The Old and the New

Ever since the war ended there have been manifestations of a deep-laid plan to divide the Old Diggers from the New. Reading between the lines, it would seem efforts are being made to exploit the old, old conflict between age and youth, with the object of making the R.S.L. less influential and less powerful.

Obtain control of the League through converts in its ranks, and the tactics employed were the making of mischief between the older and the younger men. For instance, one Haylen, M.H.R., two years ago in New South Wales, bluntly asserted that the League was losing members to other organisations because young men returning from the recent war refuse to be dominated by the older men. This was an obvious and malicious lie, but it was given prominence in the Press and it must have had an effect, if only temporary, on thousands of young men who were serving abroad at the time. The senseless suggestion that older members of the League are opposed to constitutional change and wish to keep all control in their own hands was made during last year's State congress, but it had a boomerang effect on the mischief-maker concerned.

Even a cursory glance at the present set-up of the League should convince any intelligent member that everything possible is being done to induce young men to come forward and play a more active role in the League's administration. In fact, the tendency has been to push them along too quickly in many instances. Young men are holding office in most sub-branches, and there is an appreciable number of the younger men on the State Executive. At the same time, there is still ample room for the 'older' men in the organisation. They have had the experience of the years and possess the matured judgment which experience alone can bring. The majority of them are still hale and vigorous, with several years of active work ahead of them. Of course there comes a time in every man's life, whether he is an athlete or a member of an organisation, when he must retire gracefully, but it would be both stupid and unconstitutional to set the dead-line of any age-limit to his capacity for usefulness. Even if responsibilities of a business or a profession, which accumulate as a man grows older, debar a man from a more active participation in the affairs of the League, his advice should always be welcome and helpful.

Although the younger men are beginning to step into the forward ranks, this is true rather of individuals than
of the majority. Many who are still new to Civvy Street are still restless, still unsettled as to their future, and still somewhat diffident airing their views at sub-branch meetings. In many cases, too, fellows feel they would like to know something more about the League and its workings, before accepting office. To young men who feel that way, we would suggest that there is nothing like a year on a committee to educate one in the workings of an organisation.

Let us not be in too great a hurry, either to retire the older men or to push the younger men forward. These developments will come about soon enough without forcing matters. One should remember that the older men were a restless lot themselves in the earlier years of the former peace. We have heard it said that the recent war did not engender the spirit of comradeship that was manifested after the former war. With that statement we cannot agree. We prefer to believe that the spirit of comradeship has not had time to show itself yet. We remember that it was not until the middle and late twenties that the older Diggers began to take an active interest in the League as an organisation. The younger men will take a more active interest as time goes on, but in the meantime the work of the older men is not finished. The transition period is only beginning. Until it is complete, let there be no childish talk of antagonism between the old and the new. It is the merger of the two that will make the League the most powerful influence in Australian public life through the years that lie ahead.

It would make for better harmony with resultant added efficiency, if all references to the old and new were excised. Representation on sub-branch committees or the State Executive is decided by majority vote and is entirely in the hands of the members.

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State President’s Monthly Newsletter

The Fathers’ Association recently held its Federal Conference in Launceston, Tasmania. The association is very strong in several of the States and is of great assistance to the League. The Federal President (Mr. Fairnie) in opening the conference made an appeal for an attitude of toleration to the returned serviceman, and a warning against apathy towards organisations for the benefit of ex-servicemen. A few brief matters dealt with by the association and recommended were the inadequacy of War Widows’ pensions be increased to 27 a fortnight with proportionate increases for children, without a means test. A strong plea for the re-introduction of universal military training was made. That a campaign to provide proper institutions for the treatment of men with war neurosis be waged. The Congress also re-affirmed the principle of unlimited preference for returned service personnel.

The State Executive recently appointed a Committee to consider the interests of women members of the League and to formulate plans for their well-being. The League aims to perpetuate and extend the friendships created by mutual service in war and the recollections associated with that experience, but it is difficult for women members to make use of our organisation without special provision being made for them. It is interesting to note that approximately 10,000 women volunteered to serve anywhere with the services of the Army during the 1939-45 War, and some 9,000 were accepted for such service, and about 4,000 women served beyond the mainland of Australia.

Housing looms large in the activities of the League and the R.S.L. War Service Home Committee is continually making representations on behalf of ex-servicemen. An amendment to the War Service Homes Act, in April last, increased the statutory limit of loans from £970 to £1,250. This was a result of League effort and, recently, further efforts were made to increase loans to £1,500 in the near future, but the Commonwealth Government has declined. However it has promised to consider an interest

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War Gratuity Act
THE LEAGUE'S EFFORTS TO SECURE LIBERALISATION

For some time past, the League has been making efforts to have the regulations under the War Gratuity Act made more liberal. With that object in view, a series of requests were made to the Commonwealth Government. In response, the defence division of the Treasury has pointed out that the war gratuity legislation was based on the recommendations of the All-Party War Gratuity Committee, appointed by the Federal Parliament for that purpose.

One of the League's requests was that the Act be amended so that each person entitled to gratuity would be credited with his or her entitlement, without making written application. It was stated in reply that the question of requiring written application had been given very careful consideration by the Committee, which considered that it was essential that all claimants should be required to make written application, so that their claims could be checked against the records. A register of gratuities is being compiled to cover the service of every member of the forces. It was in the best interests of the persons entitled to gratuity that written applications should be made. In cases of members who had died before the date of entitlement, service records, in many cases, would reveal who was entitled to the gratuity.

In the case of a deceased ex-serviceman, the League asked that all money, including gratuity and pay in lieu of furlough, be paid to the next of kin, irrespective of whether he or she was a dependent or not. It was also asked that the Act be amended to provide that, in the case of a deceased, unmarried member of the forces, the amount of gratuity due to him, had he survived, should be paid to his estate. To these requests, the reply was that the relevant provisions of the Act were also based on the recommendations of the Committee. The Act provided that, in such cases, the gratuity would not form part of the member's estates. It was considered that it should not be paid as a right to his estate, or to his next of kin. It might be paid, however, to any person, who was beneficially entitled to a share in his estate, in the event of intestacy, and who was of a specified relationship.
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such as widow, parent, child or dependant. The gratuity might also be credited to any other person, when special circumstances warranted it.

To a request that applications of members of the Permanent Forces for entitlement and payment of gratuity be granted, whenever the member desired to use it for the purpose of housing, it was explained that, under the Act, the final date of entitlement of serving members was September 3, 1946. Following a Government decision that gratuity credits be extended for serving members until June 30, 1947, such members were not eligible for gratuity until then, or the date of discharge, whichever was the earlier. However, approved housing authorities under the Act, and gratuity officers, had already been informed that where a serving member, including a member of the Permanent Forces, established that he urgently required his gratuity for housing, he might be issued with a provisional entitlement up to September 2, 1946, and the amount be paid in whole, or in part, to an approved authority.

Instructions have already been issued for the transfer of gratuities for housing purposes, provided that transfer for the erection of a dwelling-house on a farm and for structural alterations or additions to a dwelling-house on a farm could be approved. In cases where an advance was made for the purchase of a farm, including a dwelling-house, or there was an existing mortgage on a farm which included a dwelling-house, transfer of gratuity could be approved, provided that the approved lending authority certified that the value of the residence was not less than the amount of the gratuity to be transferred. The Act provides that war gratuity credits might be transferred to the War Service Homes Commissioner, or other approved authority, towards the cost of erection or purchase of a dwelling-house, and could be paid to the approved lending authority.

The question of whether payments should be made to members for purposes, such as housing, business re-establishment, or agricultural purposes, is related to the general principle that payment of gratuity should normally be deferred for five years. It was considered that it would not be in the interest of the ex-serviceman, or of the nation, that the large sum represented by war gratuity should be released for immediate spending, and that the greatest benefit would accrue, if payment were delayed, until the initial post-war economic difficulties have been surmounted. Consequently, the principle has been adopted that, except where the gratuity is required for housing purposes, and by certain restricted classes, such as members totally and permanently incapacitated, the payment of the gratuity to a member will not be made until 1951.

Cash payment to persons in necessitous circumstances, other than persons to whom immediate payment could be made, under the present provisions of the Act, is being examined by the Government. In the course of that examination, all representations made by the R.S.L. will be carefully considered.

The Incomplete Preference Act
THE LEAGUE WANTS THESE AMENDMENTS

Following recommendations by a special committee at the last Federal Congress, the Federal Government has been asked to make the following amendments to the Re-establishment and Employment Act, and the various proposals are now being examined at Canberra.

The present penalty for non-reinstatement (£100) to be increased to a minimum of £250, or the equivalent of six months’ salary, whichever is the greater, the whole of the amount to be paid to the serviceman concerned.

The employer to be directed to re-employ the serviceman and to pay a penalty not exceeding £5 per day for each day of failure to employ. This £5 per day penalty to apply, too, to employers who have failed to accord preference to a serviceman.

When length of service is a factor in deciding who shall be dismissed, a re-instated serviceman to be given the credit of his war service period.

Re-instated servicemen not to be dismissed or varied in employment within 12 months of re-instatement (instead of six months, as in the Act).

The Court not to assess the amount of compensation to be paid to a serviceman who has not been re-instated; the statutory amount to be paid.

Re-instatement committees and preference boards not to include a representative of general employees, but to be formed of a chairman and a representative each of: (a) Employers; and (b) persons who have rendered war service.

An applicant to enjoy re-instatement rights for 12, instead of six months, and the acceptance of temporary employment not to cancel re-instatement right.

The amendment to the Repatriation Act which accorded preference to servicemen, and which was repealed by the Re-establishment Act, to be restored.

The clauses in the Commonwealth Public Service Act which accorded preference to servicemen, and which were repealed by Re-establishment Act, to be restored.

The word "employment" to cover any remunerative appointment made by any person or authority.

Where an employer has to consider the qualifications of a serviceman as against a non-serviceman, he shall not be required to consider them comparatively, one against the other.

When assessing qualifications, the employer shall give consideration to the efficiency the serviceman would have reached only for his war service.

The right of an employer to refuse to engage a serviceman if he has reasonable and substantial cause to be replaced by a clause enforcing a preference if the serviceman can effectively perform the duties of the job.

A serviceman to be entitled to preference for any appointment, regardless of whether the appointment has been made or not.

The onus to be on the employer of showing that a serviceman cannot do the job.

The onus to be on the employer to show that he had reasonable cause for dismissing a serviceman.

Reasons to be given by a central preference board when an application made by non-service personnel, for inclusion in preference registration, is rejected.

The seven year limit on preference to be eliminated.

Apprentices to be permitted to resume within six months of discharge instead of two months, as at present.

At present the employment allowance is not paid if the serviceman has had an aggregate of six months employment since discharge. The R.S.L. wants the period to be 12 months, and the allowance increased from 50/- to 70/-, a week.

The present period for payment of employment allowance to be doubled. In the case of a serviceman with a war disability that has interfered with his employment, the allowance to be paid up to three years.

The present restrictions on loans (that the serviceman shall have in business on his own account) to be eliminated.

Loans to be made for the purchase of equipment (or car), where such equipment is necessary to retain employment under an employer.

Loan: to be increased from £250 to £500.

Agricultural loan to be increased from £1,000 to £3,000. Interest not to be more than two per cent.

Power to be given under the Act to make regulations for preference in permits, licenses and goods.

Preference to be given in retention during retrenchments or reorganisation of staffs.

Agricultural equipment or plant purchased by loans to be deemed sufficient security to cover the loans.

Eligibility for vocational training not to be dependent on age on enlistment.

Living allowances that have to be repaid, in the case of professional trainees in their fourth and subsequent years be allowed to remain over for repayment until 12 months after the completion of training.

