can go to discuss their problems.**

**The wife of a senior officer of the Allied Control Commission has given reasons why the wives of British Army men in Germany...**
are trickling back to Britain. "They became bored and missed the gossip, tea and bridge parties of their home towns in England. Food shortages made it difficult for them to entertain their friends."

Other causes of complaint were the poor accommodation, and the lack of shopping facilities. Some are going back because they cannot bear to see the Germans suffer. The control officer said: "My experience is that wives who spent the war years in the country districts of England least affected by the war were the bitterest against the Germans."

During the big gales which struck the North-West last month, Perth papers reported that the "cock-eyed bob," which swept neighbouring towns, by-passed Menzies. Perhaps the weather control people thought the people at Menzies would prefer a "pig-iron bob."

**NEXT GOVERNOR-GENERAL**

A statement well in line with our own views on preference, especially in appointments to more important positions, was made this month by Mr. W. F. Sheahan, Labour member for Yass, in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, and formerly a vice-president of the Federal L.I.P. Concerning the appointment of a successor to the Duke of Gloucester, as Governor-General of Australia, Mr. Sheahan said: "There is no doubt of the power of the King to appoint an Australian as Governor-General. The late King George V. set the precedent. I am in favour of an Australian being appointed to the position. There was no objection to the appointment of Mr. R. G. Casey as Governor of Bengal. I agree that the man appointed should be a distinguished Australian and his background should be such as to command respect, esteem and dignity. As we have lived three generations as an independent State, the man appointed should have proved his patriotism by active service in one or other of the Services. After all, the Commonwealth Government has passed an Act giving preference to ex-servicemen for a period of seven years. Surely this was meant to apply to more than pick and shovel jobs.

In these days, apparently, mediocrity is preferred to courage and ability. Membership of the Labour Party never implied that one should either condone or approve of administrative acts, however stupid or opposed to public interest they may be. I am of the opinion that the vast majority of returned soldiers would be disappointed if a man with such qualifications as the Preference Act contemplated were not appointed to the head position in Australia."

Now, we suppose the usual combination of the clueless will accuse Mr. Sheahan of "anti-working-class bias," and conspire to have him liquidated, or whatever it is that such people would do in such cases, if they had the power.

**THE MOUNTJOY APPOINTMENT**

* At the meeting of the State Executive on January 15, delegates strongly criticised the appointment of D. A. Mountjoy, former M.H.R. for Swan, to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Resentment was also expressed at the cavalier attitude assumed by the Minister for Postwar Reconstruction (Mr. Dedman) towards former representations by the League. Letters of protest against the appointment were received from a number of sub-branches. Some time ago, the W.A. Branch asked the Federal Secretary (Mr. J. C. Neagle) to ask Mr. Dedman if the preference provisions of the Act had been observed in making the appointment, and if the Minister could give any reasons why Mr. Mountjoy had been selected in preference to scores of young servicemen who are better qualified for the position. Mr. Dedman's reply was a characteristic example of arrogance. He said: "All I have to say in this matter is that, as Minister in Charge of Scientific and Industrial Research, I am responsible for my actions to the Parliament of the Commonwealth, and to no other organisation. I might add that, in making the appointment, I took into consideration the provisions of the Re-establishment Act, dealing with preference to ex-servicemen."

It is high time Mr. Dedman was reminded that not-only is he responsible for his public acts to the Parliament of the Common-
wealth, but also he is responsible to the people of the Commonwealth, even if it is a long way to the next election. It is difficult to believe the part of his statement that consideration was given to the preference provisions of the Re-establishment Act when making the appointment. Further, the Minister maintained discreet silence on the League's request for the reasons for Mr. Mountjoy's selection.

During the discussion at the State Executive meeting, it was mentioned that no matter in recent years had caused so much feeling among sub-branches. It was recalled that, in 1928, the Bruce-Page Government made four appointments of a like character, but the R.S.L. had aroused public opinion to such an extent that all but one of the appointments were cancelled, and returned men were appointed to the vacancies. It was suggested that appointments like the Mountjoy appointment might not come under the provisions of the Act, and the League should fight to bring them on to the same footing as appointments to which the preference provisions do apply. After a long discussion the Executive decided to ask the Federal Executive to express resentment to the Commonwealth Government at the reply made by Mr. Dedman to R.S.L. representations on the matter; to insist the preference to ex-servicemen in all such appointments be observed; to demand that Mr. Mountjoy's appointment be cancelled, and that applications from ex-servicemen be called for the position.

RECONSTRUCTION IN BRITAIN

Behind the ever-increasing volume of goods now being made in Britain is the story of a great switch-over of jobs. By June last, 3,000,000 more workers were engaged on the manufacture for export and for home consumption than in the previous June. The total figure, approximately six millions, was, in fact, seven per cent higher than in 1939. The whole of this increase is on the export side, for the figure for home manufacture is still below the 1939 total.

This switch from war to peace production is probably the greatest in history, for it is far larger than the increase of three millions suggests. During the past 12 months over six millions of men and women in Britain have been transferred either from the Forces, or from war industries, to peacetime work. Simultaneously, there has been a steady movement out of industry of about one-and-a-third million wartime workers giving up their jobs. These were mostly women, with some men above the retiring age. It is probable indeed that with many factories re-adapting and re-equipping for peace tasks, the actual change-over of jobs in Britain during the last year has averaged not far short of a million a month. In all this great industrial migration, however, not more than one in 60 of the working population has been even temporarily unemployed.

The success of Britain's reconstruction effort cannot yet be finally judged. It will be seen most clearly in two or three years' time when conditions of normality are restored, but the degree of stability which has been maintained during the past twelve months of transition is impressive. Some of the facts hidden in the July statistics make up a story as romantic as any in the long history of international trading. A glance at the motor car figures, for instance, shows that in June, 1945, Britain produced only 120 private cars. In June a year later, over 20,000 were made. The British small car is entering its own in the export market. In June of this year, 10,415 ten and twelve h.p. cars and 7,124 eight h.p. cars left the assembly lines.

MR. LES C. NIMMO

Mr. Les Nimmo, who is the endorsed Liberal candidate for Mt. Hawthorn, served in the Navy in World War I. He came to this State from Tasmania 17 years ago, where he was prominent in rowing circles, holding the sculling championships of Tasmania for a number of years also winning the Henley Sculls in Victoria in 1921. Mr. Nimmo is well-known in R.S.L. circles, being the President of the West Leederville-Wembley-Florereat Park Sub-Branch, also president of the Leederville-Wembley-Mt. Hawthorn sub-section of the Ex-Navy Men's Association. He is a prominent member of the Perth Legacy Club and, during World War II, was a member of the State War Loans Committee and served throughout in the V.D.C. Mr. Nimmo is a keen public citizen who has the background and the ability to make a successful legislator.

