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God Save the King

It was with deep regret that members of the League received the news that the proposed Royal tour was to be postponed, and that regret was overshadowed by the concern which was shown when it became known that His Majesty the King was suffering from serious ill-health.

Australians are the most democratic of people, but for all that they are intensely loyal, and their loyalty is apparent in their admiration and respect for the Royal Family.

In His Majesty they see a man who has had enormous courage. Thrust into kingship with the abdication of King Edward VIII, the present King carried an immense personal burden during World War II, a burden which perhaps few of us realise in its full proportions. When other royal personages fled into safety, the British Royal Family made up their minds that, even should England be invaded, they would be there at their posts.

There was no thought of sending the Royal princesses to Canada or to the United States where so many other children of prominent people went; and during the Battle of Britain both the King and the Queen set an example which opened all hearts. Was Plymouth bombed tonight? Then tomorrow the King and the Queen would be found visiting the burnt-out and devastated areas, cheering the injured and comforting the bereaved. And when London was bombed, as it was so regularly, the home of Their Majesties was among the many which suffered damage.

In British hearts the King is no mere figurehead. Serving in the Royal Navy during World War I, he was present at the Battle of Jutland; but after a period of ill-health was invalided out. After a brief rest he was soon back into harness—this time with the Air Force. But perhaps what has endeared him most to all hearts is the way in which he has always been willing and eager to join in the pleasures of the simple people. No one who has seen it will ever forget the picture of His Majesty joining in the camp-fire songs of British boys. Here was no strutting dictator such as other nations boasted; here was a simple English gentleman.

Let us then wish that he, as our King, may long live to reign over us. Let us also wish that he, as a man, may speedily he restored to good health.
Despite the fact that Colonel William F. Cody, better known to the world as Buffalo Bill, went through life thinking that he was born in Iowa, and considering himself a typical American frontiersman, Indian Scout and Wild West showman, just prior to the outbreak of war an Italian newspaper “discovered” that Buffalo Bill’s “real” name was Giovanni Tambini, that he was born in Barbigar-ezzo about 1840, and that he was “a typical Italian—who was full of Fascist courage and daring.”

One of the largest formal dinner parties on record was that given for the third World Power Conference in Washington. Three thousand guests were invited and the only place where such a huge number could be accommodated on one floor at the same time was the enormous waiting-room of the Union Station. A large force of workmen transformed this into a banquet hall. Three hundred oval tables, each seating ten people, were arranged around the central speaker’s table, which was 120 feet long. The food included 1,500 melons, 50 crates of celery, 75 gallons of olives, 370 gallons of soup, choice chops from 600 lambs, 6,000 rolls, 150 gallons of ice cream and 100 gallons of coffee. Nine tons of chinaware were used, together with 30,000 pieces of silver. The cost was estimated at $26,000.

In Fishersville, U.S.A., farmer Jasper Davis won the title of “The spittingest man in the South River district,” when he scored a bull’s-eye at 12 ft. 9 ins. in a high wind.

A juror at a recent London Sessions asked to be excused from service on the grounds that he was deaf in one ear. The Deputy Chairman, granting him release from duty, said: “Certainly you may be excused. When a juror is trying a case he must always hear both sides.”

A painting preserved at Pompeii depicts what is probably one of the earliest recorded efforts to kill an umpire. An athletic contest, staged at Pompeii between teams from Pompeii and Nocera shortly before the eruption of Vesuvius, drew a large crowd, and before the conclusion of the games a decision of the referee was challenged and players, spectators, and umpire came to blows. The matter was referred to the Emperor Nero, who disqualified the Pompeian amphitheatres for ten years.

Beckham went through earliest recorded time was the one instance where such a huge number could be accommodated on one floor at the same time was the enormous waiting-room of the Union Station. A large force of workmen transformed this into a banquet hall. Three hundred oval tables, each seating ten people, were arranged around the central speaker’s table, which was 120 feet long. The food included 1,500 melons, 50 crates of celery, 75 gallons of olives, 370 gallons of soup, choice chops from 600 lambs, 6,000 rolls, 150 gallons of ice cream and 100 gallons of coffee. Nine tons of chinaware were used, together with 30,000 pieces of silver. The cost was estimated at $26,000.

The world’s record for the number of children born to one woman seems to rest with a German woman named Barbara Schmotzerini, who lived about 1450-1500 and had 43 offspring. According to an old church register, Barbara had 28 boys and 15 girls. Eight were born singly, there were five pairs of twins, four sets of triplets, and on one occasion there were seven at a birth, and on another six. Several of the children died either at or shortly after birth, and none survived the age of nine years.

Before long a British company hopes to install in the streets of England automatic machines to sell beer. Sixpence in the slot will give half a pint of the amber fluid in a sealed carton. Some while ago a New York restaurant installed a coin-operated cocktail-mixer and vendor. Ingredients, which flowed through glass tubes from supplies in glass jars, were delivered in various measures according to the slot in which the coin was inserted. Mixer then got to work and completed drink was delivered from a tap into a waiting cocktail glass.

In 1857, the London Fire Brigade statistics showed that the main cause of fires was billowing curtains. This was followed by “faulty flues,” then by “unattended candles.” Other causes included: “Dogs, 6; cats, 19; hunting bugs, 1; clothes-horse upset by monkey, 1; lucifers, 80; children playing with ditto, 45; rat gnawing ditto, 1; jackdaw playing with ditto, 1; smoking tobacco, 166; smoking out ants, 1; smoking in bed, 2; reading in bed, 22; insanity, 5; bleaching nuts, 7; and unknown, 1,323.”

Beer was brewed from barley by the Egyptians as early as 3,000 B.C., and ale became known as a beverage by at least 404 B.C. Herodotus describes the first discovery of the art of brewing “barley wine” to Isis, wife of Osiris, and a beverage of this kind was mentioned by Xenophon in 401 B.C.

An English baker claims to have invented a new kind of bread which, cooked in a frying-pan and served with vegetables, is said to taste like turkey.

Thomas Parr, who was born in Wimington, Shropshire, in the reign of Edward IV, lived to the age of 152 years. He lived in three centuries and saw ten different sovereigns upon the English throne. He first married at the age of 80, his wife presenting him with two children. She died after 32 years of wedded bliss, and eight years later Parr again married—at the age of 120. Thirty-two years later he was taken to London to see Charles I, but the journey upset him, and he died. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

The Royal Navy may soon use canned bread instead of “hard tack” biscuits as emergency rations, for the Admiralty announces that exhaustive researches are being made to find the safe life of bread in a sealed can.
A meeting of the State Executive was held on Wednesday, December 1, at 5.30 p.m. Among the business transacted was:

WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEME

The recent Press criticism of League policy in connection with the Land Settlement Scheme and the replies were referred to the State Executive. Arising from a discussion, the following resolution was carried: "That the State President be requested to prepare and have published a statement on the land settlement policy of this branch of the R.S.L., as agreed to by the State Congress and since amended (if any) by the State Executive."

This has been done, and the matter has now been given publicity in the local Press. See the following Land report.

FEDERAL PRESIDENT

The possibility of a visit by the Federal President to this State some time early in the new year was intimated. In the event of this visit taking place, a suitable itinerary covering the main centres will be arranged. Arising from this discussion, the following resolution was carried: "That an invitation be extended to the Federal President to visit this State, and a suitable itinerary be arranged, subject to major expenses of the visit being borne by the Federal Executive."

LAND

The report submitted by Mr. Davies covered a discussion on the position which had arisen from the recent deputation to the Minister for Lands and the subsequent Press publicity. The following resolutions were submitted to the Executive for endorsement:

1. That the Minister be asked to supply a written reply to all the points raised by Mr. Chambers in the statement submitted by him to the Minister.

2. That the W.A. Branch of the Returned Servicemen's League is concerned with the report that 1,705 improved properties have been offered to the Land Settlement Scheme, of which 503 properties have been inspected and only 225 purchased to March, 1948, which indicates to the League that the scheme is not functioning to the interest of the ex-servicemen in Western Australia, and that the State Executive request the Minister to explain why so few of the farms offered have been inspected and purchased.

3. That the League reiterates its long-standing policy in respect to the War Service Land Settlement Scheme:

(a) The purchase of improved single-unit farms.

(b) The purchase of estates for subdivision into single-unit farms.

(c) Failing sufficient areas of partly improved properties being available to satisfy all applicants, the League approves the utilisation of Crown-lands, providing all initial development is completed and the costs borne by the Government in accordance with the War Service Land Settlement Scheme conditions.

The report was adopted subject to item 3 (c) above being amended to read as follows: "That the development of Crown land for W.S.L.S. must proceed as speedily as possible in order to provide early settlement opportunities, but such development should not prejudice the acquisition and improvement of already developed and partly developed properties."

RE-ESTABLISHMENT

The report submitted by Mr. Stanbury covered a letter to the Bricklayers' Union for attendance at the meeting to be held on December 6; arrangements for a deputation to the Attorney-General; and a number of personal cases.

MEMBERSHIP

The report submitted by Mr. Chaney covered a special visit to the Bayswater sub-branch re appointment of secretary; new sub-branch at Woodanilling; membership figures; and a recommendation that preparations be made for the issue of a charter to new sub-branches with the ultimate plan of each sub-branch in the State being issued finally with its charter.

REPATRIATION AND PENSIONS

The report submitted by Mr. Stahl covered a proposed deputation to the Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation regarding inspection of departmental files; pension anomaly concerning ceiling rates; arrangements for a special meeting of ex-service men's organisations to arrange a protest against the smallness of the recent pension increase; and a number of personal cases.

MIGRATION

The report submitted by Mr. Lonnie covered a reply by the Minister for Immigration to representations re the Child Immigration Scheme; data on dissatisfied migrants; preliminary steps which have been taken to implement the R.S.L. Group Immigration Scheme; discussion on the Empire Air Route, and a request from the Executive for direction in the case of ex-Sgt. Abu Kassim. The report was adopted subject to the following resolution: "That the case of Abu Kassim be referred to the Federal Executive to ascertain if any policy has been established in respect to similar cases."

HOUSING

The report submitted by Mr. Davies covered the submission of the committee's views on the self-help scheme to the Housing Commission through the State President; a commendation to the State Housing Commission that the number of permits under the self-help scheme be increased from 20 to 30 per month; a report by Mr. Hunt on the self-help scheme and the issuing of permits; comment by Mr. Stoddart re evictions; and a number of personal cases.
AGED SAILORS AND SOLDIERS’ FUND

The report submitted by Mr. T. Edmondson on behalf of the trustees of the fund recommended that the expenditure on relief be increased up to the amount of the annual income, providing that the Advisory Committee does not anticipate an increase in the number of applications.

Other reports included: R.S.L. Hostel (Mr. Watt), R.S.L. Cricket Association (Mr. Douglas), Finance (Mr. Herlihy), Corps of Commissioners (Mr. Yates) and Amelioration (Colonel Mansbridge).

MESSAGE OF REGRET TO HIS MAJESTY

It was resolved “That the Federal President convey to His Majesty the King the very deep regret of the ex-service men and women of Australia at his inability to undertake the heavy responsibilities of the projected tour of Australia and New Zealand, and an expression of our best wishes for his complete and early recovery.”