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Page 5 — THE LISTENING POST
His Excellency

The arguments put up to justify the appointment of Mr. W. J. McKell, former Premier of New South Wales, as the Governor-General of Australia, have been so feeble that they hardly warrant a contradiction. Indeed, the low intelligence quotient shown by the apologists give one a greater respect for the Digger Premier of Queensland, Mr. E. M. Hanlon, and our own Premier, Mr. Wise, who discreetly refrained from comment. With many of the points protruded in Mr. McKell’s favour, we are in agreement. No one has ever disputed that he is a man of personal integrity, that he has been a keen exponent of the more vigorous forms of athletic sports, and that he had the grit to use the small leisure afforded by political life to qualify for admission to the Bar. He has ability and many personal qualities that commend him, but, when all is said and done, these assets singly and in the mass—do not qualify him for the high rank which has been thrust upon him. The qualities that have been mentioned in Mr. McKell’s favour are possessed by many thousands of his countrymen, who have also the additional merit of being returned soldiers. When Mr. McKell entered the New South Wales Parliament in 1917, he was 25 years old and a fine, hefty athlete. Instead of joining the A.I.F., he campaigned for the anti-conscription crowd in Australia, whose success in two referendums prevented sorely-needed reinforcements from reaching the thinly-held battle-line in France. As a result, fellows wearing two and three wound stripes went into action again, and one battalion was cut out of each infantry brigade so that the others might keep up their strength.

What is more, Mr. McKell’s name conveys very little to Australians outside his own State, and nothing at all to people in the other parts of the Empire. We are not greatly concerned, as a League, with the political flavour of the appointment, but we are keenly disappointed that, in their criticisms, the leaders of the Opposition Parties—Messrs. Menzies and Fadden—should have ignored the aspect of preference to ex-servicemen. That note was strangely missing from the general chorus of disapproval, and its absence shows clearly that politicians, whatever their party or creed, which will yield nothing but lip-service to preference unless they are forced. The forcing, obviously, is a job for the R.S.L. We concede the plea made by Mr. McKell’s apologists that most appointments to high places these days are political appointments, but none have evoked such general disapproval as that of Mr. McKell to the office of Governor-General. Mention has been made of the appointment of the first Australian-born Governor-General in Sir Isaac Isaacs, and that of Sir James Mitchell as Lieutenant-Governor of Western Australia. These appointments are beside the point. Except from dissentents, who thought that vice-regal offices should be filled from England, there was no objection to these appointments. The appointment of Sir James Mitchell, for instance, was extremely popular, and the fact that it was made by a political opponent, Mr. Phil Collier, is still remembered as something greatly to Mr. Collier’s credit. Neither appointment could be cited as an example of spoils to the victors.

If the appointment to the highest office in the land had to be a political one, to be conferred on an adherent of the Government in office, there are many men in Mr. Chifley’s own party with distinguished war records and records for public service which equal and even enhance that of Mr. McKell. We know that active service is not the only gauge of patriotism, but at least it is an infallible one. Two Labour Premiers—Mr. Hanlon of Queensland and Mr. McKell himself—tacitly conceded this when recommending distinguished soldiers for appointment as Governors of Queensland and New South Wales. The Chifley Government also conceded it when framing and enacting the Re-establishment and Employment Act; but the Chifley Government failed to carry the principle of their own law into practice. The Federal Executive of the League passed a resolution severely criticising the Australian advisers to the King, and stating that Mr. McKell’s appointment was an insult to ex-service men and women.

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Misplaced Sympathy

A new religious movement called “Christian Action”, has been launched at Oxford in an endeavour “to mobilise Christian forces for the defence of Christian standards.” It is undenominational and will seek to attain its ends by “the creation of Christian cells in all departments of public life.” One cannot but agree in principle that Christianity, if professed, is something to be practised in every aspect of life, and not merely conducted in its Sunday clothes. However, Oxford is traditionally the home of lost causes and the new movement, estimable though it be in intention, is likely to repel rather than attract as the result of the big inaugural meeting which was held in Oxford recently. Two of the four main speakers slobbered over “the plight of Germany,” one of them, Barbara Ward, of the BBC, declaring that conditions in some parts of the occupied territories were “worse than in Belsen,” and that Britain was failing in its duty towards a beaten enemy.

Again, it is admitted that “love your enemies” is a Christian precept, but “charity begins at home” is another and more potent one for present-day conditions. Under the auspices of the new movement, Britons on an austerity diet are being asked to donate food parcels for Germany. Before anyone in Australia falls for the Oxford propaganda in regard to Germany, here are a few of the relevant facts:

The Germans today are better-fed and in better health generally than the people in the neighbouring countries their troops forcibly occupied during the war. Further, the increase in the German birth-rate, encouraged since 1933 by Hitler and his Nazis, was maintained in Germany, while it dropped everywhere else. The Hundred Year’s War claimed 4.9 million lives, the Thirty Years’ War’s toll was 20 million. The war left twelve million men and women as slave labourers, away from their marriage partners during the war. We know now that the German people were well-fed and healthy during the war because their food supplies, giving a balanced diet, were supplemented by levies on the occupied countries. Not only did the birth-rate of the occupied countries decline during the war, but the people, when they actually starved, suffered severely from malnutrition. In France, tuberculosis, resulting from under-nourishment, increased to an alarming extent, especially among children. Of the million and a half French workers, deported to Germany during the war, 15 per cent. returned suffering from tuberculosis.

Thanks to adequate diets, built up by food robbery from occupied countries, the German people emerged from the war far healthier than the other peoples on the Continent. Reports from the United States Army Medical Services show that there were no epidemics in Germany during the war, and no increase in psychiatric disorders, despite the bombing, and an excellent level of public health.

Admittedly, the Germans are short of many things as the result of the war they inflicted on the world. So they were before the war, but that must inevitably be the projection of any people who put guns before butter. Their sufferings, if any, are mild compared with what people are still enduring in Britain and France. They are not starving for the simple reason that the Allies controlling the occupational zones are not letting them starve, and the comparison of their self-provoked inconveniences with Belsen and other Nazi prison camps is mere slobbering hysteria, which is calculated to damn rather than advance any cause.

Progress of Land Settlement

The progress of the War Service Land Settlement scheme was reviewed by the Premier (Mr. Wise) when he received a deputation from the Land Committee of the R.S.L., on January 28. The deputation comprised the chairman of the Land Committee (Mr. W. J. Huxley), Mr. B. A. Yeates, Mr. E. O. Davies, Mr. R. Stahl, Mr. E. C. Chambers and the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson). With Mr. Wise were the Minister for Lands (Mr. A. H. Panton) and the Director of Land Settlement (Mr. W. V. Pyke). Mr. Hunt, as Chairman of the Land Committee, expressed the League’s concern over the delay in getting service men settled under the scheme. He explained the worries and difficulties that the League had had in securing approval to the scheme, and the confusion of applicants asking for information as to when they were likely to be placed in occupation of farms. The inquiries were made as to whether orchards and vineyards and properties of that kind were to be included in the scheme. It was mentioned that rural training is a sore point with many men who had been examined, approved and notified that they would be called up. The Chairman also said that for rural loans, administered by the Rural Bank, 444 approvals to purchase had been given, 322 men assisted on their own holdings, and 124 on share farming or leases, making the total 890, whilst, under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme, not one man had been placed on the land. The R.S.L., therefore, asked for some assurance that the scheme was progressing, and whether there was any prospect of all the applicants for assistance, under the scheme, obtaining farms within a reasonable time. The R.S.L. also wanted to know what was the position regarding practical training on approved farms. The other members of the deputation submitted views on various aspects of the scheme.

In reply, Mr. Wise informed the deputation that Commonwealth approval to advertise a number of farms, in both wheat and sheep farming and dairying districts, was expected within a few weeks, as all the necessary information in regard to the proposals had been submitted to the Commonwealth authorities. In addition, a further supply of farms should be ready for allocation during April. After April, other farms should be advertised at regular intervals. He said that every effort must be made to ensure that each ex-service man, who obtained a farm, should have a good chance of success. It would be comparatively easy to enable a great many men to get farms, if essential precautions to ensure their success, as far as possible, were not taken. That, however, would mean many failures and heavy losses in the future. It would appear that there was a tendency to measure the progress of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme by the number of men allotted farms. Actually,
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THE LISTENING POST — Page 8
Mr. Wise claimed the progress could not be measured in this way. The agreement with the Commonwealth provided that opportunities for settlement, and not the number of servicemen desirous of obtaining farms, should govern the extent of settlement. Mr. Wise said that every effort was made, before the end of the war, to prepare for postwar settlement. Since the cessation of hostilities all the plant and labor that could be obtained had been employed on the preparation of farms for ex-servicemen. At the inception of the scheme, he (Mr. Wise) arranged for £120,000 of State funds to be made available for this work and the purchase of private lands. Between 300 and 400 men had been employed continually in connection with this part of the scheme and had made good progress.

The purchase of private holdings is a matter of great importance. To date, Commonwealth approval to State recommendations for the purchase of specific properties, of an aggregate value of more than £500,000 has been obtained. The benefit of the great amount of work carried out under the scheme should be felt at an early date. Every qualified ex-serviceman must be given an opportunity to apply for the farms advertised, and the allotment boards must, for the applicants, decide the names to be included in its recommendation for allotment. In explaining other aspects of the scheme, Mr. Wise said that with the limited resumption powers in this State, the restricted areas of Crown Lands that could be prepared for settlement within a reasonable time, and the limited number of private holdings being offered, there did not appear to be much prospect of allotting farms by the middle of last year to more than half the number of ex-servicemen who had applied. No authority exists for compulsory acquisition.

Concerning the Commonwealth Training Scheme, Mr. Wise said that practical training on approved farms could not be undertaken until some assurance could be given that each trainee could obtain a farm under the scheme when he completed his training. Postponement of this class of training therefore appears inevitable. More extensive assistance under the Rural Loans Scheme would if granted, no doubt, enable many men to obtain farms privately, without waiting for holdings under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. Mr. Wise stated that the Government supports more extensive assistance in this matter. The Premier appreciated the attitude of the League, and its patience during a time when all other difficulties had to be met. He also appreciated the fact that Government and League officials should get together and, with the realisation of all the problems, decide things helpfully. As he realised that many men were affected, and looking for news, he would prepare a statement for publication.

R.S.L. Cricket Association

At the end of January the position of the teams in the association was as follows: Nedlands, 19 points; South Perth, 12; Mt. Hawthorn, 12; East Leederville, 12; Midland, 9; North Perth, 7; Bedford, 6; West Perth, 4; Mt. Lawley, 4; Perth No. 2, 3; Gloucester Park, 3; Midland Junction, 3; Perth No. 1, 1; Subiaco, 3 and Claremont, nil.

Amongst the outstanding performances were Rosewarne (Midland) 110 and 6/91; Bunting, 126 retired; L. Shand (Marylands), 196 not out and 87; Treasurer, 94; A. Dick (Bedford), 7/8. Some bright batting was registered, the most notable being Mr. Hawthrone’s 238 and Midland’s 7/247, both of which were scored in less than two hours.

As an indication of the enthusiasm aroused, it is pleasing to note that over 300 players are registered, and an invitation has been accepted by South Australia to send a team of Old Diggers over here for Christmas, whilst a three-weeks’ tour of South Australia will probably be made at the same time by the Young Diggers of the West.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

"Second Sixteenth": The extra half-crown you were asked to pay this year does not go to The Listening Post. At last year's congress, the Managing Editor of The Listening Post, when invited by congress to make a statement on the paper, vigorously supported the proposal that the League produce an official organ of its own. He had previously offered to make the League a present of the paper, which has become a losing proposition for the publishers. The new arrangement regarding the official publication will operate from July 1 this year. In the meantime, the State Executive has increased the subsidy to The Listening Post by £4 a copy for the remaining period of the contract.

Mr. W. (Bill) Grayden, who is the endorsed Liberal candidate for Middle Swan, is a West Australian of the third generation. Born in Perth in 1927, he served on farms and in the W.A. Army. He then took up journalism and, later, engineering. He enlisted as a private in 1940 and served with the 2/16th Aust. Inf. Bn. in the Middle East, New Guinea (Owen Stanley-Ramau Valley campaigns), Borneo and the Celebes. He was a Captain when discharged in 1946.

He contested the Swan seat in the recent Federal elections as an Independent, and polled exceptionally well, throwing out a strong challenge to the sitting member.

A young man, Mr. Grayden has the unflagging enthusiasm and energy to give able representation in the State Parliament. His many friends throughout W.A. wish him every success in the forthcoming campaign.