MR. GEORGE H. YATES

George Yates, who is a candidate for the Canning seat, was born in Perth 38 years ago, and has packed much public service into his life. He was educated at the West Leederville State School and the Perth Technical College, and was a motor salesman for many years in Perth and Kalgoorlie. He was keenly interested in the Militia, serving in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd battalions of the Australian Imperial Forces, and taking part in many campaigns. He has also been a keen public speaker, and as a member of the Defence League, has taken an active part in the defence of the country.

G. H. YATES

A fluent, concise speaker, and a flair for hard work should serve him well in his electioneering campaign.
MR. G. P. WILD

"Ex-servicemen will be interested to know that Mr. G. P. (Jerry) Wild has been endorsed as the Liberal candidate for the Swan district in the forthcoming State election."

Mr. Wild enlisted in Kalgoorlie on November 11, 1939, as a private with the 2/11th Battalion. On the arrival of the Battalion in the Eastern States for training, he was sent to an O.C.T.U. and was commissioned on March 1, 1940. He served with the Battalion in the first desert campaign, Greece, and Crete and was one of the few who were evacuated per submarine from Crete two and a half months after the island had been rendered.

On his return from Crete in August, 1941, Mr. Wild was appointed Brigade Transport Officer for the 19th Brigade and returned to Australia as such in May, 1942. Prior to the departure of the 2/11th Battalion up north, he was appointed Staff Captain, "A" Headquartes, 3rd Aust. Corps, under Lieut-Gen. Gordon Bennett and he was later promoted to the rank of Major and appointed Camp Commandant of the Headquartes.

In January 1944, Mr. Wild was appointed Camp Commandant, Headquartes, 1 Aust. Corps, at Einschaven. He continued to serve with this headquartes as Camp Commandant in Atherton Tablelands and later at Morotai, N.E.I., until his discharge under the tideocc.,.

Mr. Wild was awarded the M.B.E. for service in the first desert campaign and was mentioned in despatches for service in Crete. Mr. Wild should be well and favourably known to a large number of Diggers of both the First and Second A.I.F., and this journal will join with them in wishing him every success in the forthcoming campaign.

MR. JIM COLLINS

Jim Collins is a candidate for the East Perth seat at the forthcoming elections. He is a Digger of World War I, having enlisted in Kalgoorlie in April 1915. He joined the 16th Battalion and was later transferred to the transport section of the A.A.S.C. He drove transports for two years in France and Flanders. Jim says it was: "Through rain and mud and shell holes, being blown up, but always getting to my destination and damn thankful to be discharged in 1919." To continue Jim's own story: "The return to civil life was almost a tragedy. The better world seemed to have worsened. We seemed to have won the war and lost the peace."

He wanted success. I was prepared to work for it. I believed we had earned the goodwill of the civil population, but we seemed to be the lambs. All I wanted from life had to come from my own ideas. So I had to set out to develop the personality of Jim Collins.

It started with hard work and thrift, and developed into enthusiasm, concentration, confidence. I learnt how to double my pay envelope and how to make capital; how to invest that capital; how to carry out a $1,000 contract with profit and satisfaction. In all, I learnt the price of success without a trade or outside help and, believe me, imagination, work and thrift, coupled with enthusiasm and concentration, work wonders."

Jim Collins is a cheery chap with plenty of common sense, who has made a success of life and his philosophy and ability would greatly add to our Parliament.

Houses from Bombers

Wartime shadow factories in Britain have been converted to produce prefabricated aluminium dwellings. This is one of the latest contributions to the drive directed at solving Britain's great housing shortage. Exhaustive tests have been applied to these new style dwellings, which are now declared to be as durable as brick. The all-weather trials to which they have been subjected include being frozen, having steam pumped into them and being exposed to an 80 m.p.h. gale, which was artificially created for the occasion by the exhaust of a Beaufighter aircraft. Many of them are at present being constructed from aluminium taken from the bomb-earched factories. The Government has an order for $4,000,000 to be completed by next August. When that contract has been completed, 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. The aluminium dwelling is usually produced with two bedrooms, a living-room, a kitchen and a bathroom, but there are types with three or four bedrooms. The design is attractive and the houses are assembled in the factories in four units, which are bolted together on prepared foundations on the site. Water, electricity, drainage and other services are speedily linked up and the dwelling can be occupied immediately. The floors, doors and skirting boards are of timber, and the walls are lined with plaster-board.

The kitchen has a refrigerator and the fire in the living-room circulates to all parts on a forced draught system, throughout the house. The British aluminium prefabricated house is built to last ten years, but experts estimate that it could last, even in the English climate, for at least fifty.

Donations and Income Tax

The Federal Executive continues to receive requests from sub-branches for action to be taken with the Federal Government to ensure that contributions to memorial halls be deductible from income for taxation purposes. This vexed question has been raised repeatedly in the past three years, but the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley), acting on advice from the Taxation Commissioner, declares that the Government has no power to grant such a concession. Mr. Chifley, while expressing sympathy with the Federal Executive's frequent representations, points out that cause memorial halls are for the use of only one section of the community—R.S.L. members in the majority of cases are rigidly opposed to granting membership to non-soldiers—the Act will not permit subscriptions becoming tax free. The matter is one of the utmost importance to all sub-branches in view of the numerous building programmes arranged, and Federal Executive will shortly reopen the question with Ministerial pre-cepts.

Some significance—and it is hoped a hint that the Government may relent—can be attached to a question asked in the House of Representatives shortly before Parliament dissolved last August:

Mr. White (Lib., Baladava) asked Mr. Chifley:—

"If we have an extension of the present scope of the Taxation Act to a new form of expenditure on which the Government may wish to decline to give exemption, how would that expenditure be treated for the purpose of income tax?"

Mr. White: I shall have to look at the proposal. Committees which launch appeals for memorials would be well advised first to discuss the matter with the taxation authorities."

Mr. White: In this instance, the Taxation Department was approached some months ago, but a reply from it has only just been received.

Mr. Chifley: Before embarking on the project, the committee should be clear as to whether contributions will be subject to the income tax concessions. Frequently, appeals are launched first and the complaint is subsequently made that the tax concession is not granted to the contributors. The request is then made for an extension of the principle. I shall examine the matter raised by the honourable member, and let him have an answer later.

So far Mr. Chifley has not given Mr. White a detailed answer, but, undoubtedly, he will during this Parliamentary session.

