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CONGRESS HAS DECIDED

Once again a State Congress has been held. Once again decisions have been made by representatives of sub-branches in all parts of the State. Once again, no doubt, the decisions made will be discussed, over and over again, in many sub-branches.

But it must be stressed that the decisions of Congress were the result of much deliberation. Many speakers were forceful—all were given a good hearing—and motions of particular importance were thrashed out at length.

Mr. W. J. Hunt, M.B.E., was re-elected President for a further term, and Vice-Presidents T. Sten and O. E. Davies were also re-elected. There were no changes in the Trustees.

Two new members were elected to the State Executive—Miss Mary Meares, M.B.E., President of the Ex-Servicewomen's sub-branch, and Mr. B. Keeley, of Mt. Hawthorn and Kensington sub-branches.

This year saw heavy voting in favour of keeping the observance of Anzac Day exactly as it has been in the past. An outstanding speaker on this topic was Mr. F. Chaney, of the State Executive.

Another matter which came in for much discussion was that of eligibility for membership of the League. Here again Congress decided that no change be made.

Next year, it was decided, Congress will be held during the third week of July, and relative Branch rules will be amended as necessary.

Congress decided to ask the Government to declare the dissemination of disloyal Communist teachings illegal and subject to strict penalties; to urge the re-introduction of compulsory service training; and to support a vigorous migration policy.

Further details of many motions will be found on our centre-page spread, but sub-branch members who wish to have full and detailed reports of the activities of Congress are advised to contact their delegates, who have session-by-session minutes prepared by the Anzac House staff.
"The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things:
Of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—Of cabbages—and kings"

A Russian woman who visited England recently as "fraternal" delegate to a conference has been giving Izvestia readers a picture of England as seen through Soviet spectacles.

Among other things that seem rather surprising, she quotes "one British woman" who "declared bitterly: 'There is only one freedom in our country—freedom to die of want.'"

Well, here's another quote for Izvestia, showing how poverty-stricken the English are as compared with Russia. It is from a speech by Sir Frank Newsum, of the Home Office, to the Chief Constables' Association: "In Britain we have an average of one policeman to 617 persons. The equivalent figure in Russia has been reliably estimated at one to 25."

Opera.—A performance of Bizet's Carmen, with all the singers, including the chorus, on skates, was given at a New York ice rink in 1947.

In Belgium, a coal miner named Celestin Jadot recently had his pension cut because he hadn't worked his scheduled time within that country. It seems that a shaft in which he had laboured for ten years had extended across the border into France, and governmental red tape took care of the rest.

When you are criticised unduly for what you have done, remember the old and true saying that "no dog may have his day, but some cur must need yelp at his heels." Bear in mind, too, that some men fail from knowing too little, but more fail from knowing too much, and still more from knowing it all.

Few of us have an ear like Sir Arthur Sullivan who, it is said, once searched, with a friend, for a house which he had visited only once before. They found the street, but had no idea of the number. "Never mind," said Sir Arthur, "I'll find it." He walked up to each door in turn and gave its boot-scraper a gentle kick. "Here we are," he said at length. "Listen—E flat."

The lightest wood in the world is believed to be tano. It is found in Siam and the Malayan Peninsula. This is the favourite wood of the English for making sun helmets.

HOW SLEEP THE BRAVE

How sleep the brave, who sink to rest,
By all their country's wishes blest!
When Spring, with dewy fingers cold,
Returns to deck their hallow'd mould;
She then shall dress a sweter sod
Than Fancy's feet have ever trod,
By fairy hands their knell is rung,
By forms unseen their dirge is sung;
There Honour comes, a pilgrim grey,
To bless the turf that wraps their clay,
And freedom shall a while repair,
To dwell a weeping hermit there.

—William Collins.

The heaviest wood in the world, so far as known, is black ironwood. This wood has a specific gravity as high as 1.42 and is native to the West Indies and Florida keys.

The ship hit a rock, and three men—a Fascist, a Communist and a Sydney trade unionist—found themselves struggling in the water. The Fascist lifted up his arm in the Fascist salute, and immediately went under. The Communist couldn't keep his mouth closed, so he also drowned. But the Sydney trade unionist was of stouter stuff. He kept manfully swimming, and was steadily reaching the shore. Alas, just as the ship sank under the waves its siren sounded—and he knocked off and drowned, too.