Mr. W. M. Williams

Mr. William M. Williams, who is the Labour candidate for Nedlands, is a young man of the First World War. He was born at West Perth in 1898 and fought and was wounded serving with the 5th Australian Battalion. He is a metal moulder by trade and a married man with five sturdy children. Mr. Williams has had much industrial and agricultural experience and he rightly considers that prosperity in the rural areas is reflected by prosperity in the cities and that men should be sent to Parliament who, from knowledge and experience, can intelligently examine and discuss overall State economy. He has a wide knowledge of the State and his interest in its welfare is exemplified by the variety of public activities he has undertaken, including four years as a member of the Mt. Marshall sub-branch R.S.L. His interest in agriculture covers wheat, fruit and dairy produce. A keen student, a capacity to express himself, and an independent and sane outlook, should fit him for the responsible position he aspires to.

Mr. J. H. Ackland

Mr. J. H. Ackland, the endorsed Country and Democratic League candidate for the Irwin-Moore seat in the Legislative Assembly, in the general election next month, served with the 28th Battalion A.I.F. in the First World War and had two sons in the recent war, one in the A.I.F. and the other in the Merchant Navy. The latter is still one of the crew of the 'Empire Conifer', the former German ship, which was recently taken over by the Commonwealth Government. Like many another good Digger, Mr. Ackland served with the V.D.C. in the recent war. He was a Captain in No. 9 Battalion. When his original platou was disbanded, the members making him a presentation informed him that he had travelled more than 5,000 miles to attend parades before being posted to Company Headquarters. When quite a young man, Mr. Ackland took up a virgin block in the Wongan Hills district. The block, which was then 35 miles away from the nearest railway, is now a highly improved and productive property, on which has been won several district and State wheat crop competitions. It is also producing high-class stud stock and yearly drafts of quality sires and lambs. Mr. Ackland has also found time to serve the community on local governing bodies, social services and business enterprises in an honorary capacity. He was a member of the Wongan Hill Road Board for 16 years, occupying the position of chairman for 14 years of that period. Against the opposition
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of the Medical Department, and without financial assistance from the Government, but with the assistance of a few public-spirited men, he was responsible for the building, furnishing and running of a hospital at Wongan Hills. During the seven years he was chairman of the hospital committee, approximately £4,000 was raised and spent on buildings and equipment, and the Government was prepared to take it over as a district Government hospital. When Co-operative Bulk Handling was introduced, wheatgrowers elected Mr. Ackland as one of the first members of the board of directors. For many years he has been a member of the general and wheat executives of the Primary Producers' Association. The present time he is vice-president of the wheat section of that organisation and is also a member of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society. With the experience gained, and the measure of success achieved in these various activities, Mr. Ackland has proved himself the type of man needed in politics today.

**Mr. Archie Irving**

Mr. Archie Irving is an endorsed Country and Democratic League candidate for the Wagin seat at the forthcoming elections. He is a Digger of World War I, having served with the 3rd Pioneer Battalion in France and Flanders.

Mr. Irving is a woolgrower in the Kooralup district. Prior to World War I he had been four years surveying in the Kooralup area, and upon his return from service he decided to make a farm there. He selected bush land, and experienced all those vicissitudes inseparable from hewing a home. It was not until a couple of years later, in the second year of the depression, that he was able to turn it into a going concern.

Mr. Irving was with the 2/11th Battalion but later joined the 8th, Battery, R.A.N., with a reinforcement of the 8th, Battery, and later in the Kooralup district. In 1925, he returned from service and established a farm. He is a Digger of World War I, having many friends in that organisation and is also a member of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society. With the experience gained, and the measure of success achieved in these various activities, Mr. Ackland has proved himself the type of man needed in politics today.

**Mr. P. G. Potter**

Mr. P. G. Potter is the endorsed Labour candidate for Subiaco in the forthcoming elections. He enlisted from that suburb and left for overseas with the second reinforcements for the 2/11th Bn., arrived in England, just after Dunkirk, was around while some of the blights was on; left for the Middle East in 1941 as a member of the 2/32nd Bn.; went through the siege of Tobruk; was invalided home and discharged in late '42. Interested in the local R.S.L. ever since, has been a member of their executive committee and a delegate to State congress on three occasions. George has had a fairly comprehensive knowledge of the State, although a lad, he helped to feed the home front in World War II during his father's absence, and has worked ever since. At present he is employed with the Department of Industrial Training, and realises that it is only with the State's development the boys can be truly rehabilitated.

**Mr. Benson to Retire**

Although it was generally known that the State Secretary, Mr. D. M. Benson, had been under a big strain during the war years, and the months of the League's rapid expansion that followed, the announcement of his impending retirement was received with surprise and regret. On February 13 it was officially announced by the State President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson) that Mr. Benson had reached the age at which most men retire, and had expressed his desire to retire immediately after this year's State Congress ends, that is, early next October. Applications for the new State Secretary's position will be advertised in April, so that the appointment of a successor may be made in time to permit the secretary-elect to commence duty on July 1 and to familiarise himself with his responsibilities before taking over from Mr. Benson at the conclusion of Congress.

Mr. Benson's retirement will mark the end of an era, the period which saw the R.S.L. in this State pass through its growing pains, through the years of depression and the Second World War to become the growing and influential organisation it is today. The League has been State Secretary since 1925, and no other Australian branch or Federal Secretary has held office continuously for so long. During his period of service, he has won the esteem of League members and of the general public outside the League. When he became State Secretary, the membership of the R.S.L. was 3,000, and today there are 60 sub-branches. Today, membership is about 35,000, and there are more than 200 sub-branches. During 22 years Mr. Benson has been State Secretary, there have been many important events in the history of the W.A. Branch of the R.S.L. The domestic ones included the erection of the State War Memorial, the building of Anzac House, which was officially opened by the Duke of Gloucester in 1934, the launching of the War Veterans' Home Appeal and the establishment of R.S.L. House and Paversham.

If Mr. Benson should use the leisure that comes with retirement in writing his reminiscences, the resulting book should be most interesting. During his career, in peace and war, he has met many men of all ranks and from all walks of life. What more, these men have all appreciated what he has done for the Digger and the League, and will all wish him years of good health and happiness in his retirement.

**R.A.N. Deferred Pay**

A Federal Congress resolution protested against the forfeiture of deferred pay by members of the R.A.N., who had been discharged S.N.R. These men enlisted under the guarantees of the cases of Naval personnel, who had failed to qualify during the war, had been referred to a special committee for investigation. As an act of clemency, the Government has approved of payment of deferred pay, in whole or in part, in certain circumstances. As a considerable number of cases are involved, and demobilisation is not yet complete, each case will be dealt with on its merits. Meanwhile, those entitled to consideration are being supplied with application forms, and their claims will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.
Let's Get Back to First Principles
By "Blue Marine"

Ever since I came ashore and grounded arms, I've been an active member of the R.S.L. and of one or two kindred associations also. I've seen this League grow from a membership of a few thousand to its present size. In recent months I've interested myself in what members are thinking and talking about, in an effort to get what people who want change at all costs call the modern point of view. This and a regular reading of the official and certain sub-branch organs brings me to the reluctant conclusion that we were far happier, and far more influential in those old days when numbers did not mean half as much as personal service and the service was bigger than the individual.

What has interested me most—and irritated me most—is the caviling spirit that is so prevalent, and the tendency to flog up agitations against the decisions of Congress and the rulings of the State Executive in the implementation of those decisions. For instance, the year before last, the annual State congress demanded the resignation of a member, who merely sat tight in defiance of Congress and got away with it. Of course we know now that Congress made a mistake. It should have expelled him. However, his sub-branch took the strange course of sending him to the next congress, and that congress took the even stranger course of accepting him, when it should have expelled him right out for disobeying an instruction of the previous year's congress. Perhaps I'm crediting this individual with an importance far beyond his ability or his merits. What is more serious—contemptible in my opinion—is the unseemly wrangle over the extra 2/6 that members have been asked to pay this year.

As I see it, the extra amount was authorised by an overwhelming majority at last year's State congress, and authorised by the ensuing Federal congress. What is more, the protesting sub-branches were represented at the State congress. There was nothing hole-in-corner or unconstitutional about the increase, and the hair-splitting about whether the extra 2/6 is a levy or part of an increased subscription is childish as it is patry. Never having had the occasion to audit the League's accounts, I am not in a position to speak with authority on the administrative expenses, which must increase with increasing membership. I am, nevertheless, a man with some experience of life, and I know full well that

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THE LISTENING POST — Page 12
ten bob a year will not go as far today as it went when the League was formed. One of the tasks facing the League this year is that of running an official organ, and that appears to be the main reason for the extra 2/6. Judging by the experience of other publications, I should say the League will be very lucky if it is able to produce a paper and issue it post free to every financial member for half a crown a year. I notice the official organ of the New South Wales branch is sold, as a commercial venture, at 3/6 a year; the South Australian official organ, a much smaller production than our own official organ, at sixpence a copy; and the Victorian and Tasmanian organ at 3d. a copy or three shillings a year, plus postage. The Perth sub-branch charges three shillings a year for its publication, which seems to be little more than a medium for the publication of thelop-sided views of a member.

And that brings me to the function of official organs. Just as the official organ of the League has, over the course of the years, placed our organisation on the map, so the sub-branch periodicals should serve a very useful purpose in holding the sub-branch together. But what do we find? Most sub-branch organs, thank Heaven, live up to this principle, yet we find one which caters for two other sub-branches openly trying to undermine legitimate congress decisions and inciting members to disobey that decision. What has become of the old ideals of loyalty and comradeship which made the R.S.L. the wonderful expression of democracy? It was in the years between the wars? In those days we often opposed motions that were carried by congress, but we realised that democracy means the acceptance of the will of the majority, and we got behind the State Executive in its job of implementing congress decisions. This new carping spirit of eating your cake and having it, with jam on both sides, is not the Digger spirit we used to know. Neither is it a very manly or even a very sensible one. Surely I don’t need to remind fellow members that once a thing has been decided by congress, the place to alter the decision is at an ensuing congress. In the meantime, whether we like a decision or not, let us realise that those who made it are just as honest in intention as those who dislike it—probably more so—and for the love of Mike let us get back to first principles and revive the comradeship and loyalty which carried the League triumphantly through both depression and war.

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PERSONALITIES

At the January meeting of the Northam sub-branch, the president (Mr. J. Adshade) tendered a farewell to Mr. H. W. (Jock) Anderson, Inspector of Schools for the Northam district, who has been transferred to Collie district. He said he was very pleased that Mr. Anderson had been invited to the meeting and that he wished him all the best for the future. Supporting the president, Mr. C. Piper, headmaster of the East Northam school, said he had known Mr. Anderson for the past four years as his district inspector. He had always known him as a good friend to the children and teachers. When he came into a school it was always in a happy mood. He had always been responsible for the running of the R.S.L., although his duties made it difficult for him to attend sub-branch meetings. Acknowledging the farewell and a toast submitted by the president, Mr. Anderson said that Mr. Piper had exaggerated his virtues. He regretted that he had not been able to take a more active part in the affairs of the R.S.L., but he had been a member of several sub-branches. In his new district he would have to supervise the schools between Perth and Collie, but he hoped at some future date to have the opportunity of “dropping in” at a meeting of the Northam R.S.L.

At the January meeting of the Collingridge sub-branch, the president (Mr. W. S. Campbell) commented sorrowfully on the passing of Mr. J. H. Harrington, who had represented the Collingridge sub-branch for years. Members paid the customary tribute of respect and endorsed the action of the president in sending letters of sympathy to the bereaved family.

Denmark sub-branch reports the passing of an old member, the late Mr. Tom Kelly. He was a well-known and popular district officer, who saw service with the A.I.F. in the First World War.

Fred Keith, foundation member and former secretary of the Bullbrook sub-branch, has become the proud grandfather of twins. His daughter, now Mrs. Eric Gutsch, served with the A.W.A.S. as a transport driver during the war, and her husband had considerable and varied battle-area service with engineer units of the A.I.F. Among other things he was a specialist in radar. Fred himself is a Queenslander, who came to Western Australia many years ago. Before 1918, he had had military service with the old Logan and Albert Regiment, after which he fought the good fight with the 41st, one of Queensland’s two battalions in the Third Division. Fred has just sold his property and is now on the look-out for another investment.