However, it should be noticed that the Prime Minister did not reject the request as he had done in the past when asked similar
questions and, at the earliest opportunity, the Federal Executive will ascertain whether there has been a change in policy. Many sub-branches, aware of Mr. Chilley’s ruling that only subscriptions for a building with amenities available to the general public can be considered for tax deduction purposes, are now examining the advisability of admitting non-servicevemen to membership. Whether or not this is wise is a matter for the sub-branch to decide; but, on the other hand, there are numerous sub-branches determined to keep their club for ex-service personnel only, even if it means raising the finance among themselves and not by appeal to the general public.

SERVICE STARS

The following reply was received from the Secretary of the Department of the Navy in reply to inquiries made with reference to the Director-Generals’s ruling:

“Any officer or rating service in the area qualifying for the Italy Star, between 8th November, 1944 and 8th May, 1945, both dates inclusive, will be awarded the Italy Star, though he may not have done the prior six or two months service normally required. Similarly, if one Service qualifying for the Atlantic Star or the Air Crew Star, he will be awarded the Star for which his latest Service was qualifying, though he may not have completed six or two months service nor done the prior six or two months service normally required.

“Similarly, any officer or rating service qualifying for the Pacific or Burma Star, between 3rd March and 2nd September, 1945 (the date of the end of hostilities in the Far East), both dates inclusive, will be awarded the Star for which his latest Service was qualifying, though he may not have completed six or two months service normally required. In these cases the 1939-45 Star will not be awarded.”

MEDICAL HISTORY

The following reply was received from the Minister for Air to a resolution from the Federal Congress “that men being discharged from the Forces answer the same exhaustive list of questions regarding their medical history as on enlistment.” He stated:

“It has been referred to the Director-General of Medical Services.

“You will appreciate that for purposes of demobilisation considerable time and thought was given to the medical forms and documents by the Medical Directors of the three Services, as well as the Repatriation Department authorities.

“The form that is filled in demobilisation, namely A.A.F. D2 (a) P/M 74, has a quite comprehensive and open questionnaire on it, and the person being demobilised has free scope to make statements and to express his personal views regarding his medical condition.

“It will be appreciated that from the Medical officers and the Repatriation Department’s point of view the initial examination form is available for perusal in the event of a pension or other investigation later. Further, the medical history during service is available on various forms and documents, the manuscripts of which are made available to the Repatriation Department, thus, it would seem, covering the whole field if ever required for investigation.

“There is, of course, the possibility of the loss of these documents, but, as far as the R.A.A.F. is concerned, at least two sets exist and this would not appear to be, therefore, a very likely source of trouble. In the event of loss of some records, the P/M 74 still gives the airmen the chance to state what he desires to bring forward to the Medical Officer of the Medical Board.

“The first impression regarding your request is that it would seem unnecessary to institute a questionnaire as your Congress suggests, from the administrative points of view and, further, since demobilisation has practically ceased, there would seem no reason to go into the matter further.

“Nevertheless, I have directed that this matter be gone into and it will be the subject of discussion between the Services’ Medical Directors and other appropriate officers, and I shall be glad to inform you, at a later date, concerning this matter after it has been further considered.”

SCABBARDS OFF

by “Pip Tok”

● Refutation of the Chicago Tribune’s lies about Australian discipline in Japan have come from three separate sources. The Army Minister (Mr. Chambers), who spent Christmas with the Occupation Force, has given the lie direct to the McCormick diaries. Men home on leave from Tokyo were surprised and indignant at the stories which reached Australia, at the time of the trial of the soldiers accused of denials and denials of men themselves may not be convincing to all critics, but evidence of an unimpeachable character has been volunteered by His Eminence, Cardinal Gilroy, who was in Japan just before the Army Minister. He found the boys well-behaved and happy, and there is no reason for doubting his word. Further, both Cardinal Gilroy and Mr. Chambers are ex-servicevemen. The Cardinal took part in the operations at the Gallipoli Landing as a wireless operator in the Navy, while Mr. Chambers was a soldier of the more usual type. As such, they have had experience and still have the ability to form standards of comparison, which make them infinitely more reliable as witnesses than civilian correspondents of anti-British papers in Chicago. As for McCormick, there was a time when his slanders could irritate. Today, they are nothing more than a stale joke, despite the unwarranted publicity given to them by Australian papers.

● Another gratuitous critic of Australia is Professor Joad, of the B.B.C. Brains Trust. He claims that he did not say the nasty things attributed to him, but the protest of the Resident Minister for Australia in London (Mr. Beasley) was followed by the censure of the B.B.C. itself. Mr. Beasley’s comment in Australia has suggested that Mr. Beasley, by protesting, gave the Professor’s remarks more publicity than they deserved, to say nothing of denoting a mislaid sense of humour on Mr. Beasley’s part. On the other hand, if Mr. Beasley had remained silent, some of the Press critics might be asking why he was allowing the Professor’s remarks to pass unchallenged. Professor Joad was a conscientious objector during the First World War, and a pacifist between the wars. He was one of the principal classifiers in favour of the notorious Oxford Union Declaration, which declared that in any circumstances, would the supporters of the motion ever fight for King and Country. That motion and similar pacifist antics in Empire countries are almost as much to blame for making the Second World War inevitable as ever Hitler was. Nevertheless, to give Joad his due, he did turn honest in 1939, and give his support to the war effort—for what that support was worth.

● A news item connected with Field Marshal Lord Montgomery’s visit to Moscow recalls a peculiar twist of service psychology, which is not unknown among civilians—the cap-swapping which takes place when conviviality has reached the appropriate point. Soldiers and sailors, Diggers and Kims, Jocks and Southrons, during canteen fraternisations invariably reach the cap-swapping stage. It has never been suggested that Monty and his Russians have swapped caps, but it has gone on record that people in Moscow thought Monty’s beret was hardly suitable for Moscow in midwinter. Accordingly, the distinguished visitor was presented with a valuable sheep-skin cap, of the pattern worn by Cossacks and Russian generals, and a general officer’s greatcoat as well.

● One of the problems of the war—why Hitler attacked Russia when he did—was solved by German documents which fell into the hands of American Army Intelligence officers. Stalin, according to the former Japanese Prime Minister, Prince Konoye, had already offered to join the Rome-Berlin-Tokio Axis, but his terms were too high for the Huns. At first, he wanted Iran and India to be acknowledged Russia’s future spheres of influence. The documents captured by the Americans disclosed that Hitler also sought control of the Dardanelles, a free hand in Iraq and Iran, and enough of South Arabia to give Russia control of the Persian Gulf, and the Gulf of Aden, guiding the approaches to the Red Sea. For Hitler considered these demands as excessive and attacked Russia.