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

A further meeting was held on December 15, business transacted including:

PENSIONS

The report submitted by Mr. Stahl covered a special joint meeting of representatives of ex-servicemen’s organisations in connection with action to be taken to have pensions increased. [Report in full elsewhere in this issue.]

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The report submitted by Colonel Olden covered a recommendation that no further strip of the block adjacent to Anzac House, beyond the nine feet already granted, be given to the Perth City Council; a recommendation that the plans drawn up by Mr. A. E. Clare be submitted to various League committees for their perusal regarding the space requirements; negotiations regarding a site for the War Veterans’ Home; and a statement showing the financial resources of the building extension fund and the War Veterans’ Home fund.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A report submitted by the President (Mr. W. J. Hunt) dealt with the Purchasers’ Protection Act, and it was stated that on receipt of a copy of the draft amending Bill, it was discovered that the suggested amendments were not in accordance with the League’s request. Messrs. Stoddart and Guthrie (solicitors) had attended a deposition with the State Secretary to the Attorney-General to have the defects in the Bill remedied. The Attorney-General agreed to have altered three out of four of the points raised.

Other business included the R.S.L. Hostel report (Mr. Watt), the matter of a land transfer for the Como sub-branch, the Miss Australia competition and a brief report on Faversham House.

Slight delay in publication this month is due to power restrictions.

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Why Universal Military Training?

Other people's views are as interesting as our own, and on the subject of Universal Military Training, Karl M. Compton, in a recent issue of "The National Legionnaire" (U.S.A), sheets home a few truths which make excellent ammunition to use against those who think voluntary training is all this country needs.

Certainly nobody wants universal military training for its own sake. Nobody likes to pay taxes. Nobody likes government regulation. Nobody likes to pay premiums for life insurance or fire insurance. We endure these things as the price which we have to pay in order to live with security in an orderly society. They buy for us a situation which is more favourable than that which we would have without them. In considering universal military training, like these other things, we have to evaluate not the thing itself but the condition of life which it secures for us, and we have to consider, as an alternative, what our situation would be without taxes, regulations, insurance or universal military training. Our attitude on universal military training should be based on an objective analysis of what it will gain for us, how much it will cost, and what is the alternative if we do not adopt it. Let me outline very briefly some of the points which seem to me to be most significant in the answer to these questions.

Our goal is security against military aggression, for ourselves and for all nations. Our goal is a reign of law among nations based on justice, recognition of the right of each nation to handle its own internal affairs, and protection of our own nation, and every other nation, against attempts of any aggressor nation to impose its will by armed force. This is the supreme objective of the United Nations. Our first duty is to do everything within our power to help in the achievement of this objective to the fullest extent possible. If and when an international arrangement is agreed upon and put into effective operation to ensure world peace and security, then the problem of universal military training and all other military establishments beyond the degree necessary for co-operation in an international police force will have vanished.

Unfortunately, this international reign of law, suitably implemented for enforcement, has not yet been achieved and from present prospects will not have been achieved in the near future. Until this has been accomplished, it is necessary for us to take precautionary measures to ensure our safety against the threats to our safety and to world peace which are all too evident as a result of conflicting ideologies, aggressive national ambitions in certain quarters, and the general breakdown of civilization which is the aftermath of World War II. Let me be more specific.

Captured documents from Germany and Japan tell in no uncertain terms the story of deep-laid plans for national aggrandisement through tactics of deception and aggression.

We all know that in the future no aggressor nation will ever again allow us the time to train the large number of men essential to waging total war. Only universal military training can provide us with this vast reservoir of trained reserves. Only universal military training will buy us the precious time that in the past was granted us by stout-hearted allies and two vast oceans.

These documents also show very clearly that the plans and actions of the Nazis, the Fascists and the Japanese military regime were stimulated and made possible by their realisation and careful analysis of the military weakness of the democratic countries and of the pacifist and isolationist sentiment which had swept so strongly over them. In the main, I am convinced that this pacifist sentiment was well-intentioned and based on high ideals, but we now know for a certainty that it was unrealistic and was based on ignorance of the forces which were being arrayed against us. Many of the people and organisations who, between World War I and World War II, opposed military training and all forms of military preparedness based their opposition on "moral and religious grounds," but to my mind, however high-minded, may have been their motives; they are responsible for the greatest crime in modern history, namely, World War II, with the practical murder of millions and the ravaging of entire nations.

This mistake must not be permitted to happen again. We should be intelligent, courageous and objective enough to have learned the lesson that, in the world as it exists at this moment, there are those who would seek to profit by weakness if, like Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito, they felt that they could "get away with it." Yet there are organisations right now which are passing resolutions in opposition to universal military training "on moral and religious grounds." Let me be still more specific in the argument.

Countries which are within the present close range of Soviet tactics, or which may be within range in the near future, will not feel able to stand up for their democratic principles unless the democratic countries, who desire protection from international aggression, can stand together in sufficient strength to discourage such aggression. Weakness is simply an invitation to the rulers of any nation with such aggressive aims. For such reasons, a strong military posture by the United States is, at the present time, a prerequisite to our own security and to the maintenance of international co-operation in the interests of peace and freedom. Our strong military posture must be accompanied by generosity in our aid to nations who have been more unfortunate than ourselves in the recent war.

I would conclude by quoting as follows from the report of the Commission on Universal Training to the President: "We recommend the adoption of universal training because we are convinced that weakness on our part not only involves our country in grave risks but also weakens the United Nations, on which rest our hopes for lasting peace. A weak and irresolute America is an invitation to failure. A strong and resolute America is the best guarantee for our safety and for the success of the United Nations." Do we have the vision and courage to take this step? We cannot proceed safely on the basis of wishful thinking or unrealistic idealism. We must realise that "freedom and democracy must be reborn in and rewon by each generation."
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Death Sentence

...there is nothing left for me to do but to order that you be returned to the place whence you came, and that you be hanged by the neck until you are dead. And may God have mercy on your soul.

As the judge pronounced sentence I sat immobilised, watching his face. A short, undistinguished-looking man, he had a shrivelled, dried-up appearance. His parchment-like skin was creased with many lines; his mouth was small and thin-lipped; his eyes hard and unnaturally bright. Usually emotionless and austere, it was plain that he was now controlling himself only with the greatest difficulty. His tongue moistened his lips, as though they were unusually dry; his thin, wasted hands trembled visibly, and it seemed as if the sheaf of papers which he held in his slender fingers might drop from them at any moment.

The man in the dock was huge—tall, broad, and with heavy features. His face was pale under the artificial lights, and he, too, trembled with emotion. His hands clenched the rail of the dock as if he would wrench it away from the woodwork. A warder at his side clutched at his elbow, afraid that he might collapse.

The judge rose to his feet. It was as if he had lowered the curtain upon an episode—an episode which was yet to grip the imagination of thousands of people, not only in this city, not only in this country, but in countries many thousands of miles away, countries in many parts of the civilised world.

And I— I who had been admitted to the scene only upon the distinct understanding that I would not, under any circumstances, utter a word (an undertaking which I would be forced to uphold)—I—I knew that the accused man was innocent. I knew that he did not commit the murder with which he was charged. What was more, I could prove it—my lips were sealed—I could not talk.

What if I did break my word? What if I did rise from my seat and shout, "This man is innocent!" What if I did tell them that he could not have committed this crime? What if I said, "I have proof that he was with me at the time when the alleged murder was committed?"

It would make not the slightest difference. That I knew.

And the condemned man, who knew I was seated there, made no effort to call upon me—no effort to have me testify on his behalf.

Yet I felt an urge, an almost irresistible urge, to help this man, although at the back of my mind I realised how futile, how foolish, this would be. Did I but raise my voice once, I knew that I should be bundled out—discredited, disgraced. Most likely I would be laugh at as a fool.

"But what other colours do they come in?"

Then the prisoner looked at me, and I could see that a flicker of a smile, almost invisible to any other eyes but mine, crossed his lips. Somehow he seemed, despite his pallor and the way he had clinched the rail of the dock, quite inwardly calm, as if the trial and its result were something apart—something that really held little or no interest for him.

To me it was quite plain that I was far more nervous than the condemned man, ridiculous as such a statement may seem.

As the thought passed through my mind there was a stillness—a tenseness—in the courtroom. Everyone had risen with the judge, and now that personality was making his way from the room. With his back toward me he seemed to shuffle rather than walk, as if indeed the cares and responsibilities of this trial had been almost too much for him. Somehow he looked even older from the back than he had when I could see his face. Or was it that the strain of this murder trial, a strain more noticeable now that it had reached its conclusion, had suddenly added to his years?

Lawyers, police, reporters and spectators alike—all were hushed. I had been in courts before, and they were usually notable for an assortment of foot-shuffling, coughing and other noises, particularly when the court was rising, but here it seemed as if all were under the sway of some master hand. All were moved as if by one emotion—a desire to be quiet, almost reverent—a desire to do the right thing.

Now, a tap on the shoulder made the prisoner start. His hands dropped to his sides and he looked at the warder who, with a motion of his head, indicated that it was time to return to the cell beneath the courtroom. A shrug of resignation, a sigh, and he turned. Then prisoner and warders started down the steps. As he descended, the prisoner's head came level with mine, and as he turned his eyes upon me I felt an insane desire to laugh. The courtroom seemed unpleasantly hot, and there were beads of sweat upon my brow.

Then the tension was suddenly broken.

"Cut," shouted an authoritative voice.

The final scene of another film had been shot.

From Buckingham Palace

The following message has been forwarded to the Fremantle sub-branch:

1st December, 1948.

Dear Sir,—I am commanded by The King to convey to you and all returned men, in past Empire wars, domiciled in the City of Fremantle and districts, His Majesty's sincere thanks for your message of congratulations on the birth of Their Majesties' grandson.

Yours sincerely,

M. ADIANE.
Building Appeal Launched

The Northam R.S.L. memorial building appeal was officially launched at the annual reunion dinner of the Northam sub-branch of the Returned Servicemen's League which was held in the lesser hall on November 7. The president (Mr. J. B. Adshead) was in the chair, and there was a good attendance of members. The State Executive was represented by Messrs. W. Lonnie and A. Douglas, and other guests included members of the Toodyay, Clackline-Baker's Hill and North-East Fremantle sub-branches, and representatives of the Northam sub-branches of the Air Force Association, the Legion of Ex-Service Men and Women, and the P.O.W. Association. Proposing a toast to the State Executive, the chairman said that in Messrs. Lonnie and Douglas they had two young men of the recent war, who were accepting their share of responsibility in the administration of the League.

In his response, Mr. Lonnie paid a tribute to the enthusiasm and sincerity of country sub-branches, and said the Executive appreciated the fact that they had a most active sub-branch in Northam. Mr. Douglas said there was no better thing ex-servicemen could do today than stick together. Old and new might find themselves at variance on small points occasionally, but fundamentally they were all actuated by the same ideals. These were embodied in the written policy of the League—the integrity of the Empire, an adequate defence force, a vigorous immigration system. The League was receiving valuable support from the women's auxiliary, and the Northam ladies deserved their best thanks for the admirable way in which they had catered for the reunion.