Calling Ned Monte and “Tubby” Allen, former prisoners of war in Siam. The addresses of both are wanted urgently by a British ex-serviceman, Basil Fogg, a fellow prisoner of war, who was befriended by the two Diggers. In a letter asking the assistance of the Federal Executive of the R.S.L., in tracing Monte and Allen, Mr. Fogg said: “We were at Ubao. Camp, about 600 kilometres north of Bangkok, and “Tubby” and Ned were the two best pals a man ever had. My recollection is very hazy, but I think Ned told me he worked for Albury Motors, Albury, N.S.W. I haven’t the faintest idea of “Tubby’s” address, nor can I recall his unit. I am sure the League will be able to assist me, for I am anxious to know how my old mates are getting on. Their friendship is something I can never forget, and I want to thank them for the many kindnesses they showed me, when things were particularly tough.” Mr. Fogg’s address is c/o. Post Office, Matching Tyke, Harlow, Essex, England. Anybody knowing either Monte or Allen is asked to show them this paragraph.

Reg Davidson, whom many delegates from last congress will remember as the active representative from Kulkurin, has resumed the secretarialship of that sub-branch in consequence of his elevation to the presidential chair. The position had been filled with distinction for a long time by Mr. H. Hamilton, who resigned owing to ill health and was succeeded by the 10th Light Horse in the First World War and has been a vigorous advocate for the R.S.L. ever since its formation. He carries the good wishes of many friends in the League.

After six years as secretary and treasurer of the Manjinup sub-branch, Mr. George Major has been obliged to retire because of indifferent health. The notification of his intention to resign was received with deep regret by the management committee of the sub-branch at a recent meeting.

There was at least one Victoria Cross winner among the visiting Victorian Parliamentarians who visited Perth this month for a friendly round of games and social amenities with our State legislators. He is Mr. W. Ruthven, Labour member for Preston in the Victorian Legislative Assembly. Mr. Ruthven was a sergeant, serving with the 22nd Battalion, when he earned his V.C. at Morlancourt on May 20, 1918. When his company was held up by machine-gun fire, he ran forward to within bomb range, threw a bomb, followed it up, bayoneted one of the crew and captured the gun. When other members of the company reached him, they found he had captured a German officer and machine-gun. Mr. Ruthven was born at Collingwood, and played league football for Collingwood in 1912-13. The New South Wales Legislative Assembly also includes a V.C.—Mr. W. M. Currey, the member for Kogarah, who is also on the Labour side. Mr. Currey won the V.C. for conspicuous bravery while serving with the 92nd Battalion in the attack on Peronne on September 1, 1918. Mr. Currey has been in the news later for his effort to defend the McKell appointment. The effort showed the courage one would expect from Mr. Currey, but it was more formal than convincing. There are many returned servicemen in both Houses of our own Parliament; but, so far, no V.C. winner. However, it is not generally known that Captain R. Gee, M.C., of Perth, who won his decoration while serving with the Royal Flying Corps in France during the war against the Kaiser, was a member of the British House of Commons before he came to Australia.

Members of the Swanbourne sub-branch regret the departure of new-old member, Bill Graze, who has been transferred to Serpentine. He is represented in the sub-branch by a son, who is keeping the family flag. Another Swanbourne member, Harry Latter, was laid up with kidney trouble during the month. Members were glad to hear that he would soon be out of hospital. Condolence of all members is extended to Hughie Wilson and his good wife on the loss of their only daughter during the month.

Members of the 8th Battery Association and Old Artillery Comrades’ Association will be sorry to hear that their hard-working and sincere comrade, Jack Kenny, is on the sick list at his home in Inglewood. His M.O. has ordered him a complete rest for at least six months. We join with his fellow members and many other friends in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Mr. R. J. Ulrich, a former fighter pilot of the R.A.A.F., has been appointed secretary of the Royal Aero Club of Western Australia in succession to Mr. K. R. Smith. Mr. Ulrich won the Distinguished Flying Cross while serving with a Hurricane squadron in Italy. He took up his London duties one month. The club was closed down from November 1940 to January 1946, but it is now very active during the past year. There are now 360 members, at least 180 of whom are flying members.

A wartime romance was carried a stage further during the month when Margaret McKinnon, second daughter of Roger and Mrs. McKinnon of East Cannington, said “I will” in St. Andrew’s church. Margaret’s war service was rewarded by her inclusion in the Victory Contingent, which left Australia last year for the big Victory march through London. The lucky young man who persuaded her to accept his surname is Melville Olive of Queensland. He was an R.A.A.F. Catalina pilot with much service to his credit in the South-West Pacific. His father is a past president of the Cannington sub-branch, and her father is president of the women’s auxiliary.

Members of Mr. Hawthorn sub-branch congratulate their treasurer, Bill Bowles, on becoming a proud grandfather. We join with sub-branch members in congratulating Bill and Mrs. Bill and daughter, Mrs. Ted Mettam, on the happy occasion.

Mr. Hawthorn’s sick parade is, fortunately, a small one this month. J. Nesbitt, at Edward Millen, Harry Blunt at Wooloolo and Syd General and Tom May and Bill Bates are at home. Members will be glad to hear that Ernie Moore and Bill O’Neill are both out of Hollywood. We wish them all a speedy recovery.
**VARIA**

- "On the evidence submitted by the R.S.L., it is not considered that the claim that — was appointed to Trade Group 2, with effect from July, 1942, has been established." That was the information that the League got in April last from the Army authorities, and is expected to be the end of a Digger's claim that he had been promoted but the appointment of men has ground in the Middle East. However, the League got to work and made contact with several officers of this member's unit. One very useful report came from the acting C.O., and then the news reached the W.A. Branch from the Federal Office that: "In view of the further statement made by this man's commanding officer (——) approval has been given for the appointment of officer to Trade Group 2, with effect from July 1942." Now let the member speak, because: it means about £105 to him: "It is with pleasure that I tell you that I have received full payment and it is certainly great to know there is an organisation such as ours to help fellows in positions such as mine was and, believe me, I will not hesitate to spread amongst the boys the way the R.S.L. helped me."

The grateful Digger's case is only one of many that have been ironed-out by the R.S.L.

- Historic Queenscliffe, built to protect Melbourne in 1871, when there were so many wars and alarms in Europe, is to be given up by the Royal Australian Artillery. The Royal Regiment had manned the post since it was built, but, now, only one officer and eight other ranks remain, presumably as caretakers, for the post has been taken over by the Australian Staff College. Queenscliffe had the honour of firing the first shot for the Empire in the First World War. This was fired across the bows of the German steamer, Pfaal, which was on its way from Portsea to the Heads when the official news of the declaration of war was received. If any readers know Captain Ted Quirk, now stationed at Northam, he can tell them many things about Queenscliffe which have not been recorded in the history books.

- One result of independence for India will be the immediate "Indianisation" of the Indian Army, which has offered careers to British officers since long before the days of Lord Roberts. At the end of January, the War Office announced that the British Army would absorb 700 regular officers of the Indian Army. They form part of the 1,200 British combatant officers, with a maximum of 25 years' service, who were serving with the Indian Army on January 1. The transfers will be spread over two years, and will probably begin in April or May. No officer with 25 years' service or more will be considered for transfer to the British Army.

- The shortage of nurses is well-known, and this is emphasised by the generous financial provision being made by the Commonwealth Government to ex-service women who enlisted before the age of 25 and who now wish to take up again training. As a result, nurses, equipment, up to £20, are granted each year and the full "G" class sister's rate of £3/3/7 per week, plus board and lodging, is paid during training.

- A second fishing school will open during May, at Cronulla, New South Wales, and applications from ex-servicemen may be made with the Ministry of Postwar Reconstruction, Yorkshire House, St. George's Terrace, Perth. Applicants who are eligible and suitable will be sent to this school for a period of four months and then placed with approved employers for a further eight months; the course being completed in one year. The training at Cronulla is designed to produce master fishermen who will ultimately become leaders in the Fishing Industry. Applicants are required to have a standard of education equal to the Junior Certificate, good physique, open-air background and preferably a definite manipulative skill. The training target for the Commonwealth is 180 trainees—a year for two years.

- The Commonwealth Employment Service is conducting a survey of vocational opportunities in this State, with a view to ascertaining the number of trainees in the various trades and callings which could be placed as the training is completed in the Initial Training School. This information obtained is of great assistance to the Industrial Committees responsible for fixing the quotas of ex-servicemen to enter training and to the training authority in providing accommodation and equipment. The chairman of the Regional Reconstruction Training Committee (Mr. R. A. Wood) has issued an appeal to all employers to notify the Commonwealth Employment Service (B7153) as to their probable labour requirements during the coming year, so that the Regional Committee may plan the training and placement of ex-service personnel with confidence and efficiency.

- H.M.S. Vanguard, which conveyed the Royal Family to South Africa, is the newest battleship of the Royal Navy. The keel was laid in John Brown's yard at Clydebank in October 1941. She was built, despite air raids, shipping losses and shortages, to become the world's most powerful battleship. It took three years intensive work, not only by the shipbuilders, but also by countless thousands of other workers throughout the country, to complete this task. In November 1943, Princess Elizabeth launched her. Eighteen months in the fitting-out basin followed and, in April 1945, she was commissioned under the command of Captain W. G. Agnew, C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., R.N., of Mediterranean fame, during the war. On April 12, Princess Elizabeth visited the ship to attend the centenary ceremony of Blessing the Ship. H.M.S. Vanguard's active career then began in earnest. Having left the Clyde for Portsmouth, her home port, she was finally accepted by the Admiralty, at Spithead, on August 9.

- British scientists have planned daring sways in the icy waters of the Antarctic to obtain blood samples from harpooned whales. During young men, in special "frogmen" suits, will go into the water and attack the whales with knives. Their aim is to secure blood samples from the whales, surfacing for the last time, after being harpooned from a ship. The blood of the whales will be analysed in the ship's laboratory, and the information gained about the oxygen content will reveal how the whale, which is an air-breathing mammal, can remain submerged for more than an hour at a time. Additional information will be gained by means of thermometers fitted in harpoons. The knowledge gained is expected to be of assistance in the study of deep-sea diving by human beings. The "frogmen" are members of a whaling expedition which left Britain last October. The team of scientists with the expedition were chosen by the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. "Frogmen" came into prominence during the recent war, when expert British swimmers, in special suits, swam under water to attack and destroy with explosive charges, the submerged destroyers of Hitler's "Atlantic Wall," before the invasion of Europe.

- A general X-Ray of all members of the community as a precaution against T.B. will probably be implemented by the Federal Government within the next two years. This is revealed by the Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Barnard) in a letter to Federal.
Executive. He was replying to representations by Executive that the Government arrange for an X-ray examination for T.B. of all service men and women two years after their discharge. Describing the request as being desirable, Mr. Barnard then told of his plan for a general X-Ray of the public. Federal President (Mr. Eric Millhouse, K.C.) said he was pleased that action by the League had resulted in such an important announcement by Mr. Barnard.

- It was announced last month that Canada had discharged 95 per cent of the 1,000,000 men and women in the Canadian Armed Forces. Since the end of the war, Canada has paid the equivalent of $33,000,000 odd to returned soldiers, including $6,000,000 as preliminary payments on home purchases. By the end of October, 1946, 12,000 full-time farmers and 9,000 small holders had been settled on new areas. As a member of the League's Land Committee sadly remarked: "That could never happen here."

- From Tasmania comes the story of an attempt by the R.S.L. to sell the Imperial Hotel, Hobart, a fine building in a central position, which has been well and favourably known to tourists for several generations. The Federal Treasury blocked the sale, on the grounds that the price asked, and which the League was prepared to pay, was in excess of the limits permitted. The position now is that the Tasmanian Branch has the funds but has been unable to find another property it can buy in place of the Imperial Hotel, which would have been ideal for its purpose. The hotel now has been leased for a long term by Ansett Airways.

- On his arrival in England, the Duke of Gloucester was met by the Earl of Clarendon. The Earl himself has blood-ties with Royalty. On the feminine or distaff side, he is descended from that staunch Royalist of the Civil War, Edward Hyde, who, as Charles II’s chief Minister, was created first Earl of Clarendon. His daughter was the first wife of James II and the mother of two English Queens, Mary II and Anne. The first Earl of Clarendon outlived his popularity at Court because he tried to curb the King’s extravagance, and found fault with the King’s love-life. It is on record that Charles, if not actually the Father of his people, became the father of quite a number of them. Clarendon was dismissed and banished, and spent the remainder of his life writing a history of the Civil War, which he called The Great Rebellion.