● A complication of the Indian situation, which is rarely mentioned, except by accident, is that France, Portugal and Holland all have small possessions on the mainland of India. The French
Minister for External Territories visited Pondicherry, France's oldest colony, on his way back from Indo-China this month, and said that the future of the colony must be decided by the Government of French India. He visualised an autonomous Pondicherry in a French Union. Pondicherry, near Madras, was bought from and under Raja by France in 1668. It was taken by the Dutch and given back to France in the Seventeenth Century. Britain captured the place nearly 100 years later, but it was again restored, and has remained French ever since.

- One of the best-kept secrets of the preparations for the invasion of Normandy in June, 1944, was Operation Pluto, so-called because it had to do with the laying of pipe lines under the ocean. The result was a system of supply pipes laid under the English Channel to provide fuel and oil for the Allied armies after they had landed. One section comprised sixteen lines between Dungeness and Calais. Another consisted of four lines between Shanklin (Isle of Wight) and Cherbourg. Now that the war is over, there is no longer any use for the pipe lines, so they are being taken up to recover the lead. Two cable ships, Empire Ridley and Empire Taw, are being used on the work of salvaging 26 tons of lead to the mile, worth £1,150. The lead is for urgent civilian needs and more than 100 miles of the 600 or 700 miles used had been recovered by the end of November. Under favourable conditions, the ships can pick up cable at the rate of a quarter of a mile an hour, but they can work only under smooth conditions, as the work is full of technical difficulties. The worst risk is the breaking of the cable, which means much grooping on the sea bed to find it again. The job of laying the supply lines involved a tremendous amount of organisation and work, and this was only one aspect of the invasion plans. However, that meant nothing to the furtive fools who used to sink about in the dark, chalking "Start the Second Front Now" on pavements.

- The Paris Radio has regretfully told the story of the Dutch agent who swindled Goering, when the fat, smiling scoundrel was "collecting" works of art from the occupied Netherlands. The agent supplied him with Rembrandts, Vermeers and Halses, but the collection has been found to be fake. The Dutch agent was a painter himself. He used Seventeenth Century canvases, stripped them of colour, and made excellent paintings in the style of the Great Masters. Unfortunately, the Dutch have been humourless enough to imprison the man who tricked Goering.

- There has been much concern, to say nothing of outright charges of racketeering, about the way the immigration authorities are allowing foreigners, many of them enemy aliens, to trickle into Australia in small driblets. The nominal roll of one recent batch was particularly interesting. Several of the newcomers could not speak a word of English. Most of them, including a former doctor, intended to take up so-called luxury businesses, such as perfume-making and running food shops, but there was not one producer among the lot. While this has been going on, Colonel Arthur G. Fox returned to Adelaide from a post at an U.N.R.R.A. displaced persons centre in Germany. He considered that Australia should make a bid from among the 60,000 Baltic people, who had been displaced by the war and preferred living under appalling conditions in Germany to going back to their homelands, which now enjoy the blessings of Russian rule. The only countries that will take them as immigrants are in South America, where they are admitted under small quotas. Colonel Fox thinks, and many Diggers will agree with him, that this should be a priority to come to Australia. To illustrate the difficulty of rehabilitating displaced persons in their former homelands, Colonel Fox mentioned what happened to a train-load of Yugoslav men, women and children, who were returning from slave labour camps in Germany. At the Yugoslav border they were shot by Marshal Tito's thugs on suspicion of royalist tendencies.

- Fremantle City Council is rightly perturbed about the policy of a section of our administrators in allowing large numbers of Southern Europeans to enter Australia. The position being created is calculated to break down the very conditions good Australians are trying to stabilise. Another matter, which the League should take up very vigorously, is the way Italian prisoners of war have been allowed to escape at their own sweet will. At the latest report, no fewer than 26 are still at large, and it would be interesting to know what is being done to round them up. Some months ago, two escaped prisoners of war were caught in Perth. One had been in employment in the city for some time. He was well clothed, well dressed and having a good time at the "Trouts" when caught. Only one local paper considered it worthwhile to report the disturbances created on the Fremantle wharf by the crowd that had assembled to farewell prisoners of war, who were leaving for Italy. With characteristic courage, they ran like hares when a solitary Australian soldier showed them the point of a bayonet. It was among the same crowd that an Australian provost sergeant recognised and apprehended two Italians who had escaped from an internment camp. There is no limit to the cheek of imported persons, and this is only one reason why the League should insist on a searching inquiry into every aspect of the escape racket. These people could not get out, find new clothing and sheltered jobs without a liberal application of palm oil, and the fact that they can escape so easily and remain at large so long suggests the existence and the far-reaching organisation of a very disgusting and unpatriotic racket.

- The taking of the Census this year should reveal the large crop of unusual occupations, as well as the common jobs with high-sounding names, that come to light on such occasions. It was during the first Australian Census after Federation, that a Queensland bullocky, in language pilferer than he ordinarily used, described himself as an "oxen conductor." Nowadays, in the ordinary route march of advertising, undertakers have become morticians, and fruit sellers, fruittelers, in America, and even in parts of Australia. Those who help you with your daily doss at the horizontal bar no longer bar-men and barmaids. They have developed into mixologists. However, the prize for originality and aptness of description must go to a very much married man in a South-West town. Having nine children he felt entitled to call himself Child Endowment Worker.

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Veterans?
By H. S. DAY

At the South African Veterans’ reunions, visiting kindred association refer to us as the Senior Veterans. For W.A., this is correct, but we are Australians in all R.S.L. matters and the South Africans are not the veteran R.S.L.

That honour belongs to the Sudan Survivors’ Association, who are the spiritual forerunners of the Boer War Volunteers and the First and Second A.I.F.

When the New South Wales Sudan Contingent, of 750 strong, the first Australian soldiers to leave Australia to fight on a foreign soil, arrived home in Sydney in June 1887, Sergeant George Davies of “B” Company was elected Secretary of Australia’s first R.S.L. For 61 years, no other voice than George’s read out the minutes.

He passed on last year, at 89. All Australian returned servicemen should honour George and, what is more, they should know of it, that is why I send this par. He left a record of service in the interest of his war comrades that probably no R.S.L. member or soldier of any nation will ever come within coo-ee of.

There are 36 survivors still going strong in Sydney, the youngest, 83. One of them is still hale and hearty with us here in Perth, that I know of, also one Imperial Sudan veteran.

One of the Sudan men fought in four wars—The Sudan, South African, The Chinese Boxer Rebellion and World War I. Of two still living, one believes he is the sole survivor of Baden Powell’s scouts in the Matabeleland Campaign, ten years later than the Sudan. One fought in the Missouri Infantry against the Sioux Red Indian Chief, Sitting Bull, before the Sudan, which means that the old boys got around a bit and as they travelled slower than nowadays, they could study what they travelled over.