Some of the old-time drinks sound mighty interesting. For instance, there is lamb's wool, a rich, silky, warming drink that was popular in Shakespeare's day. It consists of a quart of warmed ale, to which is added pulped roasted apples, sugar, grated nutmeg and ginger.

Then there is mulled ale. It is made from a quart of ale boiled in a stewpan with a tablespoonful of sugar, a pinch of cloves, a pinch of grated nutmeg, and a large pinch of ground ginger. Add a glass of rum. The result is a cheerful, convivial brew.

And then wassail—made by stirring half a pound of sugar into a pint of warm beer. Added are pinches of nutmeg and ginger, four glasses of sherry, and then five more pints of beer. The mixture is well stirred, warmed for three-quarters of an hour, and served hot, with slices of lemon and thin toast floating on top.

The old superstition against placing a hat on a bed came from the Chinese who believed that invisible devils from the hair clung to the hat, and that whoever slept in the bed the hat touched would have bad luck.

According to the London Licensing World, frozen beer will be available in the near future. Apparently, customers will be able to ask for a pint block of their favourite brew, take it home without risk, heat it and enjoy a drink in comfort. Possibly they will be able to store it and invite their friends to "a chunk" of beer.

The world's biggest and most elaborate gambling casino, now being built at Las Vegas, Nevada, will include a six-room nursery, staffed by registered nurses. The casino's owner said that mothers would be able to gamble in comfort, knowing their children were well cared for.
This is Official

Items of Interest from the State Executive

A meeting of the State Executive was held on August 24, highlights being:

Land

This report, presented by Mr. Davies, dealt with representations made to the Minister for Agriculture requesting the Minister to stay his hand concerning the lifting of controls on tractors in the 20-35 h.p. class. [The Minister replied that he was in agreement with the wishes of the League, and that it was his intention to refer the same to Cabinet for consideration.] The committee recommended that the chairman (Mr. Davies) be the Branch representative to the Commonwealth Land Conference in Melbourne on September 14. It was stated that the committee was still pursuing investigations concerning inadequate supplies of fencing material for ex-servicemen. A report on the visit of departmental officials associated with S.W.L.S.S. (Anzac House, August 12) was tabled. [Copies are to be forwarded to sub-branches.]

Re-establishment

The report presented by Mr. Stanbury stated that the matter of trainees in the fibrous plaster trade had received consideration by Mr. Leslie, the ex-servicemen's representative on the Regional Reconstruction Training Commission, and he advised that there were indications that additional classes for trainees will be commenced in the not-so-distant future. [It must be appreciated that the fibrous plaster trade is not recognised as an apprenticeship trade.] In regard to boot trade employee trainees, it was reported that the Employers' Federation states: "Generally, the employers consider that the training scheme has been a success. If the trainee does his job satisfactorily he need have no fear of having his place, in the industry usurped."

North-West

Dr. Cook submitted this report, which stated that the question of the attitude which the League should adopt if a suggestion was made that the Kimberleys be handed over to the Commonwealth Government if the State Government did nothing towards development within the next two years is shortly to be considered. It was pointed out that it is not so much the function of the League to implement plans for the North-West, but merely to build up, through propaganda, a strong favourable public opinion towards those isolated parts of the State in the North with a view to ultimately inducing the Government to take steps to put the country to better use.

Housing

This report, submitted by Mr. Davies, showed that the committee reiterated its previous recommendation that controls be lifted on the building of homes outside a radius of 40 miles from Perth. The committee supported the State Government's action in introducing legislation to re-enact the War Service Moratorium Legislation and criticised the Legislative Council for amending the Bill to the detriment of ex-servicemen.

Immigration

Mr. Lonnie submitted this report, which showed that approval had been given from Canberra for the League's nominee (Mr. Lonnie) to proceed to London in regard to the sponsorship of immigrants. The League was grateful to the Minister for Immigration for his co-operation with the migration scheme sponsored by the League.