- Britain has set a building target of a home for every family by December 1948, though this will not necessarily mean a separate house for each. The manpower difficulty will be eased somewhat this year by the completion of the programme of repair, conversion and adaptation of the heavy total of bomb-damaged houses in order to make them fit to live in once again. More than 300,000 families have been re-housed by this means, and the wisdom of concentrating on repair work, during the early stages of the building programme, when materials were scarce, has been fully vindicated. The target of temporary houses of the prefabricated type has also been nearly reached; and a good start has been made towards the 1947 goal of 240,000 new permanent dwellings before December. More than half that total is now under construction.

- One of Britain’s latest inventions is a Braille reading micrometer for the rehabilitation of blinded ex-servicemen in certain industries. The micrometer has been made to enable those blinded men, who had been skilled tool and instrument makers before the war, to carry on with their normal work. The instrument is based on the ordinary micrometer, but the Braille characters are on relatively large drums, and by revolving these drums the blind man can “take his readings.”
Education of Children of Ex-Servicemen

By E. S. Watt

In my previous articles I have covered matters of eligibility and the assessment of war and service pensions. In this I will discuss the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, which is a section of repatriation work that is, perhaps, very little known, but of major importance to the individuals concerned and of great value to the nation.

The scheme was inaugurated on February 7, 1921, under the provisions of the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act, and there are large numbers of orphans of the First World War who, today, are in responsible positions, and who can thank the scheme for placing them on the ladder to success and public usefulness.

Briefly, those eligible for benefits under the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme are the children of deceased soldiers, the children of totally and permanently incapacitated soldiers, and the children of blinded soldiers, whose death or incapacity has been accepted by the Repatriation Department as being due to war service. The scheme is administered by an honorary board which, in Western Australia, includes representatives of the University, Secondary, Technical and Primary Educational institutions, the Scholarship Trust, and the Returned Servicemen's League.

The object of the scheme is the education and training of eligible children for skilled vocations—agricultural, industrial, commercial or professional. The desired result is achieved by the board, firstly by expert advice, at appropriate stages, to the child and parent or guardian, as to the most effective plan of education, and the most suitable occupation for the child to enter; and secondly, by close supervision, during the period of education and training. These two important requisites, when combined with the reasonable monetary allowance made available during training, operate to give the child an opportunity of reaching a stage of efficiency in his other selected vocations, and assist the child to become a more efficient economic unit in the community.

Before entry to the wider scheme at the age of 13 years, the Repatriation Commission may pay such an amount as it deems necessary to cover expenses entailed in connection with school requisites, text-books and the like. Towards the end of the primary education period, the position is reviewed. Where possible, the child and the parent or guardian are interviewed by the board and are advised as to the form which subsequent education should take. If the expert advice is adopted, a weekly allowance of six shillings is made available, as from the child's 15th birthday. From the 14th birthday, it is increased to 9/6 a week. Special provision is made for cases where lack of educational facilities force a child to live away from home to secure the desired training. Up to 16 years of age the allowance is in addition to any war pension that may be in payment. Should the pupil remain at school after reaching the age of 16, the allowance is increased, to compensate for the loss of pension.

The education allowance is for training purposes only, and will be paid only during such time as a child is assiduously following the training approved by the board. The allowance is not a statutory right, partaking of the nature of a pension. It is, in its very nature, a grant towards giving children an opportunity of obtaining education or training which would be denied them without this assistance. The scale of allowances and benefits may be roughly divided into four groups: At school, industrial, agricultural and professional. In the case of children at school, as previously mentioned, the scale of allowance is, at the age of 13, 6/- a week; at 14, 9/6 a week; and from 16-18, 27/- a week. In regard to industrial allowances, where the selected vocation is a trade, wages are taken into account, and the allowance varies

A.M.F. SPECIAL BENEFITS FUND

The General Secretary (Mr. J. C. Neagle) has advised on a decision reached at a recent meeting of the trustees of the A.M.F. Special Benefits Fund. The meeting was convened to discuss the administration and procedure in connection with the fund. It was stated that cash appropriations from the fund would be subject to deductions by the Social Services Department. The meeting therefore decided to forward to the League the copy of a recommendation for the necessary submission to the Commonwealth Minister for Social Services:

"This committee, representing the trustees of the A.M.F. Special Benefits Fund, resolves that aproach should be made to the Minister controlling Social Services with a view to securing a ruling that payments from Army canteen funds be exempt as income under Social Services regulations."

Mr. Neagle adds: "I need hardly point out that, in a genuine case, and accepted as genuine by the Social Services Department, benefits from the A.M.F. Canteen Profits Funds will be of little benefit unless they are allowed as the means of providing extra comforts for ex-service men and women receiving assistance from the Social Services Department."
This is a digest of the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, and I suggest that those eligible, seeking further information, should call or write to the Repatriation Commission. The Repatriation officer, who is secretary of the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, is Mr. Clif Sadler, V.C. He is the right man for the job, and his work for widows and children extends far beyond the official duties of his department.

In addition to the repatriation benefits, children of the age of 13, attending school, receive up to £4 for books, and the cost of fares to and from school, from the Sir Samuel McCaughey Bequest, or the Forces Children's Education Funds Trust. Applications to these trusts are invited, and should be sent to the Repatriation Department, Perth.

There is also the Soldiers' Children Scholarship Trust, which gives limited assistance to orphans whose fathers' deaths have not been caused by war service, and to the children of incapacitated ex-servicemen. Scholarships are obtained at colleges, the Modern School, high schools and business colleges. Books are purchased and, in rare cases, fees are paid. This trust was formed after the First World War by the late Colonel Charles Battye and Mrs. Forster. It has been financed largely from gratuity bonds donated by ex-servicemen of the 1914-18 War and by donations from the R.S.L. women's auxiliaries. The honorary secretary of the fund is Mr. J. R. Fitzpatrick, of the Repatriation Department, Perth.

It will be seen, then, that in attending to the needs of servicemen and their dependents, the vital educational needs have not been overlooked. There is much truth in the old copy-book maxim that a nation's greatness depends on the education of its people, and this has not been forgotten in looking after the welfare of servicemen's children.
SCABBARDS OFF
BY "PIP TOK"

The Commonwealth Government is to be congratulated on the sound common sense displayed in rejecting a proposal to make the anniversary of the first Japanese attack on Darwin a national day on equality as such with Anzac Day and Australia Day. Perhaps the Government, realised the difficulty of finding any suitable form of commemoration other than another marathon from Darwin to Alice Springs.

According to the "Christian Science Monitor," which quotes the American Mission in Moscow as its authority, most of the war loot, which the Russians have grabbed as reparations, is becoming junk. The report debunks the so-called Soviet-planned efficiency by recording that, outside Moscow, "one of those American factories that were shipped lock, stock and barrel to Russia during the war" is "wheezing along at 30 per cent. capacity." "Reports also tell of mountains of German industrial loot and reparations machinery lining Soviet railroads, rusting and falling to pieces. No one knows how it works, where it goes, or what to do with it. It represents millions and millions of dollars worth of valuable equipment, but it is fast becoming just so much junk."

According to the Nanking correspondent of the New York Times, many responsible members of the Chinese Government are four-square behind the independence movement in Indo-China, but fear that it might swing too far to the Left. The French made no bones about describing the Vietnam movement as Communist, although George Weller, of the Saturday Evening Post, points out that the rebellion is an independence movement first, though it has Communist support. Ho Chi-Minh, the Vietnamese leader, has been a Communist organiser all his life. Born in Northern Annam in 1890, he worked his way to Europe, as a steward in his early twenties. In Paris he worked at journalism, painting and photography. Eventually he went to Russia, where he studied revolutionary agitation and organisation. The Communist sent him to China, where he was active during the revolution of 1927. The French are not displaying any kid-glove tactics in dealing with the Vietnam rebellion. They insist that the fighting must be finished before negotiations commence, and do not underestimate the task in front of them. By all accounts, they have a major war on hand. The Vietnamese have been attacking under four-hour artillery barrages. Where are they getting their guns? The Japanese could not have supplied all their armaments, and Russia is too far away. One suspects that full use is being made of the proximity of the Chinese border.

A well-known Hollywood magnate said in an interview recently that American film producers cater for an average mental age of 12. It would be difficult to assess the age-level appealed to by two Tasmanian speakers in an ABC forum of the air debate on compulsory training. One J. B. Piggott, presented as secretary of the United Nations Association, opposed compulsory training on the ground that it was "training to be violent, to kill, to maim and to exterminate." He suggested that this sort of training develops criminals, and read some of the instructions given to commando troops to illustrate his point. It reminded me of a local academic know-all, who supported his pacifist arguments between the wars by instancing how bull-ring instruction worked up the simulated frenzy that we used to call the "spirit of the bayonet." Apparently men training for war should be taught to pet the enemy, and let him do the killing. Another argument was that Britain and America were without compulsory training when the war broke out, while Hitlerite Germany was trained to the last. In other words, the Allies won without compulsory training and the Germans, who had it, lost. The purveyors of this rhetorical rubbish overlooked the obvious fact that the unpreparedness of the Western Allies made the war longer and more horrible, even if it did not invite it in the first place. Also forgotten was the fact that Russia had compulsory training and compulsory everything. The gentleman who said that this training is developing criminals in Russia. At question time, this debater snarled and side-stepped when asked why, if compulsory training were wrong and an incitement to aggression in Russia, it was right in Russia? However, he did stir up the sleeping and shaggy dog by calling his opponents reactionaries who, by their compulsory training because they want war, because without its, there would be no fat contracts for profiteers. That assertion must have a strong appeal to the professional soldiers, who find it hard enough to live on their pay, even in Australia.

At the most dangerous stage of the War, Britain alone stood between the forces of evil and the destruction of all that makes life worth living. Today, Britain is facing an even more colossal task. The British people are trying to do four things at once. They are rebuilding devastated Britain. They are carrying on their normal business. They are constructing a new Socialist economy, and they are carrying greater defence burdens than ever before. Commenting on the way the people in the Old Country are facing up to this four-fold task, the American writer, Joseph Alsop, of the Washington Post, considered that, merely from the standpoint of mutual interest, little general between Britain and the United States could be developed greater than Britain can quite meet; but he thinks that, eventually, the British experiment will be made to work, somehow or other. Alsop quoted an Englishman who said: "What we are doing is the only bearable escape from the choice which faces many nations in the world nowadays—the choice between the knives and the Commissars. For the British, Government planning and control, to provide the most economical use of existing resources; but it is far from being totalitarian, in either the German or the Russian sense. In fact, as Alsop points out, it will break down completely and rapidly, if it loses the support of the majority in the United Kingdom.

Britain and Australia received unexpected support from Russia in objecting to United States trusteeship proposals for the future of the Far East, for the United Nations redeemed by Japan. Russia, however, is discreetly silent about the threat from the little Baltic countries. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. They were formerly parts of Russia, but were created independent States after the Kaiser's War and taken under Soviet "protection" during the recent war. Russia has guaranteed Lithuania's independence in a series of secret treaties and agreements from 1920 to the pact of mutual assistance which the two countries signed on October 10, 1939, and Molotov's declaration on October 31, 1939, that Russia renounced all rights to Lithuania for all time. During the years of appeasement that preceded the war, Lithuania had to yield Vilna to Poland and Memel to Germany, and to Russian demands for military bases. However, the little State bravely refused a Nazi demand for the formation of a Lithuanian legion to fight against Russia. This is home grown resistance. In violation of international law, Russia seized Lithuania. Under the Lithuanian regime, over 100,000 Lithuanians have been deported or executed. Religious persecution continues. Private property and the free Press have been abolished. Agriculture has been ruined, libraries have been burnt. Individuals have been physically ill-treated, and their language, one of the oldest in Europe, has been suppressed in favour of Russian. Russia is far worse. Thousands of Lithuanians are being callously starved because of the Soviet's refusal to recognise the Red Cross, and Russia's failure to deliver eighty million dollars worth of U.N.R.A. goods to Lithuania.