To the tune of Kipling’s “Puzzy Wuzzy” the survivors still march every March 3rd, in Sydney, and I have yet to hear of any R.S.L. sending the Old Boys a telegram wishing them good health.

Few of our younger comrades know of these older histories and if we don’t tell them before we leave, they have not much chance of hearing about them, and I am sure they will appreciate such items as this in your “Listening Post.” (We are sure they will. Thanks, Mr. Day.—Editor.)

LAND SETTLEMENT DELAYS

At its meeting on January 3, the Land Committee o the R.S.L. State Executive discussed complaints about what were called inordinate delays in land settlement. Resentment was also expressed at the publication of statements in the Press that the number of suitable wheat and sheep properties in this State was limited to something considerably below the demand for this class of farm. Reports have reached the committee that some properties, purchased for the scheme, are now occupied by farm managers, or caretakers, who receive a weekly wage for looking after such places.

Some of the properties were said to have been in the hands of the Lands Department for more than twelve months, and to have gone out of production, pending sub-division and allotment to approved candidates. The committee decided to recommend to the Director of War Services Land Settlement (Mr. V. Pyfe) that allotment of re-purchased properties to approved applicants be made, and that the successful applicants be regarded as managers or caretakers, pending completion of the leases. The committee also resolved to ask the Premier (Mr. Wise), to receive a
Re-establishment Notes
(Supplied by the Deputy Director, Ministry of Post-War Reconstruction)

It will be of interest to members of ex-service organisations to note that advice has now been received of the introduction of a further category of eligibility in relation to the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. The category comes within the professional group and reads as follows:

"Members who enlisted for war service on or before their 25th birthday and are not eligible under the other categories for training in certain professions in which vacancies may exist from time to time."

This category, which has been approved by Federal Cabinet, will now enable applications to be submitted for full-time training by those members of the Services who enlisted under the age of 25 and in such professions as may be declared by the Central Committee, principally to overcome any shortage of trained personnel in the professions. The Central Committee, at a recent meeting, resolved that the Nursing profession should be one approved under this category. It is, therefore, permissible for any ex-service personnel who have been six months' war service with an honourable discharge to submit an application for the benefits of full-time training in the Nursing profession, which embraces general, maternity, mental and mothercraft nursing. It will be noted that recently the W.A. Regional Reconstruction Training Committee made a suggestion on these lines, and its suggestion has therefore been adopted.

Advice has also been received of a further new category which will be known as Vocational Category 15, and relates to those members who interrupted a full-time vocational course in order to enlist and who desire to complete the course of training or, in the event of the occupation for which training has been commenced having to be in over-supply, commence a new course of vocational training in an occupation for which there is a demand, and who—

(a) are not otherwise eligible under the existing categories; and
(b) are not covered by apprenticeship provisions.

The effect of the introduction of this category will mean that the vocations are placed on the same footing as the provisions in relation to the introduction of a course of training entered into prior to enlistment, otherwise than that of apprenticeship contract.

Approval has also been given for arrangements to be made in certain cases for those members who are declared eligible under a vocational category to undertake professional training and vice versa. This approval was again the result of a recommendation submitted by the W.A. Regional Reconstruction Training Committee.

The reference appearing at the beginning of these notes is in relation to professional category 14 now brings that category in line with a category that has existed in relation to full-time training to those members who enlisted under the age of 25, in such trades as have been declared by the Central Committee on the recommendation of the State Committee. The W.A. Committee has not made a recommendation in this regard for the reason that, in proportion to the enlistments and population of Western Australia, the applications for the benefits are, probably, on a percentage basis, greatly in excess of other States and where training has been commenced and the applications for training have not been equal to the number of vacancies that exist, the matter has been brought to the notice of those applicants who are awaiting training with the result that the vacancies have been filled. An instance of this was training in the fibrous plastering industry. Another instance is training in stonemasonry, where a quota was established recently but the number of applicants did not come up to the number of vacancies. Consequently, the vacancies will be filled from those applicants who are awaiting full-time training.

The matter of the quotas fixed by the various industrial committees is constantly under review by both those committees and the Regional Committee, and only recently a combined meeting of the committees in the building trades group was held and discussion ensued with the Housing and Building Commissioner (Mr. Wallwork) and with a representative of the Workers' Homes Board, with the result that the industrial committees will continually review the position at each and subsequent meetings.

A letter was received recently from one organisation of employers which expressed appreciation of the numbers that had been trained in a particular industry and the type of training that was being given.

T.B. CATTLE

The Director of War Service Land Settlement (Mr. Fyle) has advised that the Under Secretary for Agriculture states that great care has been taken to ensure that cattle purchased for the Scheme are free from disease. All the cattle selected are young, with the exception of a small number of cows purchased from owners who have sold their properties to the Government, and for that reason alone should be particularly free from disease.

Tuberculin testing of these cows would not, under the circumstances be warranted, but the League could be assured that much caution will be exercised in connection with this matter.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

Anonymous (Fremantle): In making a defamatory statement about an advertiser, you commit the unpardonable rudeness of sending a communication in pencil, without signature or address. Then you have the nerve to invite our remarks. At the time of reading your letter, our remarks were not suitable for publication nor broadcasting. The only part of your communication which calls for comment is the following: "Naturally, criticising my fellow men, I do not desire to be connected with this comment and desire to remain anonymous." Your attitude certainly does not win our respect and your letter has found an appropriate resting-place in the waste-paper basket. —Editor, L.P.

18th BATTALION AND 4th BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

It is now definite that South Australian members of the Battalion are to visit the West. So far, 28 men and 12 ladies have planned to make the trip. They will arrive in Perth on Thursday, April 24, and leave on Wednesday, April 30, reaching Adelaide on May 3. Donations towards expenses, entertainment, and so on, can be sent to the president or the secretary. The committee will be grateful for offers of accommodation in the metropolitan area. The president and committee extend compliments of the season to all members.
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PRESCRIPTIONS — CONSULTATIONS

THE LISTENING POST — Page 24
AUSTRALIANS IN JAPAN

Local lads, home on leave from Japan, were surprised and disgusted at what the anti-British “Chicago Tribune” had to say about their discipline. The case against the Diggers was based on the unsupported say-so of a Japanese police inspector, but strong evidence in rebuttal suggests that the Japanese police dislike the Diggers, who will not stand any nonsense from them and will not play ball with them in the matter of black market and other rackets. In the light of this, the following extracts from a letter dated November 3, written by an Australian soldier now serving in Japan, will prove interesting. He has been there seven months and has been one of the lucky ones in the matter of travelling about and seeing things. Speaking of the south of Japan he says: “Once you get past the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima, it is wonderful country. Very few bombs were dropped down that way, as most of the Jap factories were from Hiroshima onwards to Tokio. Rice is grown as Yamaguchi and Bofu (two of the places visited). Yamaguchi is also known widely for its wonderful shrines and temples. Some of the temples are anything from six hundred to one thousand years old.