The chairman said it had been decided to launch the building appeal publicly that night. He traced the history of the fund and said it was not long ago that the sub-branch had decided to establish this with a view to erecting new clubrooms. They had acquired an excellent block of land in Fitzgerald street, and recently had accepted the responsibility of erecting a memorial building. "I hope this building will not only be the Anzac House of the Avon Valley, but also a fitting memorial to those who did not return," he added. Although up to now no appeal had been made to the public, he continued, many people had shown their interest and sympathy with the objective by voluntarily coming forward with donations, and he felt sure that the lead thus given would be generously followed. He appealed to members to get really behind the effort in the best tradition of the League and in the tradition of the sub-branch.

Supporting Mr. Adshead, Mr. H. C. S. Colebatch read a list of donations received in the past few months. (These totalled £418.) He said the sub-branch's objective now had a dual purpose: first to provide a suitable memorial to the fallen: and secondly to meet the very pressing need for more adequate accommodation. With between 300 and 400 members, their present clubrooms, which had served them well in the past, were far too small. (A further £9 was collected at this function.)

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THE NEW YEAR IS the accepted time for mankind to make resolutions, but as the years go by it seems harder and harder to make resolutions of any definite calibre which we can be sure of keeping.

"All things are what you make them," said Plautus, and the things we have made in this world today are not all of the best.

Could everyone have his wish, I think it would be quite probable that the one thing we would all earnestly wish for this year is PEACE—a solid, enduring, settled peace. "But," say the majority, "such a thing is beyond the reach of the man-in-the-street. He is powerless to do anything to attain it." We wonder!

One of the great troubles of our people today is the fact that, though they may fret when they try to look ahead, though they may grumble when they look back, and though they may feel extremely uncertain about the very minutes as they fly by, they seldom do anything concrete about it.

True, they blame the politicians, the armament manufacturers, the Communists—and at times they wax very hot under the collar; but as for doing anything—no, that is for someone else who has more ability and time.

Do you remember what Homer said? If not, then let me repeat it:

"We must quit ourselves like men, and strive
To aid our cause, although we be but two,
Great is the strength of feeble arms combined,
And we can combat even with the brave.

All around us we feel the dangers of uncertainty. Why? Because, although we realise that another war may come in our time, as individuals we do little or nothing to prevent it.

So let us make at least one New Year's resolution that we mean to keep.

Let us resolve that, as a nation, we will do everything in our power to implement the decisions of our League to overthrow Communism in Australia and to press for Universal Military Training.

The "Peace At Any Price" merchants are again rearing up their heads, despite the depths to which their machinations brought us prior to, and in the early days of World War II. "Disarm," they cry, conveniently forgetting that unless everyone disarms at one and the same time those who disarm merely invite trouble and put themselves at a sorry disadvantage.

Ramsay McDonald, a believer in disarmament, and well may we remember what his actions cost us. No one doubts that he, or many of his present-day imitators, had the best and most public-spirited of intentions, but a one-sided method of disarming can only lead to disaster.

Therefore, let us resolve that we will all do our utmost to back the League in its efforts to see Australia a strongly defended country. Let us not be content to sit back and do some selfish thinking, but let us resolve to be active in the matter. Let us resolve to go out of our way to back up the efforts of the League, even if it should mean some personal inconvenience.

Let us resolve that we shall not waste our time and our efforts in petty parochial quarrels and disputes. Let us put first things first in an effort to do our very best for our country.

Don't let us say, "We did our bit before—let the other fellow have a go now." Such an attitude is worse than useless, for it engenders in the person who so thinks a feeling of inertia and helplessness which leads to despair.

So let us—each and every one of us—work also for the strengthening of our League. Let us introduce new members; let us induce those who are inactive members to become active workers; let us stir our own stumps to do more and better work on behalf of our comrades, our kinfolk and our country.

Let us be settled in our minds that the League officials are doing a worthwhile job. Criticisms are bound to arise, for nothing can be done in a democratic world (or in any other sphere) which satisfies everyone. So let us work, not for our own individual ends, but for the benefit of Australia. For no matter how any of us may succeed individually, it will be of no use whatever if our glorious country ever goes under to the slavish "isms" which some would force upon us.

The readers of this journal are banded together inasmuch as they are, at some time or other, fought for freedom. Well, then, let us continue that fight. Not all of us can take an active part in another campaign, should it ever come; and surely none of us ever wish to. But we can take part in a campaign for security. We can, by our powers of representation and, if necessary at any time, our powers at the ballot box, take part in guaranteeing that the necessary machinery for the defence of this country will be put into operation.

Let us resolve, whatever else we may do, that we shall, at all times, bear the welfare of Australia in the forefront of our endeavours. Let us say, without qualification, "Let our object be our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country."

THANKS

The Editor wishes to thank the many readers who so kindly sent Christmas greetings. He also wishes to express his gratitude to those who, during the past six months, have generously contributed material to these pages, in particular Bob Chambers (Bunbury), J. B. M. Holtworth (Perth), Laurie Sordene (Sydney), H. G. Rosendoff (Perth), Dick Collins (Perth) and Tom Bolton (Perth). His thanks are also extended to the State Secretary and the staff of Anzac House for their untiring co-operation.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

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The Funny Side of Music

By L. D. Gibbin

EVEN the keenest and most patient teacher will agree that music teaching is a wearying business. There are times when the best of tempers get frayed, when the teacher's comments acquire a sharper edge, and criticisms become more and more devastating.

There is, for example, the case of the pupil who, having given an atrocious performance of a very lovely melody, turned to her teacher and exclaimed in her most gushing manner, “That tune simply haunts me!” “I'm not surprised,” retorted the teacher, “You murdered it.”

Another young aspirant—a vocalist—who wanted to “come out” in public, consulted a teacher who gave her a searching test in voice production and interpretation. Without waiting for the teacher to offer any comments, she asked, “Is my voice soprano or contralto, Mr.—?” The reply was brief and to the point. “No!”

Candid criticism is not only the privilege of the teacher. Sometimes it comes from friends and neighbours. A proud mother, for example, boasted thus to her next-door neighbour, “My daughter is very musical. She learned to play in no time.” “Yes,” replied the long-suffering neighbour, “I noticed it.” An equally candid comment came from the friend of a rather bumptious pianist. “What would you do if you could play like me?” inquired the bumptious one. “I would take lessons,” came the swift reply.

Jealousy in musical circles is, unhappily, far from rare, and it prevails amongst amateurs no less than amongst professionals. A student singer remarked to a fellow student: “Do you notice how badly out of tune your piano is?” “I hadn’t noticed it,” retorted his contemporary, “it harmonises so well with your voice.”

Not What He Meant

Fortunately, the questions and answers of musical life are not always dipped in acid. A small girl, entering for a theory examination at one of the great musical institutions, walked into the examiner’s room and found him almost doubled up with rheumatism. The examiner heaved himself out of his chair, and said to the child: “I don’t suppose you know what rheumatism is, my dear?” “No, sir,” replied the young candidate, “I’ve only done the majors and minors.”

The scene changes. This time to a crowded part of Oxford Street where, in the days before Belisha beacons and traffic lights were invented, the stream of traffic made one particularly careful of the crossings. Standing on the kerb one day, waiting an opportunity to cross the road, was that grand old man of music, Francesco Berger. Nearly a hundred years old, and with failing eyesight, Berger seemed confused by the rush of cars and buses. A young and observant passer-by noticed his difficulty and helped him across Oxford Street. With a courtly bow, and a touch of humour, recalling gentler and more spacious times, Berger murmured, “Thank you, sir. I hope I may do the same for you when you are my age.”

Another kerb-side scene—but of a different order—was that of a musical enthusiast who had just bought a piano, and was seen next day trundling the instrument along the street on a barrow. “Hullo, Bill,” cried a friend. “Going to sell your piano already?” “No, you fool,” came the response, “I’m going to have a music lesson.”

Operatic Realism

Another enthusiast—an opera fan exclaimed to his teacher, “I always want to go to the bull fight when I hear the Torero’s Song.” “Quite so,” responded the teacher. “And where do you want to go when you hear Mephistopheles in Faust?”

Excuses for lessons missed sometimes have a quaintness all their own. One pupil, for instance, wrote to her teacher thus: “I'm sorry I couldn't come for my lesson last week. My grandmother died. Hoping it won't happen again.”

Yet another gem from a teacher's postbag was that from a native on the Gold Coast. “Dear—,” it ran, “I have just got your address, and I feel very hiliarious to be under your tuition. I deem you will teach me how to decompose into tonic solfa.”

Sometimes the teacher is the donor, and not the recipient, of unconscious humour, as the following advertisement from a local newspaper shows: “Music lessons given. Beginners specially grounded.” That explains why so many voices are sharp.

Howlers from the Music Class

As a rule, it is a sound plan to accept stories of musical howlers with a large grain of salt. Many of them are, I know, quite authentic. Some of them are fact founded on fiction. Some are fiction founded on fact. And some are sheer invention: All the same, they are worth quoting, and many that are quite untrue deserve to be perpetuated.

Here are a few:

Beethoven's Fifth Symphony depicts Kate, knocking at the door.

Harmonising—the stuff that people put on wedding cakes.

Resonance—the sound produced by resin.

Mus. Bac—short for Bach's music.

Cave Canem (translated): “Beware, I may sing.”

Pandemonium—a thing they play in churches when they haven't an organ.

Ave Maria—a song written by Bach, and knocked into shape by Gounod.

Syncopation—an effect produced by a composer when he hasn't room for the first beat in the bar. So he pushes the note back into the previous bar.

Saraband—a kind of percussion band, with tambourines, etc.

Debussy was considered to be rather revolutionary by his contemporaries. Amongst other things he invented the Platonic Scale.

(Continued on page 26)
Two inebriates at a bar were discussing life in general.

"I had the darnedest dream last night," said one. "I dreamed that suddenly about a thousand funny little men were dancing on top of my body. They had pink caps and green suits, and funny red boots that curled up in front."

"Yes," agreed the other, "and there was a tinkly bell at the toe of the boots."

"How do you know," said the first one in surprise.

"There are a couple of them still sitting on your shoulder," said the other.

★

Wise Guy: "What is the most deadly fluid?"

Chemical Student: "Potassium Cyanide, because you're dead as soon as it touches you."

Wise Guy: "Wrong: Embalming fluid: you're dead before it touches you."

★

Two dairies were engaged in an advertising war. One of the companies hired a daredevil racer to drive a car around the town with large placards reading:

"This Daredevil Drinks Our Milk."

The rival company came out with placards twice as large, reading:

"You Don't Have To Be A Daredevil to Drink Our Milk."

★

"I won't get married until I find a girl like Grandpa married."

"Huh! They don't make them like that these days."

"That's funny. He only married her yesterday."

An old Texas drunkard saw so many pink elephants that he hired a hall and put up a sign:

"Twenty-five cents to see the zoo."

A couple of customers resented the fact that they saw nothing but four bare walls, and swore out a complaint.

When the sheriff came to make the arrest, the drunk hailed his jug from under the counter. The sheriff took three snifters—and paid him five hundred dollars for a half interest in his show!

★

First Convict: "He pointed his gun at me."

Second Convict: "Did he shoot?"