An Eastern States contemporary notes that Australian Communists are maintaining touch with Indonesia. One manifestation of this was the arrival in Java of a parcel of medical supplies from Australian Eureka Youth to Indonesian Socialist Youth. To the student of Australian history, it must always be puzzling that the Communists should try to establish a lien over the Eureka Stockade. That brief affair had no result other than that...
of making the miner's right the qualification for the franchise. As a rebellion, it was neither very heroic nor admirable. Three hundred soldiers came out against five times as many rebels, and gave them first shot. The soldiers carried an entrenched position in a few minutes. There was little loss on either side, mainly because the defenders melted away at the first sign of serious opposition. The rebellion was a fiasco and, as an event of our past, it was not nearly as significant as the big strikes of the early 'nineties which brought the Australian Labour Party into operation as a political force.

- During Country Cricket Week we heard a visitor express a very sensible opinion of the McKell appointment. "Well," he said, "we lived through the convict system, we outlived two wars and the depression, surely as Australians we've got guts enough to live down McKell."

Applications are invited for the position of Accountant, Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia (W.A. Branch). Salary range, £468/520 per annum. Superannuation scheme operating. Applicants must be members of the League. Applications close March 19, 1947, and should be forwarded by post, addressed to Box P 1213, G.P.O., Perth, W.A. Envelope to be endorsed "Quote: Application, Accountant." Application must state age, accountancy qualifications, civilian experience, service record, and should enclose copies only of reference. Personal canvass of members of the State Executive or League officials will disqualify.

THE NEW ARCHBISHOP

The Archbishop-elect of Perth, the Rev. Robert William Haines Moline, whose arrival is expected in June, will not come to Australia as a stranger. He was in North Queensland from 1922 to 1929, spending the last two years of that period as sub-dean and rector of St. James' Cathedral, Townsville. His wife was born in Charters Towers, and was on the staff of St. Mary's School, Charters Towers, when they met. They were married in 1929 on the day he left for England, and the voyage to the Old Country was their honeymoon trip. The Archbishop has other associations with Australia. He was at the King's School, Canterbury, at the same time as the Archbishop of Sydney (Dr. Mowll) who is also a returned soldier. The Archbishop-elect is 57 years of age, nearly six feet high, slim and with laughing blue eyes. He has a rich, bubbling sense of humour, but is a man of great spirituality all the same. Ex-servicemen of Western Australia will welcome him as a fellow ex-serviceman. After a distinguished academic career at Cambridge, he enlisted for service in the First World War in the Rifle Brigade. He attained the rank of Major and won the Military Cross and finished the war as a prisoner in Germany. During his 15 months' captivity, he proved his humane regard for his fellow-men by giving away his food to comrades whom he thought needed it more. This self-sacrifice put him into bad health, from which he did not fully recover until about ten years after the war. It was after his experience as a combatant soldier and a prisoner of war that he commenced his training for the church.

RESUMPTION OF LAND

Following a recommendation from the Federal Congress to the Minister for Postwar Reconstruction (Mr. Dedman), in connection with compulsory resumption of land for soldier settlement, the Commonwealth Minister stated that the control of land was outside the scope of the Commonwealth and suggested that the matter be referred to the State.

Upon doing this, the R.S.L. has been advised by the Director of Land Settlement (Mr. W. V. Fyfe) that, in Western Australia, under the Closer Settlement Act, land can be resumed if it can be shown that resumption would result in a substantial increase in production, together with a reasonable increase in the number of persons usually resident on it. It will be seen, therefore, that there is no power under which a fully-developed and properly used holding (which might be large enough to subdivide into two or more farms) can be resumed for settlement.

Under the National Security (Economic Organisation) Regulations, proclamations can be issued to prevent the sale of country land likely to be required for the War Service Land Settlement Scheme, but the owner of it, in each case (unless it can be resumed), may exercise his own discretion as to whether he sells it to the Government or retains it for his own use.

Mr. Fyfe added that this power of proclamation has been used on a number of occasions, but with only limited success, and that the League's letter would be discussed with the Minister for Lands (Mr. Fyant) at the first available opportunity.

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BOOKS IN REVIEW ORDER

"We Were the (Riff) R.A.A.F." by Alex Green. Published by Patersons Printing Press Ltd.; Perth.

Author and publisher are both to be congratulated on turning out a most interesting booklet on the service of the R.A.A.F. in Northern Australia. The writer, Mr. Alex Green, gives an eyewitness account of persons, places and events. Besides chronicling little-known aspects of a vigorous young fighting service, he has written intimately of parts of Australia which were little known to the great majority of Australians between the wars. Hardly a phase of service life in the Australian tropics has been neglected. The reader of the book will find out for himself, not only how these men endured, but how, in true Australian spirit, they contrived to make their own amusements to combat the monotony of enforced leisure. Mr. Green, who is a journalist by profession, writes with that simplicity of style and economy of words which form the basis of what is best in literature. He has all the verve of the true reporter in describing service sports and the eye of a serviceman for country. The booklet contains many fine pieces of descriptive writing and is well illustrated by photographs.

Mr. Green was formerly a member of the Perth sub-branch. He is now employed on the literary staff of the Geraldton "Guardian and Express" and a member of the Geraldton sub-branch. We shall look forward to reading more from his pen.

A Policeman's Life

"Where Skies are Blue," by M. L. Skinner. Published by the Imperial Printing Company Limited, Perth.

Miss M. L. Skinner, whose first book "The Boy in the Bush" was written in collaboration with D. H. Lawrence and published over 20 years ago, needs no introduction to West Australian readers. Her latest book, "Where Skies are Blue," shows that her writing hand has not lost its cunning. She retains the gift of narration and the ability to portray characters, which are the outstanding features of her earlier works. Her latest story is based on the reminiscences of an old-timer, who lived in many parts of the State, but is confined to the tale of his experiences as a young policeman in the Williams district, about 60 years ago. Apart from its value as a story, the book is of historical value in its revival of an interesting and creditable period of our history.
Federal Stop Press

Eligibility
The special Federal congress, convened to consider the widening of the eligibility issue, decided in the night of February 12 to hold a national plebiscite of all sub-branches on the question of widening the qualification for membership of the R.S.L. Sub-branches will have one vote each. A resolution to extend membership privileges to all volunteers, who served anywhere for six months, and who were honourably discharged, was passed by the Federal congress last year but was not implemented, in view of protests. The coming referendum is to be completed by May 31. The membership of the League is about 400,000, and there are 2,300 sub-branches. Congress also decided to amend the constitution to provide for the extension of membership to accredited official photographers and artists who served in a theatre of war for not more than six months. The Federal Executive held a meeting on February 13.

Vice-Regal Appointment
The Federal Executive carried a resolution strongly criticising the appointment of Mr. W. J. McKell as Governor-General of Australia. The resolution read: "Having noted the appointment of a Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, the Returned Servicemen's League protests against the advice tendered to His Majesty by responsible Ministers on the following grounds: (a) That the appointment to the office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of an active party politician lowers the prestige and dignity of the office; (b) that the appointment of a non-service man as Commander-in-Chief of the Forces is bound to lead to ridicule and contempt, and is an insult to all servicemen; (c) that the advice by which the appointment was made by His Majesty is contrary to the spirit of the Re-establishment Act of the Commonwealth of Australia, which prescribes preference to ex-members of the forces." 

Land Allocation
The Federal Executive decided to ask the Minister for the Interior (Mr. Johnson) to give preference to ex-servicemen in the allocation of land in the Northern Territory and to set aside land in the Territory for returned men.

Public Service
The Federal Executive decided to lodge a protest against the practice of the Commonwealth Government in not calling for applications for all positions in the Public Service.

Palestine Atrocities
The Federal Executive decided that a letter be sent to the British Empire Service League expressing concern at the atrocities committed by Jewish terrorists in Palestine.

STATE EXECUTIVE
JANUARY 15, 1947

At a meeting of the State Executive on January 15 there were present Messrs. Anderson, Edmondson, Watt, James, Thorn, Manshine, Fitzhardinge, Ferguson-Stewart, Herlihy, Stahl, Olden, Halcombe, Ferguson, Major, Craig, c.Pton, Stoddart, Hunt, Bateson, Collett, Yeates and Davids.

Increased Subscription.—The State Secretary was instructed to advise the Sub-branch, who had raised the question of the levy of 2/- ($0.50) per annum subscription, that the levy and the terms of approval of the State congress and the full approval of the Federal congress.

Postal Securities.—Following a communication from the City of Perth sub-branch, it was agreed that notwithstanding Rule 13, para. (1), "A paid secretary under written agreement shall not be re-elected unless by subscription.

Mountjoy Appointment.—Letters of protest against the appointment of the former Federal member for Swan (Mr. D. A. Mountjoy) to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, were received from the Returned Servicemen's League, Beverley and Brookman sub-branches. A letter was also received from the Federal Secretary in reply to a previous protest from the W.A. Branch, in which the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction (Mr. Cuffe) accepted full responsibility for the appointment and declared that he was not accountable to any organisation outside Parliament for any appointments made. It was resolved to make further representations to the Government, pointing out that the League insisted that preference be observed, that the League represented the Minister's reply, and that the League insisted on the appointment being rescinded and that it be replaced by an ex-serviceman. The State Executive also demanded that applications be called for the position, and that attention be drawn to the considerable weight of unfavourable public opinion which had been expressed as the result of the appointment.

Anti-T.B. Association.—The Executive agreed with the request of the Neldsland sub-branch that a representative of the R.S.L. be appointed to the Anti-T.B. Association. The matter has been referred to the Repatriation Commission for further consideration.

Escaped P.O.W.—No. 17 District Committee asked that photographs and complete descriptions of all escaped enemy P.O.W. now at large be published to prevent them.
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PRESCRIPTIONS — CONSULTATIONS

THE LISTENING POST — Page 24
Anzac House.—The House Committee reported on the completion of mailhold loading and arrangements with tenants as to letting.

Anzac Club.—The Club Committee reported that a donation of 15 quirens had been made to the R.S.I. Cricket Club, and on the investigation of certain book items not being delivered.

S.S.L.—The S.S.L. Committee reported that it had been agreed to make a donation of $25 for a sports meeting, and outlined arrangements made for holding the meeting at Leederville.

Hospital Visit.—The Hospital Visiting Committee suggested a scheme whereby the nurses in institutions in the metropolitan area, at which ex-servicemen were patients, should be given holidays by the respective district. The following members of the Executive were appointed liaison officers to contact the institutions: Severn, Colonel Olden, Healthcote, Mr. W. J. Hunt, Edward, Mr. R. M. Leckie, Mr. F. E. Ware, Sunset, Mr. T. Edmondson; Wooroloo, Mr. J. Craig; Home of Peace, Mr. W. Lennie.

Attendance of Meetings.—It was resolved that members of the Executive who absented themselves from three or more consecutive sub-branch meetings of the street Executive be reported to the Executive, and, in the absence of a satisfactory explanation, their seats on the sub-committee be forfeited.

Officials.—Authority was given to the Women’s Auxiliary to hold a number of meetings at the Club for the purpose of selecting members, and the question of expenses connected with visits to district committees, should be referred to the Membership Committee.

Forbearance.—It was resolved that the present set-up of district committees and their boundaries, and the question of expenses connected with visits to district committees, should be referred to the Membership Committee.

Forbearance.—Authority was given to the Women’s Auxiliary to hold a fund of $500 to comforts of W.A. troops in Japan.

Home of Peace.—A letter was received from the management of the Home of Peace denying a rumour that it was proposed to turn out returned soldiers patients to make room for others. It was decided to obtain a copy of the contract.

Relief Fund.—A letter was received from the Board of Control regarding the payment of the Relief Fund on behalf of Sunset residents referred to the trustees for information.

**SUB-BRANCH ACTIVITIES**

**RETURNED ARMY NURSES**

The monthly meeting was held in the club rooms on February 6. There was a very large attendance of members. Arrangements are in hand for the continuation of the bridge afternoons. A dinner will be held on the 20th to celebrate the War Nurses’ Memorial Hostel Fund. In December, the Returned Army and Navy Nurses of District 28 held a dinner at a restaurant on Ord Street, and the Sisters of Hollywood Hospital have raised £1,200—a marvellous effort. News has come from Sisters attached to the Occupation Forces in Japan that they are working for the same cause.