“The city of Hiroshima is being re-built quickly, but it will take many years to hide the scars of the atomic bomb. When we got here last April, I went down there on the first leave I got in Japan. I will never forget the things I saw. Everything was left, just as when the bomb fell. Buses, cars, trams and rubble were lying about everywhere, and the Jap survivors were very bitter towards us, because the Americans had told them that Australian aircraft had done the atom bombing. On the outskirts of the city is the main hospital, and the things seen there are something awful.

“We are camped about two miles from the heart of Kure, in Jap Army barracks. They are rather good buildings, with heaters in every room, so it does not seem as if we will freeze this winter. We got here at the end of last winter. Snow was lying about then. In some parts of Japan, high up in the mountains, snow has begun to fall, ten days earlier than last winter, but here the weather is wonderful. The days are nice and sunny and the nights are cool. We have just finished a rather warm summer. July and August were the hottest months and the mosquitoes have to be seen to be believed. What made things worse was that most of the main water pipes had been hit by bombs, and the water lying about everywhere helped the mosquitoes to breed.

“I suppose you have read in the papers all the bad reports about Kure. Half of it is by no means true—mostly paper talk—but I will say that things were bad at first. However, anyone who came up here had to be prepared for discomforts, because Kure was one of the most damaged places in Japan. We were just dumped here with nothing extra, but, of course, it takes all sorts to make a world. Some of the boys who wrote those reports to newspapers must have thought they were coming to some place like Sydney.

“I suppose you have also read of 66 mental cases who were sent back to Australia? For the most part they were men who should never have been allowed to leave Australia. They were men who had already gone through hell in Japanese P.O.W. camps and once they got here it was too much for them. Some of the others were boys only 18 or 19 years old. We have had very little trouble, taking it all round, since we have been here. Black marketing is very high, as the Nips are very short of food and other essentials. A cake of soap can be sold for 4/2 and cigarettes for 5d. each. The coming winter will be very hard on the Japanese people, and that is when trouble may start.”

*WHY NOT THE RETURNED SOLDIER PRINTERS?*

**STATE EXECUTIVE**

At the meeting of the State Executive on December 18, there were present Messrs. Anderson, Edmondson, Stem, Davies, Mansbridge, Leslie, Craig, Holcombe, Ferguson, James, Thor, Yeates, Golden, Hunt, Watt, Batson, Williams, Marrpy, Herdman, Stahl, Ferguson, Stewart and Lonnie. Apologies were received from Messrs. Collett, Fitzhardings and Paton.

Page 25—THE LISTENING POST
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BELMONT

After being in recess for the latter portion of the war, the sub-branch has completed twelve months of renewed activity. Membership is now 188. The sub-branch recently received a cheque for $250 from the Shell Oil Company, featuring, among other events, the Victory March in Melbourne. Mr. Herlihy, representing the State Executive, unveiled an

BELMONT

FREMANTLE

At the last monthly meeting, concern was expressed about the high prices of tobacco and the difficulty of obtaining adequate stocks. The sub-branch recently elected Mr. T. E. Flynn as the new President. The monthly report and accounts were also discussed.

OSBORNE PARK

At the annual meeting on December 21, the following officers were elected: President, Mr. G. G. Gulliver; vice-president, Mrs. A. M. Martin; secretary, Miss M. E. Davies; treasurer, Mr. W. B. Storey. The committee thanked Mr. G. G. Gulliver for his long service as President.

CARLISLE

At the annual meeting, held in late March, the following officers were elected: President, Mr. T. E. Flynn; vice-president, Mr. J. E. Martin; secretary, Miss M. E. Davies; treasurer, Mr. W. B. Storey.

GRANDBAH

The last meeting of 1946, held on December 27, was followed by a social event. The social committee was divided into several sub-committees to ensure smooth running of the evening. The evening included a children's dance, a film show, and a prize-giving ceremony. The sub-committee for the sub-branch at Whelpool, to be held on a date to be announced. Members are requested to join in the interest in sports. It was decided to invite the Mt. Yoko sub-branch to a competition in the near future.

RETURNED ARMY NURSES

At the annual meeting on December 21, the following officers were elected: President, Miss G. Martin; vice-president, Mrs. A. Smith; secretary, Miss M. E. Davies; treasurer, Miss M. E. Davies. The committee thanked Miss G. Martin for her long service as President.

DALWALINU

The annual meeting was held on December 6. The election of officers resulted in a few changes from last year's set-up. Mr. J. E. Martin will occupy the sub-branch for another year. The incoming vice-presidents are Mr. J. E. Martin and Mr. W. B. Storey. The committee expressed gratitude to the outgoing officers.

COTTRELL

There was a fair attendance at the Christmas social on December 10. A most interesting item of the programme was the film put on by the Sheil Oil Company, featuring, among other events, the Victory March in Melbourne. Mr. Herlihy, representing the State Executive, unveiled an

MOORA

The annual meeting on November 14 was well-attended. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. J. E. Martin; vice-president, Mr. W. B. Storey; secretary, Miss M. E. Davies; treasurer, Miss M. E. Davies.

SUMMARY

Western Australia Sub-Branch Activities 1946-1947

Introduction

West Leederville-Wellington

Owing to lighting difficulties, the monthly meeting on November 11, 1946, was cancelled, consequently domination of officers for the forthcoming year was held on December 3. The sub-branch has completed twelve months of renewed activity. Membership is now 188. The sub-branch recently received a cheque for $250 from the Shell Oil Company, featuring, among other events, the Victory March in Melbourne. Mr. Herlihy, representing the State Executive, unveiled an

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22 S.S.L. Smith.

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Our December meeting was well-attended and a good deal of business was put through. Most interesting news around hunsers was the Memorial Hall Fund, for which purpose an amount of £7.50 was raised from the Christmas Goose Club. During the month, a very successful combined sports night was held. The financial reports were noted, although it was obvious from the outset that the ladies who gave an account of the dates when they have more practice. An interesting interlude to the programme was provided by Em. House, who so ably assisted our Whitsun Auxiliary Conference by Vince Lawson, Harry Hansen, Roy Rentou and "Blue" Spence.