First Convict: "He couldn't. I had my finger over the hole."

★

The little boy and his mother stood looking at the dentist's showcase. The boy, pointing, said: "If I had to have false teeth, Mother, I'd like that set."

"Hush, William," said the mother.

"Haven't I told you not to pick your teeth in public?"

★

"I must find another tailor. This one reads too much."

"Reads too much?"

"Yes. Every letter he writes to me begins, 'On going through my books ...'"

★

Physician: "Er—have you ever walked in your sleep, Sir John?"

Newly Rich Knight: "Certainly not! I may have motored."

★

Banker (to actor): "No, I have not been inside a theatre for the last 15 years."

Actor: "Ah! Then you're one of the reasons why I haven't been inside a bank for the last 15 years!"

★

Teacher down in Oklahoma: "I wonder if any of you children have Indian blood?"


"Oh, it wasn't exactly a tribe; just a wandering Indian," answered Johnny.

★

THE "COMRADES" Can Give It, But Can't Take It

An amusing story comes from one of the R.S.L. cab-drivers who picked up five wharfies on a trip from Sydney to Glebe Island.

It appears that on the journey over, two of the wharfies (Comrades) sat with the driver and nearly drove him mad earbashing the three sitting in the back (apparently new recruits) to make certain of their privileges, including double time for Sundays, penalty rates, inconvenience money, etc.

Our driver was just about fed up and a little disgusted when they arrived at Glebe Island, and when Comrade No. 1 asked: "What's the fare?" he replied, "Ten bob, thanks."

The Comrade burst out: "What the hell! It's only three bob to here, to which the driver replied:

"Yes, I know, but it's double time for Sundays, which makes 6/., and I've just come over two swing bridges which mightn't be open on the way back, I want a penalty rate of 2/- for those. In addition, the Customs man will stop me at the gates and search the cab for contraband, that's another two bob inconvenience money, making 10/- the lot."

The three chaps in the back woke immediately, and paid their two bob with a grin and a "Good on you, mate," but the "Comrades" couldn't see any humour in the proposition, and finished up paying their two bobs with very bad grace.—From Reveille.

★

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PERSONALITIES

Ex-Ninth Division Digger, S. H. (Harry) Strike, of Albany, recently won the first prize of £3,000 in the State Lottery. Mr. Strike only came out of hospital on the day before the lottery was drawn, and he was then told that, because of a war-caused injury, he would never work again. Good luck, Harry.

Ralph Davies, of the Leederville sub-branch, has been appointed secretary of the newly formed W.A. Vegetable Growers' Association. Already Ralph seems to be doing a first-class job.

Mr. A. McKenzie has been elected president of the Yealering sub-branch.

Mr. H. A. Fennell, of South Perth, has been appointed honorary treasurer of the West Leederville-Wembley sub-branch.

Mr. G. Potter, of the Subiaco sub-branch, was, we understand, runner-up in the recent South Ward Subiaco council election. The third candidate in a triangular contest was a member of the Shenton Park sub-branch, so that the League was represented in the contest 100 per cent.

Mr. Charles Gummery, of the Geraldton sub-branch, who for many years was an active and willing worker for the Armadale sub-branch, has recently been visiting Perth.

Mr. H. Wilson, the popular secretary of the Fremantle sub-branch, is, we understand, contemplating a trip by sea to the Eastern States. His many friends will wish him a most happy time.

Subiaco sub-branch is more than proud of the fact that it has three members serving as councillors on the local municipal council. These are Alf Buggins, Lyall Richardson and Ern Congdon.

Jim Whittem, familiarly known as "The Marquis of Torbay," who is a popular member of the Albany sub-branch, recently returned from a trip to Queensland. Jim is a stalwart of many a congress, the majority of which have never failed to be brightened by his ready wit and humour.

Harry Lewis, of the Norseman sub-branch, recently visited Perth on sub-branch pensions interests.

Ernie Pickering, secretary of the Perth Y.M.C.A., and a member of the Press sub-branch, recently paid a hurried visit to Kalgoorlie.

Credit the design of the new cover of The Listening Post to Ron Bocking, another member of the Press sub-branch. Ron is also responsible for the feature cartoons into shape.
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TOLLEYS
T PURE TST
SPECIAL HOSPITAL BRANDY
It's the Same Story in England

In the House of Commons recently a speech by Sir Ian Fraser was heard in a silence that cut across party and faction. These were his final words:—

"All you had hoped for, all you had,
You gave
To save mankind, yourselves you scorned to save."

This is Sir Ian Fraser's message:—

There are 700,000 men and women disabled in the two great wars who survive. Fifty thousand are disabled in a higher degree up to total disability. All these cases receive pensions, basic pensions sometimes supplemented by special allowances in exceptional circumstances. Six hundred and fifty thousand are less than 100 per cent. disabled. They are mostly in jobs. The rest may never hope to work again.

Well, how much do these variously disabled sailors, soldiers and airmen get by way of pension?

In 1919, after the deliberations of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, the 100 per cent. disability pension for a private was fixed at the flat rate of £2 per week.

No change was made in that rate until 1946, when it was raised by five shillings. That is to say, no increase in twenty-seven years.

In twenty-seven years the increase of this disability pension was 12½ per cent.

During the course of those years wages have gone up as the cost of living went up. But the ex-service pensioner, because of his physical disability, has not participated in this general rise.

Just for the sake of contrast, let us see how an agricultural labourer has fared over the same period.

In 1919 he got £1/16/- a week.

Today he gets £4/10/-, an increase of 140 per cent.

Nobody grudges him this. No man works harder. The figure is given here merely to show that the disabled ex-service men and women of two wars have not been so successful as civilian workfolk.

Hidden Poverty

Let me give another comparative figure. Taking 14 different crafts, adding their weekly wage and dividing by 14, we get the figure £2/16/-. That was after the first world war when the flat total disability pension was fixed at £2 a week.

SLOGAN CONTEST

FIRST PRIZE . . TWO GUINEAS
SECOND PRIZE . . ONE GUINEA

The Membership Committee of the League is seeking a good Membership Slogan, and offers the above prices for suitable entries. There is no entrance fee, and no limit as to the number of entries any one reader may send in.

Rules are simple. The slogan must not have been already used; entries will be received only from financial members of the League; and the slogan must be capable of being used as a poster.

As examples of what is wanted, we give the following:

PULL YOUR WEIGHT—IT'S '48
BE IN LINE—IT'S '49

Get going on this contest now. The first prize may be yours.

Submit your entries to Anzac House before January 20, 1949, the date on which the contest will close. Judges will be the Chairman of the Membership Committee (Mr. F. Chantry), the State Secretary (Mr. J. Chappell) and Mr. J. T. Birtwistle ("The West Australian"). The judges' decision will be final, and no correspondence whatever can be entered into regarding this contest.

Today, these same 14 craftsmen's average wage comes to £5/2/-. That is a rise of 83 per cent.

This year many manual workers' wages have risen still further. And so, the reader may say, has the cost of living.

That brings me to my next point. When prices of essential consumable goods rise in the wages-of-living spiral, nobody suffers so much as the man with a fixed income. All pensioners, disabled or otherwise, suffer from this diminution of their purchasing power. But none suffer as do the partially disabled and those totally put out of the race of life by war.

What we forget, perhaps, is that a fixed pension does not guarantee a fixed purchasing power, but one that goes up and down with the cost of living.

Take the case of a man who lost both legs in 1917 in battle. One of his solaces is his packet of 20 cigarettes a day. Then they cost him 1½d. That is 6/5 per week. Today they would cost him 1/-4/6. Rather more than half his 100 per cent. disability pension.

That figure and the rise in the cost of beer make it plain that the bedridden and totally disabled must do without these minor indulgences or accept them as gifts from relatives or friends.

If their financial straits are such, then, that these little luxuries are beyond them, how do they fare for the essentials of life in a world wherein food and textiles rise steadily year by year?

Let us take a glance at the case of the disabled industrial worker.

Civilians' £1 a Week More

Some while ago, at Whitley Bay, the miners held their trade union meeting and introduced a scheme for further benefits. This they were able to do under the Industrial Insurance Act. The miners have come to an

(Continued on page 32)
Memorials to Empire Airmen: The Imperial War Graves Commission advises that a site has been chosen in Great Britain for a memorial to Empire airmen who lost their lives in World War II. Site is at Runnymede, where the Magna Charter was signed. Other memorials to Empire airmen will be erected in France and at Athens, Singapore and Alamein.

Gratuities and Mortgages: It is officially pointed out that under the War Gratuity Act, war gratuity credit may be used to reduce an existing mortgage on a house purchased and used as a home, and such gratuity may be transferred to approved authorities where the original contract between the authority and the ex-serviceman was signed between June 30, 1946, and December 31, 1947, provided that the gratuity is required bona fide in connection with the purchase or erection of a home for the ex-serviceman.

Commonwealth Employment Service: The Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Employment Service draws attention to the fact that his department conducts an “Advice and Information Service” to assist in the re-establishment of ex-service personnel. He points out that ex-service personnel who enlisted on or before June 30, 1947, and are discharged on or before June 30, 1949, are eligible for re-instatement in their former civil employment. Apprentices whose apprenticeships were interrupted by war service may revive their apprenticeships with either their former employer or another, if approved. In approved cases, wages may be supplemented to ensure the apprentice the wage he would be receiving had he not enlisted.

Controls Released: Certain types of land transactions have now been released from control. These consist of (a) vacant building lots which do not exceed one acre in area; (b) shops, workshops and office premises which are used solely for a commercial or industrial purpose and not for residential purposes; (c) licensed premises. But it is pointed out that a purchaser contemplating any of the exempt items should remember that if he finds himself involved in an excessive price the department will have no power to help him.

Post-War Training: The Deputy Director, Ministry of Post-War Reconstruction, states that men awaiting training should notify any change of address without delay, as there are numerous instances where it has taken many weeks to get in touch with men called up for training. Where training is no longer desired, advice to this effect should be forwarded.

Non-War Caused Disabilities: Ex-servicemen who enlisted prior to June 30, 1947, are eligible to apply within 12 months of date of discharge for medical treatment and allowances. They may be considered for dispensations if they are suffering from an illness or injury not caused by the war which will preclude full resumption of employment for a period of not less than six weeks, and provided the treatment will make the claimant fit for full or partial employment. Treatment includes: Treatment by the patient’s own doctor, hospitalisation or treatment at the Rehabilitation Centre at Freshwater Bay. Such treatment is free of cost, but £1 per week is deducted from any allowance paid while undergoing treatment at the hospital or rehabilitation centre where the claimant is maintained at Government expense.

Militia Service: The Federal Government proposes to amend the Defence Act shortly to allow militia forces now being recruited to be sent overseas. This proposed step marks a major change in Labour policy, as follows a decision reached by the interstate conference of the A.L.P in September last, when the party defence policy was reviewed. At this stage the purpose is to enable Australia to contribute militia troops, if necessary, to an international police force.

Rehab. Men do Well: University Guidance Officer W. A. Mahoney states that ex-service students have been giving better average results than other undergraduates, and rehabilitation students at the university who took their final examinations last year are expected to achieve good results. In general, rehab. students have a better percentage of passes than others.