Other reports included: Repatriation (Mr. Stahl), Anzac House and Anzac Club (Mr. Ferguson), Membership (Mr. Chaney), Listening Post (Mr. Leslie), Anti-Communist Month (Mr. Hunt), Broadcasting (Mr. Lonnie), State War Memorial (Mr. Hunt) and R.S.L. Hostel (Mr. Watt).

A further meeting was held on September 7, highlights being:

Re-establishment

This report, presented by Mr. Stanbury, stated that the committee had given a good deal of consideration to the matter of eligibility for re-establishment benefits, and recommended the following motion for submission to State Congress: "This congress is of the opinion that, with regard to members of the Forces who enlisted on or before June 30, 1947, and who have continued to serve in the Regular Army Special Reserve and like units in the R.A.N. and R.A.A.F., eligibility to apply for re-establishment benefits should be extended to those who are discharged on or before October 31, 1951."

Housing

Mr. Davies presented this report, which dealt with a number of important matters. It was asked that favourable consideration be given by the Commonwealth Director of War Service Homes to reducing the standard of houses to be erected in the country to below that which is at present set for erection within the city areas and, if possible, to keep the cost of erection below £1,000. It was also hoped that, where the State Housing Commission failed to erect the quota of houses allocated to them, favourable consideration might be given to the question of permitting their erection by other business interests. With reference to the Moratorium Regulations now before both Houses, the Housing Committee still adheres to the League policy that alternative accommodation should be found before ex-servicemen are evicted from dwelling houses. [If such action is to be taken to dispossess, the Housing Committee will make representations on behalf of such ex-servicemen.]

Anti-Communism

A report on the Anti-Communism Month meeting held on Sunday, September 4, was given by the State Secretary (Mr. Chappell). This stated that the numbers marching were between 400 and 500, while the total attendance at the Capitol Theatre was approximately 1,200. Thirty-two organisations pledged their support to the movement.

Faversham House

Mr. Sten presented this report, which showed that the following donations had come to hand: Wubin sub-

(Continued on page 18)
From the Editor's Note Book

Now, on page 28 of the issue of October, 1948, I published, in heavy type, some notes which I thought would be of assistance to sub-branch secretaries and publicity officers. But it seems that I shall have to repeat myself.

Material for publication must reach me by the 20th of the month preceding publication. In other words, material reaching me after the 20th of October cannot go into the November issue. It must wait over until the following month. Why? You do ask questions, don't you. Before this journal can be published there is a lot of work to be done. All material sent in has to be read, and in many cases sub-edited. Every man to his trade (I'd be a failure as a farmer), but if I published some material exactly as I received it—well, I hate to think what readers would say. Then a dummy copy of the journal has to be prepared, and into this the copy must be fitted (to give someone the opportunity to write a blistering letter, "Why didn't that so-and-so item I sent you get printed this month?") for do what I can I cannot get a quart into a pint pot. Then the copy goes to the printer. The linotype man sets it up, and rough proofs are pulled, read and corrected by the printing staff. Then proofs of this corrected matter come to me, and I spend about four hours re-reading everything over again. Then the finally corrected proofs go back to the printer, and I take a half-day off to paste-up another dummy copy. Then the compositor makes up the pages, page proofs are pulled, and I read these over once again (isn't it interesting?). That is why, my friends, you find few errors in these columns (please don't ring me up when you find the next one). Then, and only then, the journal goes to press.

But now it has to be printed and folded, trimmed and stapled, wrapped and addressed and posted. So I must set the date for copy at the 20th of the preceding month. For printers work a five-day week and we have to allow for Saturdays and Sundays sometimes coming around the 15th of the month, the day we set for publication.

Having explained all that, I wonder if I shall continue to receive such letters as: "Cannot understand why our notes were missed out of the last issue." Sub-branch notes are not missed out. They are printed in the very next issue possible after receipt.

But I would also like to add that sub-branch publicity officers and secretaries can help me considerably if they will bear in mind that sub-branch notes should not exceed 200 words in length; that all names of persons and places should be written in capital letters; and that typed or pen-written copy is the only kind which can be accepted (neither the Editor nor the printers are going to ruin their eyesight by attempting to read light pencil script).