YEARMOUTH PARK

The meeting on December 13 was the last meeting of the year, the president, Ted Feltham, thanked all members for their co-operation in the past. It was suggested that a sports night be arranged with the Scarborough sub-branch early in the New Year. After business was despatched, the ladies provided an excellent supper and the rest of the evening was devoted to games. A very enjoyable children’s party was held at the Club, while the ladies provided a successful New Year’s Eve dance. A very busy December, holding a concert, paddy’s market and boxing programmes, from which the building fund will benefit considerably.

VICTORIA PARK

The attendance at the general meeting, on Thursday, January 2, was very much below the usual, although this was the night for our installation of officers for the coming year, and the majority of members were present. The most pleasing feature of the night was to have Mr. Stan Watt present to install the incoming committee. Mr. Bill Fisher was again elected to the chair. There were very few new faces, there being an excellent New Year gathering at Pemberton. Our general secretary, Bill Reid, who has retired, and his place has been taken over by past secretary, Cliff Lambe. Wishing all members a prosperous New Year.

GLOUCESTER PARK

The December meeting was held at Parkerville, with a very small attendance. It must be disappointing to our secretary, Ahern, who is trying hard to carry on after Tom Chappell has left the district, the only Parkerville representative. Let us hope he will receive more support this year. The annual meeting, to be held at Mundaring, so roll up for a good night.

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A.I.F. welcomed home the new, packing the seating accommodation to more than capacity, and the district civic welcome in March, when the board and the R.S.L. co-operated in entertaining over 550 guests in the Town Hall.

MELVILLE

For our December meeting, standing orders were suspended and a smoke social was held at the Majestic Hotel, with an attendance of over 80 guests. A most enjoyable evening was spent with a midnight feast, with all those present being ample and of the best. The annual general meeting was held on January 9 and, thanks to the efficiency of the officers and members of the committee, the president was able to close the adjourned meeting at 9.45 p.m. The retiring president (E. Gower) gave a resume of the year's activities in a short speech. During last year, membership increased from 80 to 140. The financial position is very sound: Credit (General Fund), £30 odd plus £24 in W.S.C. Building Fund Credit, £180, largely due to a series of dances. The following officers were elected for 1947: President, H. Stansbury (a founder member) and, I believe, one of the oldest members of the R.S.L. in W.A., He re-elected W.A. at the first Federal Conference; vice-presidents, E. Gower and Roy Jones (to Roy is largely due the great success of the Building Fund). Carley Maddan (who was the recipient of a small gift as a reward for his great work at secretary) was persuaded to accept office for another year if he had any assistance. This was provided by Norman Dunkley becoming minute and assistant secretary.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

STATE EXECUTIVE

The final meeting for 1946 was held on December 18. Mrs. McKinlay presided, and Mrs. Stockin (State Secretary) was welcomed home from her trip to the Eastern States. The main business of the meeting was mapping out a programme for the official visit of hospitals and homes, with Christmas cheerer-exercise, patients. The trustees reported on purchases of gifts, which were made possible by the generous donations from metropolitan and country auxiliaries. All hospitals and similar institutions in the metropolitan area were visited between December 18 and December 29. Comforts and Christmas gifts were distributed. On December 28, patients from Claremont were taken on a trip to the hills by Red Cross Transport. At Kalamunda, members of the Darling Range auxiliary provided Christmas gifts for patients. The financial position is on behalf of country auxiliaries whose donations had been sent to Anzac House. The thanks of all concerned are due to the attendants, who are members of the Greylands sub-branch, who so acutely saved their period off duty to accompany the patients. On December 10, Mrs. Vossey, founder of the War Widows' Craft Guild, with the two presidents and secretary of the newly-formed West Australian Branch, attended a luncheon at the Embassy, as guests of the Totality and Permanently Incapacitated Men's Association. On December 11, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Weeks accompanied the State President to Kalamunda to attend the Christmas social of the Darling Range auxiliary. During the month, Mrs. McKinlay attended auxiliary meetings at Fremantle and Swanbourne, and the Christmas party of the Ninth Perth auxiliary on December 13. December 13 marked the opening of Fowerson House. During the month, two new auxiliaries were formed. The Executive has come in recess until January 23, but sick visiting of civilians wards of the Royal Perth Hospital will be continued each week as usual.

SCARBOURGH

Scarborough auxiliary invites wives of R.S.L. members to a social afternoon in the Church Hall, Hastings St, on Thursday, February 13, at 2.30 p.m.

F.U.S.W.

Mrs. H. Dean presided over a large gathering of members and friends at the Christmas party last month. The Dean and Mr. Moore were the guests of honour, and the president thanked them for the wonderful help and guidance they have given the union and its members. Mrs. E. M. Rieboth, president of the State Executive of the Women's Service Guild, was the guest speaker. She spoke of London during the air raids and the English women's stand up to such terrible experiences. Vice-president, Mrs. T. C. Wilson, thanked the speaker. Songs were given by Mrs. C. Bly and Mrs. E. Clear. Mrs. D. Davies played the accompaniments, and for the community singing of Christmas carols. The children's picnic was held on December 18. The turkey dinner at King Edward Maternity Hospital is now open and members are urgently requested to enrol for voluntary duty.

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Subscribed Capital: £4,500,000. Paid-up Capital: £2,700,000. Reserve Fund: £1,100,000 (invested as to £952,000 in Australian and British Government Stock; balance used in the business). Wool and Produce Brokers, Land and Livestock Salesmen, Merchants, Metal Brokers; Shipping, Chartering and Insurance Agents. Proprietors of "Elder's Weekly." *

HEAD OFFICE: ADELAIDE

Perth Office:
Elder House, 111-113 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

Branch Offices throughout Western Australia and South Australia, and at Broken Hill and Wentworth (N.S.W.).
GARDEN FETE

(Mayland S)

(continued from a report from a country paper, cut in such a way that there was nothing to indicate the auxiliary or the place of the function. Dear Ladies, please do not expect us to be crystal gazers. An editor has a hard enough job as it is, without expecting him to be a guessing champion—Editor, L.P.)

A very pleasant and profitable garden fete, organised by Mrs. Len Wilkinson was held at her home on November 9. The fete was to augment the funds of the R.G.I. Memorial Hall. It was officially opened by Mr. Randell, of the State Executive. A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Randell by Misses Valeria and Beverley McClure. The following stalls took good business—stalls (Mrs. Swannell and Mrs. Brown); general stall (Meadowbank, Rawlings, Shepherd and Sampson); ice cream and cool drinks (Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. Begley); afternoon tea (Meadamess Kennedy, Morgan, Sullivan and Kidde). An amusing episode was the crazy hat competition, run by Mrs. B. Holloway. Mrs. Wilkinson was judged the winner. A sum of £4.2 was realised.