**MT. HAWTHORNE-NORTH LEEDERVILLE**

Now that the annual meeting has been held, members will be busy with the programme that will occupy them through the next few months. A pleasing feature of the elections is the large number of the younger generation filling the role of committee men. Returning officer Tom Campbell and his two assistants were accorded a well-deserved vote of thanks. The following office-bearers were elected: President, T. J. Reid; vice-presidents, H. M. Severs, E. J. Cooper; secretary, W. Devine; treasurer, W. Rowles; management committee, B. Beton, A. Blake, M. Bridger, E. Cooley, C. Geddes, E. Gill, T. Hewett, G. Hill, W. Katrina, K. Keeley, R. Morton, L. Longbottom, P. Moffit, H. Richardson, C. Sullivan, H. Whitehouse, F. Thomson; social committee, L. Black, A. Blake, A. Campbell, T. Dargood, R. Smythe, D. G. Hogg, F. Meyer, H. Richardson; sports director, G. A. Hill; publicity officer, T. Nathan. The dances, held every Monday at Anzac House, are still drawing very large attendances, and members are asked to boost them. Bridge nights, run by the auxiliary, are held on Friday nights at the hotel. March meetings will be held on the 6th and the 20th.

**MANJIMUP**

At the moment there are 369 financial members. In his report, the secretary, Mr. Major, said it was regretted that the Mitchell Gardens, granted to the sub-branch in 1941, had not been prepared for a memorial garden as originally intended. His recommendation that in the light of recent happenings money received for club membership be returned to subscribers was adopted. A sincere tribute was paid to Mr. Tom Skehan by the retiring secretary for the good work he had done for the sub-branch during the many years he had acted as caretaker. All appears to be going well for the Relief Committee and the members of the House. Mr. J. Thornton was appointed caretaker in succession to Mr. Skehan, and it is hoped he will, in time, be able to add additional table and seating accommodation for the half a request from the women’s auxiliary.

**DENMARK**

Many successful functions have been held during recent weeks, the chief being a well-organized outing for the children of ex-servicemen at the Ocean Beach during the Christmas holidays.

The two dances, one on Christmas Eve, the other on New Year’s Eve, were both outstanding successes from which the building fund benefited considerably. Thanks are due to the women’s auxiliary who contributed another substantial donation. At the recent general meeting, tentative arrangements were made for a reunion dinner for ex-servicemen and their wives, which will be held probably in March. A motion protesting against the levy of 2/6 has been forwarded to headquarters.

**NORTHAM**

The president, Mr. J. Adesh, presided over the monthly meeting. A question was raised as to what progress was being made with the proposal to establish a town war memorial, and whether an offer, made by a sub-branch member (Mr. L. A. Letch), to assist with the design, had been availed of. Mr. Letch stated that he was quite willing to help the war memorial committee and was awaiting specific information on the type of structure desired. The president explained that the committee had decided at its last meeting to erect a clock tower as a memorial and details would be conveyed to Mr. Letch. A motion of protest against the decision of the last State congress to increase the subscription by 2/6 was moved and seconded, but with due support and was defeated by a large majority, the president defending the action of congress and pointing out that the extra 2/6 would be allocated to the production of an official League publication. The president reported that, with the secretary (Mr. H. F. McClement), he had attended the official opening of Faversham House. They had an opportunity of inspecting the premises and had been greatly impressed with the provision made for the comfort of guests. A suggestion had been made by their women’s auxiliary that the sub-branch and auxiliary between them establish a fund to which the expenses of the necessary costs which would benefit from a rest at Faversham; the matter could be discussed later. Reporting on the decision to acquire land in Fitzgerald Street for building purposes, the secretary stated that he hoped the council would be completed within a few weeks. At the instance of Mr. C. Reid, it was resolved that a letter be sent to the committee of the Engineering School of the University of Western Australia, with a suggestion of the branch’s many wartime activities on behalf of service personnel. Particular reference was made to the work of those women who had regularly attended at 71 A.G.H. and provided amenities for the patients. The president said that a band of workers from the women’s auxiliary was making a fine effort in the raising of funds, from which the sub-branch benefited, by the sale of goods. A social function was held at the club.

**BASSENDEN**

The annual general meeting was held on January 23. Officers for the ensuing year were: President: T. Brewer (re-elected); senior vice-president, Mr. Brinkworth; vice-president, J. W. Summerton; secretary, Ron Smith (unopposed); treasurer, D. Bridson (unopposed); Auditors, Messrs. D. Fry and C. King; membership secretary, V. Drury; social secretary, D. Bird; and publicity officer, C. Bird. Anderson was appointed assistant secretary, Dr. Bird, M. Brinkworth; building committee, Messrs. C. Bird, Brinkworth, J. W. Summerton, G. W. Anderson, T. Summerton, H. Oakley. Mr. Minchin gave the auditors’ reports, which were very favourable, and commented the treasurer (Mr. Bridson) on his hard work and his fine keeping of the books. The president reported on the
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THE LISTENING POST — Page 26
activities of the year gone by. The main success was the completion of the purchase of the existing hall and property. With this achievement, everybody is now looking forward to the day when the proposed memorial hall will be erected on the same site, and the sub-branch is making a special request for all its members to give it whole-hearted support in any way at all possible. Members will greatly assist by attending the meetings and making themselves interested in the project. There is a lot of hard work ahead, but the old saying is: "Hard work never hurt anybody."

KATANNING
The general meeting, presided over by Mr. W. N. Mathews (president), was held on January 17, and was attended by 46 members. In the absence of the secretary, Peter Stevens, Carl Dilworth deputised and did an excellent job. The following motion passed is worthy of mention: "That this sub-branch inform the State Executive that we are whole-heartedly behind any protest they make or any action they consider necessary to compel the Commonwealth Government to honour its pledge of preference to ex-servicemen, and that pressure be brought to bear in order to bring the appointment of ex-servicemen to public posts in preference to ex-servicemen." We trust our State Executive will take some strong action in this matter. The cricket team journeyed to the Carrolup settlement and had a most enjoyable day of cricket and various other games known to the Digger. Thanks are due to Digger Keney, the superintendent, and the ladies for the excellent lunch and tea; also Mr. A. Leslie, for arranging the outing. The social committee and committee to carry a joint picnic, a Barbecue and an old-time dance in the very near future. The memorial hall is urgently needed, especially by the country members.

CORRIGIN
The annual meeting was held on February 1, and was attended by about 20 members. Dr. James was elected president for the ensuing year and Mr. Munro secretary. A motion was unanimously carried that this sub-branch sponsor the movement, with the aid of the various town organisations, to form a social club for the benefit of the entire public. A meeting of special interest will be held in the Town Hall on March 1.

SWANBOURNE
The meeting on February 3 attracted an attendance of 45 members, many of whom appeared for the first time. The chief business of the evening was the election of officers and the results were as follows: President, E. R. Norgard (unopposed); vice-presidents, Messrs. C. A. Young and J. Ryan; secretary, Jim Weir (unopposed); treasurer, B. Eddy; committee, Messrs. C. Day, J. Johnson, M. V. Mill, A. D. Norgard, Jack Weir and H. Wilson; social committee, A. Chipperfield, E. L. Wadcoat; committee, A. C. Hudson (Kahru), J. B. Sullivan. A gratifying feature of the election is that veterans of World War II outnumbered those of World War I. This should augur well for the sub-branch, as it indicates a keen interest by the younger members. Reports indicate that the building fund is progressing satisfactorily. As the result of much hard work during Cottesloe Week the hall was within striking distance. The tennis courts are almost in good order, and by the time these notes are read will have been played upon unless something unforeseen occurs meanwhile. Voluntary workers are gradually coming along and shortly we should have something really first-class in the shape of a playing area to offer members of the sub-branch and auxiliary. The donation of a shrine for use at meetings was reported. This generous gesture was made by Harry Burge of Mosman Park sub-branch.

He was accorded thanks by acclamation. Congratulations were extended to the Swanbourne life-saving team on having won the lately do our congratulations go to Bernie Kelly, whose effort was surf championship for the year. No mean effort was the main contribution in deciding the issue. The matter of formation of a sub-branch of the Sons of Soldiers’ League was deferred for three months.

YORK
The president, Mr. A. J. McDougall, presided over an attendance of 40 at the annual general meeting. The financial statements disclosed a healthy position. A motion protesting against the levy of 2/6 sanctioned by last year's congress was carried. When the meeting proceeded to the election of officers, the retiring president (Mr. McDougall) announced that he would not seek re-election. Mr. T. E. Robinson was elected president. Other officers elected were: Vice-presidents, Messrs. Ross Watts, A. J. McDougall and L. H. Parker; treasurer, Mr. J. Arundel; secretary, Mr. T. P. Gardner; committee, Messrs. N. Watts, G. Chipper, C. J. Ashbolt, H. Baker, Alec Boyle, F. Kuhl, M. Draper, C. M. Thorn, F. Carr, L. G. Baker, Boulbee (snr), L. Matthews, S. E. Hardwick and E. Sugden; welfare representative, Mr. E. Sugden; social committee, Messrs. Billingsley, L. Baker, F. Kuhl, L. Parker and H. Baker; auditor, A. L. Attewell; publicity officer, C. J. Ashbolt. The president reported that an amount of £88 had been raised by the ladies for the memorial fund. It was decided that a meeting of members of the sub-branch and the ladies be discussed the whole matter of the war memorial. It was also decided that letters of appreciation be sent to the auxiliary, the Ladies' Rest Room and Mr. A. L. Attewell. It was decided that future meetings be held on the second Tuesday of each month instead of on Saturday nights. Before the end of the meeting, Sgt. Bond, who is home on leave from Japan, was welcomed to the meeting. The president expressed regret at the impending departure of Padre Hartfield from the town, and wished him future prosperity and happiness.

MUNDARING AND DISTRICTS
The annual meeting at Mundaring was attended by 78 members and visitors. Among the visitors were three Members of Parliament—Messrs. Thorn, Owens and Hamilton—and Major Hunt, representative of the Executive. Speeches were short, witty, and to the point, some embellished with stories suitable to the occasion. The har aminy was quite good, and with the help of Messrs. Owens (at the piano), Fields (piano accordion), Stallard (violin), a most enjoyable evening passed.

CALINGIRI
A committee was appointed by the January meeting to collect names for the honour board. Its members are Messrs. Truman, D. Fordham and J. McGill. A letter of greeting was received from a former member, Mr. Sheppard, who is now in Borneo. The joint picnic of the R.S.L. and the C.W.A. was a great success. The building fund benefited from the function, and Messrs. D. Fordham and R. King received the appreciation of members for their good work. Members decided to make further inquiries in regard to the disbursement of Army canteen funds. After an interesting discussion, it was decided that an endeavour be made to procure war, tanks to clear land under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. A motion by Mr. Fordham in favour of an inquiry into the possibility of forming a wheat pool and greater production for export was carried. The complaint of a member against the adverse action by the Rural Bank is to be investigated by the president. The Tasmanian suggestion for a nation-wide
ballot on the eligibility question was discussed. Members discussed the advisability of continuing meetings at Bolgart. It was decided that the position be examined further. At this stage, the president presented a very beautiful casserole dish to Mrs. Plant for valued services to members. Mr. Plant accepted the present on her behalf. During the evening, members drank the health of Mr. Keith King, recently returned from Borneo, and Mr. J. A. Dobson, the sub-branch’s new publicity officer.

MERREDIN
At the annual meeting on January 14 the following office-bearers were elected: President, Mr. Reg Wilkes; vice-presidents, Messrs. W. A. Palgrave, Mr. Ralph McAlpine, and Mr. W. A. Godfrey; secretary, Mr. J. A. Dobson; treasurer, Mr. J. H. Godwin; vice-secretary, Mr. J. A. Dobson; auditor, Mr. J. H. Godwin; publicity officer, Mr. Clyde Campbell. The committee, general and social, are mostly young and new blood. The retiring president, Mr. W. A. Godfrey, who did not seek re-election, was congratulated on his excellent work while in the chair. Deep regret was expressed at the death of the late secretary, Mr. Arthur Read. A very successful dance was held in the Town Hall on January 1. The M.C. was Miss J. Hughes, and conspicuous among the performers who gave variety to the programme was the singer, Mr. “Blue” Chinasholm. Another dance is to be held on March 15.