B.E. Service League Appointment: Viscount Bruce has accepted office as vice-president of the British Empire Service League, an appointment suggested by the R.S.L.

War Service Land Settlement Scheme: Mr. E. L. Ryan, of Coolup sub-branch, kindly forwards us a communication which he has received from the Department of Lands and Surveys. This states: “No property is made available to any applicant under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme unless it measures up to the standards set for settlement... On occasions further developmental work is necessary to attain the full carrying capacity, and it is the responsibility of the board to effect such additional work... The cost is borne by the scheme pending final valuation upon which the rental in perpetuity on land and non-structural improvements will be fixed, and the amount of half-yearly installments for the repayment of structural improvements plus interest over a period of 30 years will be determined. It is explained here that any work of a minor nature that is within the capacity of the allottee to carry out—such as repairing of fences—must be effected by the
allottee without payment. During the first year of occupancy under perpetual lease conditions, the allottee is paid a living allowance. This is a grant, and so is not repayable. A married man with more than one dependent receives £5/10/- per week, whereas a single man is paid £3/10/-.

A married man with one adult dependent receives £5/1/−.

Land Settlement Loans: The above letter continues: “After an allotment has been made under perpetual lease conditions, the allottee may apply for loan advances for the purpose of obtaining stock and/or plant and for working expenses. The former are repayable over 10 years with interest, but payment does not commence until the end of the living allowance period. During that period, all proceeds of the farm must be paid to the department for credit to the allottee’s working expenses account, which is repayable with interest within 12 months. If proceeds during the year are not sufficient to liquidate the working expenses account, payment of proceeds to the department is required until the account has been repaid in full.”

Free Health Service in Britain: British authorities announce that, under Britain’s new National Health Service, visitors from overseas are now entitled to free medical treatment. Those staying for a month or longer receive upon their arrival a leaflet which gives full details of the scheme and explains the facilities at their disposal should they fall sick or meet with an accident. Visitors staying for more than three months can register with any doctor taking part in the scheme. Those staying for a shorter period can, in case of illness, apply for free medical treatment, and all visitors may avail themselves of free hospital treatment.

War Service Homes Insurance: Ex-servicemen who acquire their homes under the War Service Homes Act will now be able to continue to receive the benefit of the war service homes insurance scheme after they have discharged their liabilities, should they so desire.

War Gratuity for Furniture: In regard to a resolution moved at the Federal Executive meeting of August last: “That the payment of war gratuity be amended to include the purchase of furniture where it is needed to complete the home,” the Prime Minister states that “after earnest consideration of all the aspects involved, it has been decided that early payments can not be made for the purchase of furniture.”

C.R.T.S. Allowances: The Minister for Post-War Reconstruction points out that: “The only portion of training benefits repayable by trainees who wish to take full-time training, readers requiring detailed particulars should apply to Anzac House; but, in brief, resolutions of the Federal Executive that “The allowance be not in the form of a loan,” that “Benefits be extended to cover ex-servicemen who were under 27 on enlistment,” and that “Ex-servicemen eligible for only part-time training deciding to undergo full-time training be allowed part-time benefits for which they are eligible,” have been turned down.

Artillery Comrades’ Association Scholarship: As in previous years, the A.C.A. will again this month place on offer two scholarships. They are open to the sons and daughters of men who have served with the regiment in any part of the globe, and also men now serving, providing the family is resident in W.A. Candidates must have passed their Junior, as these scholarships, valued at £35 each per year, are of two years’ duration, are given with the express purpose of enabling the applicants to continue for their Leaving examination. Application forms are obtainable from the head teacher of the various schools, or the Education Department. When these are completed, they should be returned at once to that department—attention Mr. Duncan. There may be children within the ambit of your sub-branch whose fathers have answered the call and who are now eligible to apply; if so, the trustees of the fund would be extremely grateful if this matter was brought to their notice.

Hire Purchase Facilities: Ex-servicemen engaged in industry can secure machine tools, industrial equipment of all types, motor cars, buses, trucks, tractors, commercial refrigerators and earth-moving equipment through the Industrial Finance Department of the Commonwealth Bank. Deposits range from 20 per cent. (on new machine tools) to 33½ per cent. (cars and trucks). Hiring charge is a basic flat-rate of 4 per cent. per annum, plus cost of insurance, but where the amount involved is £500 or less, the hiring charge is 4½ per cent., including fire insurance.

Used vehicles are also financed, but the deposits required are higher and the repayment periods shorter.
WINGED DAGGER

Roy Farran, who has lived some adventurous years in the British Special Air Service, serving behind the enemy lines in France and Italy, and who later put his knowledge of underground warfare at the disposal of the Palestine Police, has written an absorbing account of his career in *Winged Dagger*.

Readers of these pages may remember that, a few months ago, a parcel addressed to Roy was opened by his brother, a costly error which deprived the latter of his life, for the parcel contained a bomb consigned by the Jewish terrorists.

Just what Roy is doing now, no one seems to know—he has a habit of disappearing into the blue—but it is almost certain that he is cramming into his life more thrills than ever the great majority of us may hope to experience.

Roy starts off his story with his 1940-43 experiences in the Middle East. He gives an interesting picture of desert fighting with an armoured unit, and then goes on to tell of the fighting in Crete. "At the height of the confusion," he says, "when I was still puzzled by fire from an unseen enemy, there occurred one of the tragedies of war which make it a bitter, evil business having nothing to do with God. I saw what appeared to be a German in a long, grey overcoat coming up the road towards us. It was difficult to see through the visor and I had never seen a German at close range before, but it looked like the real thing to me. I ordered the gunner to fire. Bullets spattered around the figure on the road, but still it came on. Suddenly I shouted to the gunner to cease fire. I felt, as I could not feel now that I am hardened by years of war: it was a woman, a civilian, and I had shot her. She came on and we could hear her screaming now. The Germans had ceased firing and there was nothing but her screams. She was an old peasant woman in a long, grey dress, her grey hair done in a bun behind her neck, and she was holding out her hands for mercy as she screamed.

Her shoulder had been shattered by a bullet, splashing her dress and her wrinkled face with blood. What had I done? I tried to stop her, but she went up the road towards the village, staggering, screaming."

So do the innocent victims of war suffer.

But the book has its lighter side. Farran was taken prisoner, and sent to a camp near Athens. After a while he escaped, and was taken care of by a Greek family.

"After about an hour, visitors began to pour in with presents. The first was Maria's husband, who was an orange-seller and could say 'oranges very good one bob' in English, which was not much of a help. . . . Others came in and kissed me on both cheeks, hugging me with joy. They pushed an enormous plate of macaroni before me and filled my pockets with Woodbines. . . . Then they brought in another pretty girl, who, unfortunately, had only one eye, and pointed out the most attractive parts of her body. . . . It seemed that she had lost her husband in Albania and wanted me to till the garden. Maria noticed that I was looking embarrassed (for, after all, it was a bit fast) and told her husband to wait until later."

With thirteen others, Roy sailed in a 30ft. vessel for Alexandria. But fuel ran out, food ran out, and water ran out. However, at last they were rescued, and Roy's next job was with General Jock Campbell, V.C., commander of the 7th Armoured Divi-

sion. When driving the General to Alexandria one day: "The car must have been going at about 45 miles an hour when I hit a fresh patch of clay, recently laid. Somehow, I lost control of the wheel and the car skidded from side to side of the road over about 200 yards. I just had time to hear the General say, 'Keep the bloody thing straight,' when I felt myself falling through the air. I never lost consciousness in spite of the force of my landing on my back. I picked myself up to notice with horror that the car had overturned, the four wheels spinning helplessly in the air. I ran round to the other side to find the General lying on his back with blood coming from his mouth. He had been killed instantly."

Back in Britain, Farran joined the Special Air Service Regiment. He landed in Sicily on a special job to seize the lighthouse on Cape Passero. His next assignment was with a special jeep party around the Taranto Bay area. Then he helped to cut the railway line near Giulianova on the Adriatic coast. Most of the Italian civilians his party encountered were more than friendly. Farran told one of his men to get some food. "We found him . . . surrounded by four pretty girls of much the same age with lovely black tresses tumbling down their backs. . . . If we had stayed there much longer, I am sure that one of the men would have become attached to one for life. All day they were laughing and giggling and changing their dresses. We had many fried eggs and delicious fried chicken and the old man broached the special wine he had been saving for the arrival of the allies."

Then Farran served behind the enemy lines in France, leaving there to conduct a jeep operation in Italy. This, perhaps, is the most fascinating portion of the book. It teems with action, and the episodes, one feels, would make a first-class film.

After the war, Farran served with the Palestine Police Force, and while in prison awaiting his trial for murder wrote this volume, which no one can fail to enjoy.

Winged Dagger, by Roy Farran (Collins). Our copy from the publishers.

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Mr. M. Zeffert, of the Press sub-
branch, has, of late, been suffering
from indifferent health. A staunch
and ready worker for the League and
kindred organisations, Mr. Zeffert
was unsparking in his activities during
the last war, and readers will, we
feel sure, join us in wishing him a
speedy return to health.

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---

This Was Freyberg . . .

"Through the courtesy of Captain
Gee, V.C., a member of the Subiaco
sub-branch, we are able to publish
the following particulars regarding
the distinguished guest who recently
visited the Perth branch of the League
—Lieut.-General Sir Bernard Frey-
berg, V.C., C.C.M.G., K.B.E.,
D.S.O. (with three bars), D.C.L.
(Oxford) and LL.D. (St. Andrews).

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pride to the 29th to feel that one of
its future brigade commanders, Lieut.-
Colonel Freyberg, who then com-
manded a battalion of the 63rd
(Naval) Division, by the greatest ga-
lantry and military genius contributed
greatly to the capture of Beaumont
Hamel. A distinguished soldier said:
'By his initiative, fine leading and
bravery, Lieut.-Colonel Freyberg won
the battle of the Ancre. Probably
this was the most distinguished per-
sonal act in the war.'

"On November 10, 1918, the day
before the Armistice, General Frey-
berg saddled up his attached squad-
ron and, in spite of the exhaustion
of the horses, galloped down the Les-
sines Road, taking no notice of the
fire of German outposts. The dis-
tance was ten miles of hilly road. The
squadron, led by General Freyberg
in person, arrived at the outskirts of
Lessesines . . . and though fired on,
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CANTEENS TRUST FUND

The Services Canteens Trust Fund has been established from funds derived largely from the assets of the Canteens Services of the Navy, Army and Air Force, conducted during the 1939-45 War, and the Commonwealth Government has appointed honorary trustees of whom Brigadier Blackburn, V.C., C.B.E., T.D., is chairman, to administer the fund in the interests of ex-service men and women of World War II who served in the Australian Forces, and their dependants who are, in necessitous circumstances, irrespective of where they may be throughout the world.

The fund is anticipated to approximate £4,500,000, and at least £2,500,000 is to be applied in providing educational assistance to children of ex-servicemen, the balance to be used for welfare purposes.

The Regional Welfare Committee is the agent of the trustees to investigate applications for relief from ex-service men and women and their dependants (other than widows and orphans, for whom a special panel has been formed), and to grant relief up to a limit of £25 in respect of any one family. The local committee consists of a chairman and eight nominees of the various ex-servicemen’s organisations, all of whom carry out the work in an honorary capacity.