MAYLANDS

- During a recent visit to Claremont Asylum and Lemnos, we were asked by the inmates: "Could we get them some fruit for Christmas as they never see fruit any time?" (This is not correct—Editor, L.P.) We did.

Assistance sent from the sub-branch recently entertained us at a special party in the Maylands Town Hall area. Everybody had a most enjoyable evening. Maylands sends New Year Greetings to all sister auxiliaries.

ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN


AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (W.A. Area)—RAAF Rendwood, National House, William Street, Perth; 4th Thursday each month; President: C. A. A. R., Howard Hill (off Howard Street), Perth; Secretary: G. W. Chapman, Box 1855, G.P.O., Perth. Phone R 959.

ASSOCIATION OF WOOLSPINNERS—Anzac House, 1st Friday each month at 8 p.m.; President: H. Milkan, 36 Gladstone Ave., South Perth; Secretary: E. Henley and A. J. Snow, 231 Seventh Ave., Maylands.

EX-MACHINE GUNNERS' ASSOCIATION—Gregory's, 32 King Street, Perth; Friday before Anzac Day and 2nd Friday in October; President: Mr. S. J. Turner, Park Hotel, Perth; Secretary: G. L. Eagleson, 1st Floor., Wellington Building, Perth; Treasurer: W. P. S. F. Emma, D.A.D.M.E. H.O., Western Command. Watch this space for future activities of the A.E.M.E. Association.

FEDERATED T. B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (W.A. Branch)—Room 53, Fifth Floor, Gledston Building, Perth; Secretary: W. P. S. F. Emma, D.A.D.M.E. H.O., Western Command. Watch this space for future activities of the A.E.M.E. Association. Join President: W. S. Maxwell, 27 Dunbar Road, Claremont; Secretary: J. C. Plumb, 40 William Street, Perth.

MEDICAL ARTILLERY CORPS—Anzac House, 1st Floor, Gledston Building, Perth; Secretary: R. H. Lees, 1st Floor, Wellington Building, Perth; Treasurer: Dr. C. H. Leedham, Chairman: W. V. Brick, Military Road, Roleystone; Secretary: H. W. Rigg, 26 Elizabeth Street, North Perth. Phone B 9394.

PARTIALLY BLIND SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (W.A. Branch)—Room 53, Fifth Floor, Gledston Building, Perth; 1st Monday in each month; President: I. F. Davies, 27 Dunbar Road, Claremont; Secretary: W. P. S. F. Emma, D.A.D.M.E. H.O., Western Command. Watch this space for future activities of the A.E.M.E. Association. Join President: W. S. Maxwell, 27 Dunbar Road, Claremont; Secretary: J. C. Plumb, 40 William Street, Perth.


THE IMPERIAL EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—Monthly general meeting first Monday Night in each month; Rechabite Hall, William Street, Perth; President: W. A. Bell, Railway Hotel, Barrack Street, Perth; Secretary: A. Haswell, 347 Vincent Street, East Leederville.

THE ROYAL WEST AUSTRALIAN BLIND SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, 1st Floor, Gledston Building, Perth; President: D. M. Benson, Anzac House, Perth; Secretary: W. A. Bell, Railway Hotel, Barrack Street, Perth; Treasurer: G. Pumprich, 139 Hay Street, Perth.

TOLL AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION—Room 53, Fifth Floor, Gledston Building, Perth; 1st Thursday in each month; President: W. A. Bell, Railway Hotel, Barrack Street, Perth; Secretary: W. A. Bell, Railway Hotel, Barrack Street, Perth; Treasurer: G. Pumprich, 139 Hay Street, Perth.

SHOP at FOY'S For VALUE and Friendly Service.

Kares: £1.1/-Per Annum

6th BATTERY ASSOCIATION—Annual Reunion, Friday, October 21 (Show Week); President: Clarrie Wooler, Public Works Dept., Perth; Secretary: A. K. B. Jones, 138 3rd Avenue, Inglewood.

10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; when called; President: W. R. Andrews, c/o, Lands Department; Perth; Secretary: R. Perry, 51 Cooper Street, Nedlands.

11th BATTLE ASSOCIATION—Annual meeting: December; President: W. Kune, 79 St. Leonard's Ave., Leederville; Secretary: C. A. P. Gostelow, 42 St. George's Terrace, Perth (acting Secretary).

15th BATTLE ASSOCIATION—56 Barrack Street, Perth (Committee); third Thursday each month; President: W. L. Warden, 54 Barrack Street, Perth; Secretary: W. W. McPherson, 5393 Street, Mt. Lawley.

28th BATTLE ASSOCIATION—Committee, as arranged; 2nd Monday; President: Mr. H. Gardner, 53 Fourth Avenue, Mt. Lawley; Secretary: M. G. Foster, 532 Codee Street, Como.


51st BATTLE ASSOCIATION—Annual Reunion Friday in Show Week each year; other meetings as arranged; President: T. S. Edmonson, 33 Archdeacon Street, Nedlands; Phone W 1118; Secretary: R. A. Wooler, 34th Battalion J.S. S.A.O. Committee.

2/4TH MACHINE-GUN BATTLE EX-MEMBERS ASSN.—Mr. Ambrose Office, 3rd Floor, C.M.L. Bldg.; committee meets 1st Tuesday in each month; President: C. E. Green, 71 Mount Street, Perth; Secretary: D. D. Pearson, c/o, 2/4th Machine-Gun Battalion Ex-Members Co., 135 St. George's Terrace Perth.

2/16TH BATTLE ASSOCIATION—President: P. F. Sublet, 2nd Floor, McNeill Chrs., Barrack Street, Perth; Secretary: W. E. McPherson, 52 Brand Street, South Perth. Notification of meetings by circular or association notes in The Listening Post.

2/43rd BATTLE ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH)—Annual reunion, October 23; President: V. F. McPherson, 52 Brand Street, Perth; Secretary: L. G. Schofield, Shire of South Perth; Treasurer: G. F. Richards, c/o, Vacuum Oil Co., Pty. Ltd., St. George's Terrace, Perth.

THE LISTENING POST—Page 30
AGNEW—Coynie’s Room, every 4th Sunday in month at 10 a.m.; President: E. V. Nicholls, Corrigan; Secretary: C. W. Edwich, Corrigan.

COTTESLOE—C.B. Clubrooms, 2nd Saturday each month at 8 p.m.; President: S. A. Scott, Dalkeith; Secretary: W. A. Urquhart, Boddington.

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