CANNING DISTRICTS
At the meeting on January 26 it was decided to advance further with the Rose Garden War Memorial Scheme in the community centre at Coker Park. This was followed by the selection of a circular plot of ground, about one acre in area, facing the present community hall, and the proposed site of administrative and other buildings. As the scheme progresses, two strips of ground, bordering the drive from the main entrance, will also be acquired. Individual plants, or plots, according to the number of war dead from the district, will be named after them. Relatives of the fallen will be given every encouragement to assist with the care of allotted plant or plot. The thanks of the sub-branch are due to the committee of the community centre for giving priority in the selection of the memorial site. The hall-building committee has been empowered to negotiate for land for building. It was decided that inquiries be made of the State Executive regarding the closing of Antzaz Club at night, before the hours which have prevailed over the past six months.

NARROGIN
The following office-bearers were elected for 1947. President, Mr. V. Dawson; vice-presidents, Messrs. H. Austen and Dr. S. L. Mainland; secretary, Mr. J. Godwin; assistant secretary, Mr. T. Done. The annual meeting was fairly well attended. The treasurer’s report disclosed a healthy financial position. Membership is approximately 270. Dr. Jacob gave a talk on the work and aims of Legacy. As a result of the talk, the sub-branch unanimously decided to form a branch of Legacy. Members are reminded that meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month.

FREMANTLE CITY
On February 2 old comrades from “Sunset” were picked up at Claremont by bus and, under the supervision of George Bradshaw and Bill Bishop, were given a good trip around the coast. Arriving at the R.S.L. Hall, Fremantle, at 5 p.m. they were regaled by the women’s auxiliary with high tea. The ladies have always been noted for their hospitality, but on this occasion excelled themselves. The secretary, Mr. H. G. Wilson, depuited for the president, who was unavoidably absent. The auxiliary president, Mrs. Scupham, welcomed the guests. Other guests were Mesdames Kinclay and Randall (State Executive), Mrs. Wild (secretary), G. Bradshaw and T. Brennan. After tea, a musical entertainment was held in the dance hall. Meetings are full of action these days, but the numbers are not large enough and the president appeals to all young Diggers to roll along and take an interest in League affairs. If you have any troubles or problems, bring them along to the meetings. We will do our best to help. The Fremantle R.S.L. Club is a going concern and financial members of the League can be nominated by two members of the club.

MOSMAN PARK
The monthly general meeting was held on January 28, with only 22 members present. This was probably caused by the change of meeting night. Members are asked to remember that the meeting night is now the last Tuesday in the month—not the Thursday. Mr. Walker resigned as sports director. The new sports director will be elected at the next meeting. In the meantime, Mr. McCormack will act in the position. The social secretary and his committee were commended by the president for their good efforts up to date. To make meetings more popular, it has been suggested that debating teams be formed, and that visitors be invited to give talks on matters of interest to members. It is intended that the hall be used more often by the sub-branch as a social centre, with various forms of entertainment. It is also intended to hold a river picnic in the near future. The date will be fixed when a suitable boat is available.

WOMEN’S AUXILIARIES

STATE EXECUTIVE

The first meeting for 1947 was held on January 20. Reports of Christmas Visits to homes and hospitals were received from members and letters of thanks were received from the Medical Superintendent, Hollywood Hospital and Glendale. A letter of thanks was also received from the Matron of Faversham Convalescent Home for a fruit-bottling outfit to enable her to preserve fruit for the patients. It was reported that two ex-service men were patients in Bethesda Hospital, and these were duly visited and given Christmas cheer.

Mr. Smith reported attending the annual meeting of the City of Perth auxiliary. On December 30, with other members of the Executive, the State President visited Claremont Mental Hospital. Gifts and literature were distributed to the Diggers. Mrs. Weeks, chairman of the hospital visiting committee, reported that 165 bedside visits had been made to patients in the Royal Perth Hospital.

A meeting of the exhibition committee was arranged for January 29, and a sports meeting for January 31. At this meeting a letter of appreciation from the chairman of the Anzac House committee was read.

On January 9 patients from Heathcote were entertained at Glen Forest by Mundaring and Swan View auxiliaries. An excellent lunch and afternoon tea were provided. The afternoon was spent in dancing to music provided by Mrs. Bates. We have again to thank our good friends the Red Cross for providing the transport. Mesdames Henderson, Prue and Oullen accompanied the patients. They reported that the patients were loud in their appreciation of this outing, and expressed their thanks to their hostesses for this happy break in hospital life.

The second meeting was held on February 2, with a full attendance of members. Mrs. McKinnon reported that on January 23 she attended a reception given by the City of Claremont on January 30 and visited Claremont Mental Hospital. Fruit was distributed to ex-service patients on behalf of Press auxiliary. On February 1 she attended a social tendered to Mrs. Brenner, a past president of Cottesloe auxiliary, and made a presentation to her from the members of the auxiliary on the occasion of her forthcoming marriage. On February 2, with Mrs. McKinnon, she attended an outing arranged by the Fremantle auxiliary for the patients from Sunset, who were taken by bus from the Hospital to Coogee and thence to Fremantle, where they partook of a sumptuous home-cooked tea arranged by auxiliary members. Musical items and dancing made an enjoyable interlude. Members of Fremantle sub-branch were present, as well as Mrs. Kirby, the past president of the auxiliary.

Mrs. Randall reported two large water-bags had been provided for Diggers at Sunset by the Wyalong auxiliary.

Mrs. Weeks reported 87 bedside visits to patients in civilian wards, and in addition to usual gifts of sweets, cakes and cigarettes, they were able to give each ex-service patient a gift of 10/-, being further Christmas cheer.

A welcome is extended to the following new auxiliaries. Belmont, Capel and Nungarin. We wish them a successful and prosperous year.

Mrs. Stockton (hon. State secretary) reported that it was impossible to arrange a united social in March, as Anzac House is now fully booked by sub-branches and the State Executive, who were running dances to raise money for their building funds.

THE LISTENING POST — Page 28
Thirteen teams have notified their intention of competing in the McKinlay Shield games, and the draw for the first round has taken place. All matches in this round are to be completed before March 10.

Mrs. Stockmin reported that to-date £26/14/6 has been handed to the War Veterans' Home Appeal fund, being profits from sale of 'Motto' books. Any outstanding amounts should be forwarded to her as soon as possible. "Motto" books are still available.

Mrs. McKinlay received a letter from Mrs. Cornell, widow of the late Mr. Cornell, the father of auxiliaries, in which she wrote: "Would you please convey to the auxiliaries my grateful thanks for the many expressions of sympathy to me and the tributes paid to my dear husband." It is hoped at a later date to hang a portrait of Mr. Cornell in the executive rooms in Anzac House.

VICTORIA PARK

In November, the auxiliary held a most successful sale of work, despite the transport strike. All stalls were decorated and prices were awarded to the best decorated stalls; the first to the produce stall, in charge of Mrs. Cluca and Samwell, and second to Mrs. McIntosh for My Lady's Stall. The judging was done by Mrs. J. L. McKinlay, and the trophies were donated by Mr. Cr. McMillan. The event was successful from all points of view, especially the financial. In December, Mrs. Tolmie (president) was welcomed back from a holiday in the Eastern States. She thanked Mesdames E. Mead and H. Taylor for conducting the meetings in her absence. The auxiliary went into recess from December 14 till February 14, when a special meeting was held. The New Year's party provided a happy evening for members and their families. Mrs. Prue was presented with a small gift from members of the auxiliary in appreciation of her services as secretary.

SWANBOURNE

After a long holiday members met again on February 12. At the meeting in December, members took part in a series of social games with the men. They were defeated in most games, but when the brief period of our existence is taken into consideration, the effort could be regarded as a satisfactory one. Mrs. Geo. Cook, who had charge of the teams, handled her players well and with a little practice it is not unlikely that we shall be able to reverse the results. All members are awaiting with interest the completion of the tennis courts, when a number of pleasant afternoons are expected. Bridge parties, dancing, picture nights, etc., will shortly be 'major subjects for discussion as a means of raising funds for the proposed memorial hall. The sympathy of all members goes out to Mr. and Mrs. H. Wilson on their recent sad bereavement.

ALBANY

The first meeting after a six-weeks' recess was held on January 30. About 180 children attended the Christmas Tree festivity. Many thanks to the sub-branch social committee for their assistance. Card evenings are becoming increasingly popular. The proposed visit of Manjimup members has been shelved because of shortage of accommodation. Intending visitors to Albany are advised to be sure of a roof over their heads before deciding on the date of departure.

MT. HAWTHORN-NORTH LEEDERVILLE

New members are wanted, as the auxiliary is looking forward to indoor games this year. Members help the sub-branch with their weekly dances at Anzac House on Monday nights. Bridge parties are held in the hall in Oxford Street, Mt. Hawthorn, every Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m., and every Friday evening at 8 p.m. The secretary, Mrs. Snook, is back again after a spell in hospital, and members are pleased to see her looking so well. Mrs. Ballans is back in hospital for an operation. The auxiliary wishes her and other six members a speedy return to health. Meetings are held on the 13th and 27th of each month.
F.S.W.

The monthly social was held at Anzac House. Mrs. H. Dean presided over a very large gathering, it being the first of the New Year. Mr. J. Turner gave a very interesting lecture on India and showed lantern slides and also exhibited trophies that he had collected while on tour. Mrs. Wilson proposed a vote of thanks. Mrs. Dean announced that the official opening of the Canteen Shop at the King Edward Maternity Hospital would take place on February 20. This shop will be entirely attended to by volunteer workers of the union.

ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN


AIRCRAFT FORCES ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—Aeroplane Federation, National House, William Street, Perth; 4th Thursday each month; President: C. A. H. Ho, Howard Hill (off Howard Street), Perth; Secretary: W. G. Chapman, Box 122/6, G.P.O., Perth. Phone 8590.

ARTILLERY COMRADES—Anzac House, Perth, 1st Friday each month at 9 p.m.; President: H. Milliken, 40 Glendale Ave., South Perth; joint Secretaries: F. Hanley and A. J. Snow, 231 Seventh Ave., Mandurah.

E.K. MACHINES GUNNERS' ASSOCIATION—Gregory's, 33 King Street, Perth; Friday before Anzac Day and 2nd Friday in October; President: J. M. Gorton, c/o. Monash Motor, 631 William St., Perth; Secretary: P. S. Everett, 156 Suburban Road, South Perth.


MILITARY ARMY UNITS ASSOCIATION—Room 53, 4th Floor, Glendale Building, Perth; Quarterly; President: Dr. C. H. Leadman, Chairman: W. C. Bro, Holden Road, Robeys; Secretary: H. W. Bigg, 23 Elizabeth Street, North Perth. Phone 8990.

PARTIALLY BLIND AND SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (W.A. Branch)—Room 53, 3rd Floor, Glenden Building, Perth; 1st Thursday in each month; President: J. F. Davies, 27 Dunbar Road, Claremont; Secretary: E. C. Perks, Atlas Building, Perth; Phone WM 1012.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—Monash House, cnr. Hay and King Streets; 1st Monday in each month; President: F. W. Bateman, M.M., c/o. Monash House, Perth; Secretary: G. Gumpelich, 338 Hay Street, Perth.

THE IMPERIAL EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—President: J. T. Smith, 73 Dyer Street, West Perth; Secretary: J. G. Flerat, 2 Martin Avenue, Nedlands.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN BLIND SoldIERS' ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; when necessary; President: D. M. Benson, Anzac House, Perth; Secretary: R. A. Halcombe, 85 Stanley Street, Nedlands.

TODAY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION—Room 53, 3rd Floor, Glenden Building, Perth; 1st Thursday in each month at 2.30 p.m.; President: H. W. Bigg, 26 Elizabeth Street, North Perth (B3934); Secretary: C. Whites, 224 Wallace Street, Mt. Lawley.

GLOUCESTER PARK

The general meeting was held on February 6, and was fairly well attended. Mrs. Burgess, the sports secretary, very kindly came along and gave some useful hints on the forming of our sports team. Mrs. Wilkinson was elected as sports director at a sports meeting held at the residence of Mrs. Pratt. Mrs. Herold has resigned her position as treasurer, Mrs. L. Mason being duly elected in her stead. The roistered day for visiting Hollywood Hospital is Tuesday, March 4.