It is not possible to cover all the types of cases for which relief may be provided, they being of infinite variety and covering the whole range of human misfortune. The most usual type of case where assistance is provided is where an ex-serviceman, normally in the comparatively low-income group, has his income substantially reduced as a result of sickness or accident.

Funds are made available to State committees on the basis of the number of enlistments from each State, allotments being necessarily limited in order to conserve funds for years to come, thus affording an opportunity for younger enlistees (who formed the great majority) to claim on the fund as they grow older and necessity arises. A life span of approximately 25 years has been planned for the fund.

Since the committee commenced its activities in February, 1948, there has been a heavy demand on the fund from large numbers of ex-service men and women in very difficult circumstances, and in view of the limited annual allocation of funds it has been found necessary to restrict assistance to the more distressing cases of hardship. As a general rule, the committee is unable to grant relief to persons in employment or to ex-servicemen without dependants unless the circumstances are catastrophic, as this would reduce the amount available for cases where the need is so much greater.

Grants are made for the purpose of providing basic necessities and the scope of the fund does not extend to the provision of money for house repairs, furniture, tools, layettes or purchase of other assets.

However, every application is carefully and sympathetically considered by the committee and dealt with on its merits on the basis of information supplied by the social worker appointed by the committee to interview applicants and investigate the circumstances of each case, or from reports from the various ex-servicemen’s organisations’ sub-branches to whom the committee is indebted for their continued co-operation. Indeed, without the help of the ex-servicemen’s organisations, the work of the committee in considering country applications would be rendered very difficult.

To November 10, 1948, 733 cases had been considered by the committee, and grants totalling £6,483 had been made to 519 applicants, 213 applications having been refused.

[The above information has been supplied by the Services Canteens Trust Fund Regional Welfare Committee.]

REUNION

The combined 48th and 2/48th Battalions’ reunion was held in the 16th Battalion Drill Hall on Friday, December 3, between 70 and 80 being present, including representatives of the 44th Battalion, 51st Battalion, the Navy and Artillery.

The president (Mr. J. P. McKenzie) called upon Mr. Vic. Nelson to propose the toast of the battalion. This was supported by Mr. Arthur Green. The response was by Mr. R. Goldspink and Mr. E. Wimbridge. The artists—J. Benstead, E. Wimbridge, H. Gilbert and “Bones” Nyland—and others kept the mob in good humour while Stan Power and Joe Berg and their assistants did their “bit” with the refreshments, which made the night a very enjoyable one, which closed with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

TRAINING DISPLAY

A comprehensive and extremely interesting display of modern infantry training methods was given recently on the Perth Esplanade by the 11/44 Battalion (City of Perth Regiment). A large crowd showed considerable interest, and we are given to understand that a number of young men decided to join the unit. The Commanding Officer of the battalion (Colonel C. H. B. Norman) stated that recruiting in the metropolitan area had been by no means good, and he hoped that anyone who could interest young men in joining up would do so.

ANZAC CLUB

The attention of members is drawn to the fact that the Club telephone has now been converted to a direct-line unit. This will obviate the inconvenience caused by delay, which prevailed previously when the ‘phone was merely an extension from the general office switchboard. The number for inward calls is still 8229.
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War Pensions Protest

In accordance with a direction by the State Executive to invite ex-servicemen's organisations to a joint meeting to discuss the matter of war pensions increases, a meeting was held at Anzac House on Wednesday, December 8, to arrange for a combined protest against the smallness in the increases in war pensions.

The State President (Mr. W. J. Hunt) welcomed the following delegates: Messrs. R. Stephenson and J. Pierpoint (Maimed and Limbless), Messrs. J. Ward and P. Norris (W.A. Blinded Soldiers), Mésdames W. E. Hayes and Fowler (War Widows...Craft Guild), Messrs. W. E. Shearer and C. C. Walker (T. & P.I. Association), Messrs. C. H. Hatcher and C. L. Lee (Federated T.B. Soldiers), Mr. Hills (Partially Blinded Soldiers), Messrs. Saunders and C. Burge (Ex-Navalmen's Association), Mr. L. J. Ball and Mrs. Z. T. Fryer (Air Force Association), Messrs. Lewis and Callopy (Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen).

The League's Pension Committee was represented by Mr. F. J. Stahl (chairman), Dr. Greenham, Messrs. Watt, Ferguson and James.

The chairman briefly outlined the action already taken by the League following the announcement of the increase in pensions of 5/- per week. [The Federal Executive in August adjourned to Canberra to enable members to personally contact the Minister for Repatriation and lodge a protest. Then followed a telegram to all members of the Federal Parliament, urging for a more substantial increase. Federal Congress, held in Brisbane in October, passed a resolution expressing strong resentment at the smallness of the increase, and requested all State branches to organise emphatic protests.]

The Federal Executive has now drawn up a comprehensive list of 33 items, which it was decided should represent the League's policy on pensions, and these have been submitted to the Minister. A copy of these points was handed to each of the representatives of each organisation present at the meeting.

Members present were invited to discuss the matter of war pensions in its various aspects, and it was unanimously agreed that there was just

cause for protest. Delegates from each organisation voiced their dissatisfaction, emphasising the considerably reduced purchasing power of money and the corresponding reduction in the value of the pensions originally granted.

The following motion was unanimously agreed to: “That this combined meeting of ex-servicemen's organisations of W.A. emphatically and sincerely protests against the recent small increase in the war pension rates, and strongly urges the Federal Government to increase immediately these rates to conform at least in spending power to those which applied prior to the 1939-45 war, which would make the present rate of a full pension at least £3/10/- per week, together with a comparable rise in scheduled rates and allowances and war widows' pensions”.

It was further resolved that all State members of the Federal Parliament be furnished with a copy of the resolution, and requested to give a definite reply as to whether they would support this in the House, also that full publicity be given in the Press to the results of this meeting.

It was further agreed that those organisations represented which had Federal bodies would convey the results of this meeting to them, with the request that similar procedure be adopted as in this State.

The meeting was adjourned with a view to re-assembly in January, 1949, to review the position.

Mr. F. J. Stahl was appointed chairman and Mr. J. Chappell secretary of the joint meetings of the organisations, and authority was given for them to take all necessary action in the meantime to put into effect decisions arrived at by the meeting.
The Funny Side of Music
(Continued from page 11)

Pianissimo is a quiet piece of music which enables the woman behind you to tell the audience what she thinks of the artist's gown.

An overture is a piece of music played by an orchestra at the beginning of an opera to drown the noise made by people coming in late. The attempt is usually more plucky than successful.

An accidental is a note which you play and don't mean.

Gentlemen Prefer Blonds

Musical Appreciation is so often expressed in technical terms that it is sometimes refreshing to find it revealed as a purely human thing. During the war, when lunch-time concerts were given at the National Gallery in London, I sat next to a soldier at a recital given by a quartet of ladies. My neighbour was so enthralled by the proceedings that at last I asked him his opinion of the concert. "Marvelous," he said. And then, pointing at one of the artists, he added, "I'm sure I've seen that blonde at Albert Hall."

Music Trades Review (London).

* Special Migration Issue next month. Watch for it.

A.R.M.S. Games Finals

Mt. Hawthorn v. Gloucester Park

By C. F. PLATT
(Hon. Secretary, A.R.M.S. Committee)

These games were finalised on Wednesday, October 27, 1948, in the supper room of Anzac House, where competitors and visitors all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The games opened with the shooting and the keenest of interest was shown as each competitor took his turn with the rifle. The shoot was eventually won by Gloucester Park by a small margin.

Darts and quoits and bridge were all started, and in the darts once again Gloucester Park came out on top after a very fine exhibition of the game on both sides. In the quoits the first game was taken by Mr. Hawthorn, but any doubt regarding the finish was clinched by the lead which G. Stone gave Gloucester Park in the second game. The third game went to Woodhall, of Gloucester Park. The finish of the darts and quoits put Gloucester Park in on the handy position of 6 to nil.

Mr. Hawthorn won both the bridge and table tennis, which made the final score 6 to 4, and therefore a win to Gloucester Park, who once again are the custodians for a further 12 months.

The Shield was presented by Mr. T. Sten (vice-president) to Mr. L. Wellstead, with a few well-chosen remarks, to which Mr. Wellstead responded.

I would like to thank the State Executive for their hearty co-operation. I must also mention the good work of the sports director, particularly the manner in which the result sheets during the series of this year's games came to hand, all this co-operation bringing the grand finals for 1948 to such a very fine and enjoyable conclusion.

The Shield was presented to Woodhall by the Custodians, with the promise that next year's competition will be much more enjoyable.

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St. George's Terrace, Perth

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J. H. Glowrey Proprietor
Aft e r d e mobilisation, Whacker
its equipment

ON GUARD
Stalled for a week in Royal Park
Transit Camp, a batch of us had been
impatiently waiting to be put on draft
for W.A. When our names were
finally called, feelings of elation
swiftly changed to chagrin on discov-
ering that we would have, to work
our passage overland as supplementary
guards for several hundred German
P.O.W. who were being transferred
from Victoria to Western Australia
as timber-cutters.

Closely packed on the train, guards
and prisoners were soon on quite
friendly terms, and during the first
sight out from Murchison Camp it
became evident that not all the extra
guards were going to take this escort
duty seriously.

On his rounds, the guard sergeant
entered a darkened corridor and
discovered all the occupants—
prisoners and guards alike—ap-
parently asleep. Picking his way care-
fully through the sleepers he found,
at the far end, a prisoner sitting up
holding a rifle.

"Where’s the sentry?" demanded
the sergeant.

"He’s in the lavatory," replied the
German.

When the sentry returned he was
naturally commanded to explain his
irregular conduct.

"Well—all the other jokers were
asleep and I didn’t want to wake ‘em,
so I left this bloke on guard," he
said calmly.

This story went through the train
next day, and it sounded a bit tall.
However, when we reached Marrinup
a few of the prisoners were left with
a sentry at the siding as baggage
party. The last truck loaded, the
sentry motioned his charges to climb
up and he, in the presence of four
Australian officers, casually handed
his rifle to one of the Germans and
then leisurely climbed up himself.

I don’t know which was the more
amusing. The unconcern of the
Australian or the embarrassment of
the German who looked as if he would
like to apologise for being placed in
such an unusual position.

"BILLDILL.

★ This story earns 10/6 for W. S.
Douglas, Wembly.

LIFE IS SHORT
An English soldier in a French vil-
lage, seeing a wedding in progress
at a church, asked a Frenchman whose
wedding it was.

"Je ne sais pas, M’sieu," answered
the Frenchman.

A few hours later, the same soldier
saw a coffin going into the same
church, and curiosity getting the bet-
ter of him, he again asked the iden-
tity of the individual.

"Je ne sais pas," was the response.

"Blimey," ejaculated the Tommy,
"he didn’t last long ."

From "Back" (S.A.).
★

THE BENEFITS OF EDUCATION
After demobilisation, Whacker
approached the Universities Commission
and expressed his desire to become
an analytical chemist. But as the author-
ities found that he could neither read
nor write, they sent him to the local
Employment Bureau with regrets.

There he was offered a job as atten-
dant in a public convenience, but
as he could not sign his name to the
necessary application form he was
scrubbed. The only other job vacant
was as a steward at a somewhat
hightoned club, and as nothing was said
about the applicant’s ability to read
or write, Whacker was sent off—and
the job was his.

But before he went he asked what
the convenience-attendant’s job would
have been worth, and he was told
"Six quid a week."

The years rolled on and Whacker,
who was a wily bird, got more of his
share of tips and "perks." One
day an acquaintance remarked upon
his apparent affluence, and Whacker
boasted that, in one year alone, he
had banked over a thousand quid.

"Struth," said his cobbler. "And
you can’t even read or write. What
would you be doing if you had en-
joyed a decent schooling?"

The answer came pronto—"Looking
after flamin’ lavatories at six
quid a week."

BOB CHAMBERS. (Bunbury).

FAVERSHAM HOUSE
The State President is anxious that
all sub-branches should give earnest con-
sideration to the Congress decision as
to the conversion of Faversham House
to a ‘War Veterans’ Home,’ and sub-
branches with prospective members for
admission should immediately notify the
State Secretary. It is pointed out that
the new home will entail considerable
expenditure of League funds, and unless
it is filled to capacity such expenditure
will not be justified.

16th BTN. & 4th BDE. ASSN.
Ladies’ Auxiliary Formed
At a meeting held at Havana Club,
Hay Street, Perth, on Tuesday,
December 14 (50 ladies and members
attending), a ladies’ auxiliary to the
association was formed and officers
elected (pro tem) were: President,
Mrs. E. Ketterer; hon. secretary, Mrs.
E. T. Abrahams; hon. treasurer, Mrs.
E. A. Newick. Subscription arranged,
2/6 annually. Will all members’
wives and friends interested send
names, addresses and subscriptions to
Hon. Treasurer, 39 Hutt Street, Mt.
Lawley. All ladies will be notified of
future meetings.

HARSH FACTS

- The Russians are estimated to have
30 divisions in their zone of Ger-
many, of which about 20 may be
ready for action.
- The British have, in Germany, one
operational infantry division, one
armoured brigade, and one parachute
brigade.
- The American combat force
amounts to little more than the Brit-
ish. The French have in their zone
50,000 troops which might provide
the equivalent of two divisions.
- Russia is keeping from 170 to 200
divisions “in being” on a peacetime
basis. On mobilisation, these might
be raised to between 250 and 300.
- The principal initial source of man-
power—for the five Brussels Powers
must be France. Her army today
numbers 550,000; but its operational
strength is far smaller than that, and
its equipment is relatively worse than
in 1940.
I think of death as some delightful journey
That I shall take when all my tasks are done.

BLOND, W. J.—A member of the Cowaramup sub-branch and late of the Royal Engineers; died recently. He was an active worker for the League.

BROWN, W.—Another member of the Cowaramup sub-branch and a keen worker on its behalf; died recently.

JOHNSON, F.—A member of the North-East Fremantle sub-branch; died on November 28.

KANAIR, S., D.C.M.—A member of the Maylands sub-branch, who served with the 2nd Siege Battery in World War I; died on December 8. A loyal and staunch worker for the League, he will be sadly missed by a wide circle of friends.

MANTON, A. K.—A member of the South Perth sub-branch, who served with the 16th Battalion (1st A.I.F.); died on November 16.

MARSHALL, A. H.—A member of the Kellerberrin sub-branch who served with the 2/28th Battalion; died recently.

MILLS, W. J.—A member of the Katanning sub-branch; died recently after a very long illness brought about by his service in the 44th Battalion in World War I.

MORELL, G.—A member of the South Perth sub-branch; died on December 11.

SCHULTZE, L. O.—A member of the Mount Lawley-Inglewood sub-branch, who served with the 16th Battalion; died on December 12.

THOMPSON, L. S.—A member of the Cowaramup sub-branch, who served with the 11th Battalion and who was extremely active in League matters; died recently.

Sub-branch secretaries and others are asked to forward to the Editor of The Listening Post details of any members who have answered the Last Roll Call. Full personal details will be welcomed.

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**THESE WORDS WILL LIVE FOREVER**

5: Winston Churchill says: "We mean to hold our own"...

... Let me, however, make this clear, in case there should be any mistake about it in any quarter: We mean to hold our own. I have not become the King's First Minister in order to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire. For that task, if ever it were prescribed, someone else would have to be found, and, under democracy, I suppose the nation would have to be consulted.

I am proud to be a member of that vast Commonwealth and society of nations and communities gathered in and around the ancient British monarchy, without which the good cause might well have perished from the face of the earth. Here we are, and here we stand, a veritable rock of salvation in this drifting world.

There was a time, not long ago, when for a whole year we stood all alone. Those days, thank God, have gone. We now move forward in a great and gallant company. For our record we have nothing to fear, we have no need to make excuses or apologies. Our record pleads for us, and will gain gratitude in the breasts of free men and women in every part of the world. . . .

I recall to you some lines of Byron, which seem to me to fit the event, the hour, and the theme:—

Millions of tongues record thee,
and anew
Their children's lips shall echo them, and say:
"Here, where the sword united
nations drew,
Our countrymen were warring
on that day!"

And this is much, and all which will not pass away.

---

**Moora Annual Meeting**

The president of the Moora sub-branch, in his annual report, expressed disappointment that the Memorial Park Appeal had not been as successful as had been anticipated, and appealed for more active support on the part of sub-branch members. The amount raised by direct giving (£180) was considered far below what should have been subscribed by a district such as this for such a worthy cause. However, he hoped an early start would be made this year on further efforts to raise the necessary funds. It was also intended to make an early start on the actual work of the project, as levelling and fencing could be started almost immediately.

During the year a number of requests for assistance in rehabilitation and land settlement were received and dealt with with varying success. He urged members to attend meetings so that they could be of assistance to their less fortunate comrades. He also urged all those members who had problems in connection with rehabilitation to bring them before the League.

He touched upon the matter of providing permanent quarters for the sub-branch and indicated that something may be done in this direction in the near future.

Finally, pointing out that the League existed for the benefit of ex-servicemen and their dependants, he again urged members to attend meetings regularly and make full use of both the facilities and the opportunities for recreation available through League membership.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Mr. F. Trotter; vice-presidents, Messrs. G. Gardiner, K. Dix and W. Prior; secretary-treasurer, Mr. L. N. Kuhl; committee, Messrs. F. Monks, A. Newman, J. Gardiner, J. W. McGann and Dr. Myles; amelioration committee, Messrs. Timms, Kestel and Dr. Myles; memorial wardens, Messrs. Rule, K. Dix, L. Kuhl, J. McGann, Timms; memorial park committee, Messrs. Dix, Monks, Symonds, McGann and White.

Meetings are held in the Amenities Hall on second Saturdays at 8 p.m.
PRISMATIC BINOCULARS

We have just landed a large shipment of Army Disposals Prismatic Binoculars of various British and Foreign makes. They are all in excellent condition and priced from £12/10/- to £27/10/-

Also Army Greatcoats, 1st grade, 20/-; Army Tunic, 1st grade, 15/-; American Stirrup Pumps, 15/-; .303 Rifles, reconditioned, 90/-; .303 Cartridges, 22/6 per 100; .310 Cadet Rifles.

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Sub-Branch Activities

MELVILLE

The sub-branch meeting was held at a flying site at 2000 hours on November 11, under the chairmanship of President Roy Jones. The roll was taken, and the minutes of the previous meeting were found to be satisfactory, and no new business was transacted.

CARLISLE

The monthly meeting on December 2 was well attended. Nominations were taken for the annual election next month. We are hoping for a very much livelier sub-branch in the New Year. The sub-branch tendered their usual Christmas party to members of the auxiliary on December 17. There was a good roll-up of both sexes, and a very pleasant evening was had by all. Certificates of Merit were presented to several members of the auxiliary. We want next year’s party to be the best ever, so all you said he would treasure in date for 1949. Bring your wife or girl friend and make it a real family party.

MOSMAN PARK

The closing stages of 1948 were busy from the social viewpoint. Tuesday, December 14, saw the sub-branch hold a social night with a magic lantern show. December 17, saw a large crowd of children and their parents attend the sub-branch’s annual Christmas tree. A great night was enjoyed, and after quantities of ice cream and other goodies had been handed out, a highly happy crowd wended their way homewards.

KENSINGTON

The election of officers was held on December 20. Mr. Robinson was re-elected president and Messrs. K. Whittfield and E. Kinless vice-presidents. Mr. E. J. Glancy was re-elected secretary and Mr. F. Brown re-elected treasurer. The two trustees are Messrs. B. Keeley and N. Nicolay. The Nominating Committee (Mr. R. Keeley) did not seek re-election.

MAYLANDS

On December 17, the State President (Mr. V. J. Hunt), accompanied by a party of visitors, visited Maylands. A special invitation of the sub-branch to carry out the very important duty of inspecting the Federal Certificate of Service and Badge to Mr. Bernard Farnham, a signal honour to the sub-branch. The meeting was held on December 17, at which the sub-branch as a recognition of his outstanding services to the sub-branch, presented Mr. Farnham with a Federal Certificate of Service and a Badge. Mr. Farnham, a signal honour to the sub-branch, was presented with a Federal Certificate of Service and a Badge.

SHACKLETON-KWALYN

At the annual meeting held on Saturday, December 17, 1948, the following officers were elected: Patron Sir G. G. Latham, M.I.C.; president, Mr. E. Pinkie; vice-presidents, Messrs. H. Bent and H. Foote; hon. secretary, Mr. L. J. Shaw; hon. treasurer, Mr. D. Gray; members: Messrs. E. Watson, B. Barrett, R. Block; auditor, Messrs. H. Spiller; director, Mr. F. C. Pinkie.

SOUTHPORT

The sub-branch dropped the case of Mr. Dwyer and returned to the business of the sub-branch. The following motion, etc., were carried: A vote of thanks to Mr. Bent, president of the sub-branch for his hard work, etc., for the past two years. That the sub-branch drop the case of Mr. Dwyer and return to the business of the sub-branch.

VICTORIA PARK

Our Christmas social on December 17 saw an even larger attendance and number of visitors. Toasts honoured were The King, proposed by the president; Navy, Army, and Air Force, proposed by Mr. J. Leach. Messrs. Leslie and Lyell for a sports night. The meeting was well attended and responded to enthusiastically by Frank Jones (Navy), Bill Goodwin (Army) and Jim Wadell (Air Force). The reply was a gem, taking us back to the 19th century. Afterwards, the sub-branch was entertained by the ladies’ auxiliary for New Year’s Eve, aartyly, and the evening brought them back to the close. The social committee has arranged a moonlight sail for January and an outing to the Art Gallery. (In touch for further particulars.) Three of our members—Bill Becket, Jack Murphy and Mr. N. Nicolay—attended the recent dance at the Sanset and Hollywood Hospital respectively. All are on the road to recovery, and members join in wishing them a speedy return to sub-branch activities.

RETURNED ARMY NURSES

A large number of members attended the sub-branch meeting on December 17, 1948, for the annual meeting for the year. Miss Clifton reported on the laying of the wreath on Remembrance Day at the cenotaph in Maylands. She made a statement on the selling of poppies. Miss Dunlop has been elected as a sub-branch representative on the Federal Certificate of Service and Badge. Miss Dunlop has also been elected as a sub-branch representative on the Federal Certificate of Service and Badge. Miss Dunlop has also been elected as a sub-branch representative on the Federal Certificate of Service and Badge. Miss Dunlop has also been elected as a sub-branch representative on the Federal Certificate of Service and Badge. Miss Dunlop has also been elected as a sub-branch representative on the Federal Certificate of Service and Badge.

SUBIACO

Sports evenings each Wednesday have under-taken a renewal of youth, and quite a strong attendance to enjoy the efforts of the rifle experts shooting outers and the dart players shooting nuts. Mr. E. L. Dwyer (ex-Digger and ex-major) attended our November general meeting. He said the judge thinks of people. He told us quite a lot about what people seemed to think, and the judge thinks what people do. He was well received and that was on the unusual go for the last meeting. The president extends to all members of the sub-branch the Compliments of the Season, and the staff and members wish them a Merry Christmas. A happy auxiliary with our thanks and admiration for their sterling work throughout the year.

WEST LEBERVILLE-WEMBLEY-FLORax EX.

At our last annual meeting many changes in the executive took place. Elected as vice-presidents were Geo. Neve, Geo. Neve, and Geo. Neve. It has been decided that the sub-branch be re-elected president (unopposed). This was supported by the assistant secretary, Hon. the three officers of the sub-branch were elected: Vice-President Mr. F. C. Pinkie (treasurer), and Mr. E. Pinkie (secretary) and Mr. D. Gray (treasurer). The sub-branch is now equipped with the financial side of the sub-branch, and it is up to all our members to render full support to this team.
Yealer ing

Yealer ing held its annual meeting in the Commercial Hotel on November 20. President Jack Hill (ex-R.A.A.F.) handed over his job to Alec McKenzie (of the 2/11th Battalion). Jack has done a good job over the past three years, being the first of the Second World War men to occupy the chair. Our sub-branch is now in charge of a pair of good footsoldiers, Vic Hovell (2/16th) is in his second year, and has the game well sewn up. The meeting was well attended, the room being crowded. We had two visitors—"Stumpy" Wright, one of the old League stalwarts of 1917, was along from Perth, and Len Radosky, down from New Guinea, came along to renew old acquaintances after a spell in the box and served in the R.A.A.F. in England. Our old boys are gradually outnumbered by the new arrivals, and this is an end for be. Things are well with the sub-branch. We give a lot of money to charity, and still urge, urged, urged. We wish all our members a Bright New Year.

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January, 1949

THE LISTENING POST

WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

At the executive meeting on Monday, December 6, we were very pleased to have our vice president (Mrs. Craydon, of Waroona) with us.

HOSPITAL VISITING

Royal Perth Hospital

Visitors reported that 178 visits had been paid to patients during the previous three weeks, cigarettes, cakes, and sweets being taken to each patient. Mr. Close, from Royal, and another volunteer, has been transferred to Lawrence Millen; Messrs. Sassoon and Newham to Heathcote; and Mr. Goldman to Sunset, and we wish them all the best in their new hospitals.

Hollywood

Hollywood patients are still visited weekly as per auxiliary roster. Country patients at Hollywood are visited by Mrs. Randall each week. Those at present being visited are those whose names have been sent in by the executive, or by the sub-branch or auxiliary. Visits to these patients are especially welcomed, as some are a considerable distance from home and therefore often lack visitors.

Claremont Mental Hospital

A visit to this hospital was made on Sunday, November 28, by Messadames McKipny, Burgess, Lyon, Sherlock and Miss Hamersley. Gifts of books, sweets, etc., were given to the patients, the greatest pleasure to these unfortunate ex-servicemen, as they have a hard time trying to get work. We wish them all the best.

Official Visits

November 17—The State President, with Mrs. Henderson, visited the Royal Perth Hospital and Wellington Hospital, during the week and visited Mrs. Randall each week. These two hospitals are well looked after, and the matrons are doing a splendid job. Misses Gray, of Western Suburbs, and Mrs. Gray, of Brunswick Junction, both of these ladies are old and esteemed members of their respective auxiliaries.

SOUTH PERTH

Our monthly meeting on November 12 was well attended, although it was a very busy time for many of the members. Our President, Mrs. Bence, has been busy with the committee during the past month, and we wish her well. Our President, Mrs. Gray, of Brunswick Junction, did a splendid job during the past month, and we wish her well.

SHACKLETON-EWOLYN

At the December meeting, owing to sickness and the fact that it was a busy time of the year, the attendance was small; nevertheless, the meeting was a very interesting one. The President, Mrs. Henderson, who was recently appointed to the auxiliary for the local的精神ual hospital, was a success, and the meeting was well attended. The President, Mrs. Henderson, was appointed to the auxiliary for the local的精神ual hospital, was a success, and the meeting was well attended. The President, Mrs. Henderson, was appointed to the auxiliary for the local精神文明 hospital, was a success, and the meeting was well attended.

SWAN VIEW-GREENMOUNT

Mrs. Hames, our president, welcomed Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Trus on October 31 when they came with the Diggers from Fremantle to attend the Garden Festival at the E mbassy. There was a very large gathering and the function was a success. Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Oggill were present, and a good trade was done on the stalls, the proceeds of which were for children's Christmas gifts.

P.I.S.W.

The Christmas meeting was held at Anzac House, Mrs. H. Dean, M.B.E., presiding over a special meeting. Our guest speakers were Mrs. J. G. Dampier (president of the Country Women's Association) and Matron Walsh of the King Edward Maternity Hospital. Miss Ada Colaitis was the pianist, and the ladies were joined at the end of the meeting by Mr. W. J. Hunt (President of the R.S.L.) and a few members of the executive.

PERSONALITIES

Hospital Patients

With regret at this meeting we heard of a number of members in hospital, Mrs. Jack Williams, of Kalgoorlie, Mount Helena Hospital; Mrs. Furus, President Claremont auxiliary, in Licknaw Hospital.

Miss Joyce, President Forrest auxiliary, in the John of God Hospital, Belmont; Mrs. Eileen Williams, of Subiaco auxiliary, in the Mount Hospital.

We sincerely wish all these patients a very speedy return to health.

MARRIAGE

Our very best wishes for their future happiness go to Mrs. Bence, formerly Mrs. Craydon, President, and Mr. Bence, formerly Mr. Gray, of Brunswick Junction. Both of these ladies are old and esteemed members of their respective auxiliaries.

The Listening Post
arrangement with the Coal Board under this Act whereby they will receive £1 a week extra when disabled at the highest degree.

It seems strange that the airman who crashes and loses both legs gets £1 a week less pension than a miner suffering the same injury in the pit.

Don’t misunderstand. Nothing is grudged the miner. But more is asked for the fighting man.

Any problem is best examined without emotion, though it may be emotion that prompts the examination. The reader may say: Well, can we afford it? Or he may object: The partially disabled, the one-legged and the one-armed man can still earn a living.

I agree, for much has been done to help them to equip themselves to that end. But are we not forgetting something?

Someone once said that in life the little things are the big things: the big things the little things.

Here is a suggestion to the reader: If a man, try tomorrow to dress without using your right arm and proceed from shaving on throughout one whole day without the use of that limb. You will then have borne for 24 hours the burden borne for life by the disabled.

If you are a woman, do likewise, from your uprising to the last task of the busy day. And you will know how it goes with your disabled sisters of the Services.

The Campaign Goes On

Ah, that is an appeal to sentiment, the reader may think. Perhaps it is.

Then consider these same cases from another angle. In every home, however small, there is a constant call for the individual who can do the small job, the handyman, the make-do-and-mend woman: ‘Little jobs such as fitting a fuse, repairing a lock, putting a new washer on a tap.’

All the jobs such folk do for themselves have to be done and paid for by those lacking limbs lost in war.

Today there is a nation-wide movement to get the fixed pensions of these men and women raised in keeping with the increases in the general wage level and in the cost of living.

Behind this drive are a million and a half ex-service men of the British Legion, the Royal Air Force Association, and St. Dunstan’s.

Now we shall all plug away together until we get something done.

And the first part of the job is to make the facts as widely known as possible, from Land’s End to John o’Grotts.

*As given in a leading English weekly journal.

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ARTILLERY COMRADES—Sergeants’ Mess, Swan Barracks, Francis Street, Perth; President: C. D. C. Fawett, 112 St. Georges Terrace, Subiaco; Joint Secretaries: W. A. H. Williams and W. G. Swan, 74 Hay Street, Subiaco.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meetings as notified; President: J. B. Roberts, Parliament House, Perth; Secretary: W. H. P. H. Trend, 33 Fairway, Nedlands.

EX-MACHINE GUNNERS’ ASSOCIATION—Carrington’s, 32 King Street, Perth; Friday before Anzac Day and 2nd Friday in October; President: L. J. Parks, Govt. Tourist Bureau, Perth; Secretary: J. N. S. Scott, 22 Victoria Park.

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN’S ASSOCIATION (W.A. Branch)—2nd Floor, Wellington Building, 158 William Street, Perth; 1st Monday in month; President: C. H. Hatcher, 9 Prince’s Arcade, Nedlands; Secretary: J. T. Plumb, 457 William Street, Perth.

MEDICAL ARMY UNITS ASSOCIATION—Room 53, 5th Floor, Gledden Building, Perth; 1st Monday in month; President: C. H. Hatcher, 9 Prince’s Arcade, Nedlands; Secretary: W. H. Rigg, 259 Elizabeth Street, Perth.

PARTIALLY BLIND SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (W.A. Branch)—Room 53, 5th Floor, Gledden Building, Perth; 1st Monday in month; President: C. H. Hatcher, 9 Prince’s Arcade, Nedlands; Secretary: A. H. Wright, 7 Burle Street, Mt. Hawthorn.

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION—Monah Club, cn. Hay and King Streets; 3rd Monday in each month, at 2 p.m.; President: W. W. H. Claxton, 127 Labouchere Road, Como; Secretary: J. Mckenzie, 51 Handy Street, Nedlands.

R.A.E. ASSOCIATION (W.A. Division)—U.S.L. Rooms, Swan Barracks, Francis Street; every 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m.; President: W. T. Bannan, 32 Woodside Street, Mt. Lawley; Secretary: A. H. Wright, 74 Burle Street, Mt. Hawthorn.

THE IMPERIAL EX-SERVICE ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—McManus Hall, Pier Street; President: L. J. Parks, Govt. Tourist Bureau, Perth; Secretary: W. A. H. Williams, 74 Hay Street, Subiaco.

THE IMPERIAL PLAYED AreAS ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; President: W. A. H. Williams, 74 Hay Street, Subiaco; Secretary: G. J. Guider, 538 Hay Street, Perth.

THE IMPERIAL PLAYED AREAS ASSOCIATION—Carrington’s, 32 King Street, Perth; every 3rd Tuesday in each month at 8 p.m.; President: W. T. Bannan, 32 Woodside Street, Mt. Lawley; Secretary: A. H. Wright, 7 Burle Street, Mt. Hawthorn.

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