Continued on page 23
WHAT MAKES THEM COMMIS?

COMMUNISM so inflames the emotions of those who fall under its spell that their entire mode of thinking is changed. Australians who accept communism are no exception, even though they live in a country of great material well-being and a very high degree of individual freedom.

Those who join the communist movement become intolerant zealots. Idealists discard their idealism, their devotion to humanity for the rituals of communist bigotry. Honest workmen become knaves. Men, on party orders, abandon their families to live with communist amazons. Patriots are turned into spies and traitors. In a short time they are transformed into political tricksters and hardened conspirators, devoid of all moral restraint.

Once initiated, they agree that it is necessary for the communist party to employ chicanery, intrigue and deceit; to use force and violence and commit crimes, even murder, to gain their objectives.

Individuals who join the communist party are required to give their allegiance to the Soviet Union as the fatherland of the workers all over the world. They pledge themselves to give the whole of their lives in working for the overthrow of the Democratic Government and the triumph of Soviet power.

What induces individuals, formerly loyal to Australia, to join a movement that is irreligious, criminal, and based on treason?

Most people who join the communist movement do so out of idealistic reasons. They represent all classes of the population. They are workers, intellectuals, professionals, teachers, ministers, business men, students—young and old people who resent poverty and are consumed with a passion to improve the lot of mankind. They constitute the most zealous and blind fanatical followers of communism and supporters of the Soviet Union. To them communism is a universal religion and the communist party holy.

Paradoxical as it seems, when idealists are transformed into cynical, power-hungry, realistic communists, not bothered by scruples or conscience, the hold of communism on them, as a goal to be obtained through force and maintained by despotism and terror, is strengthened, not weakened. Seasoned communists are much more dangerous, for in the place of the honesty of purpose and the soul of idealism that was their ruling passion at the start, now reigns a calculated determination to conquer and rule, cost much more. Communists are impressed with the fact that they belong to an organisation that is connected with a powerful government, the Soviet Union. Party members look upon themselves as recognised members of the ruling class of that government. The attraction of Soviet power in the communist movement is tremendous. It acts like a powerful magnet, drawing the members of the party into the Soviet orbit and giving them a feeling of strength and self-reliance that goes with belonging to the ruling class of a mighty government.

Once little people, nobodies, are given such a sense of superiority, they become obsessed with a power mania and a leadership psychosis. This power mania and leadership phychosis is exploited by the party to turn the little people into bold leaders, but puppets nonetheless, who yield to every order and direction from the party leaders on top.

The depression of 1929 opened up new fields for the communist party. They conducted a very effective propaganda campaign contrasting unemployment in the democracies with full employment in the Soviet Union, where the government had embarked on a grandiose Five-Year Plan for the building up of socialist economy. At this time the party gathered in communists by the thousands. For the first time middle-class elements, hard hit by the depression, came into the party.

Out of these elements came the artists of the poison pen and the polluters of our cultural life.

From Canada's experience with Soviet spies we have learned how such scientific people were engaged in getting top Canadian security information for the Soviet government. The communists in the United States did identically the same thing. It is well known that much of the knowledge which the Soviet government obtained of the atomic secrets came from this source.—Back.

* It's hard to figure out the crackpots and sharpies who make up the commo conspiracy. But this gives you an idea...
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Any ex-serviceman, ex-servicewoman or dependant con-
cerned is entitled to place his problem before the
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A PIECE OF STRING

By GUY de MAUPASSANT

Along all the roads around Goderville, the peasants and their wives were coming toward the town, for it was market day.

In the public square the horns of the cattle, the tall, long-napped hats of the rich peasants, and the head-dresses of the peasant women rose above the surface of the crowd.

And the clamorous voices made a continuous din, above which sometimes rose a burst of laughter from the robust lungs of some countryman, or the bellowing of a cow.

Maitre Hauchecorne, of Breauté, was on his way to the public square, when he perceived upon the ground a little piece of string. Thrifty, like a true Norman, he thought that everything useful ought to be picked up, and he bent painfully, for he suffered from rheumatism.

He began to roll the bit of cord carefully, when he noticed Maitre Malandain, the harness maker, standing at his door looking at him. They had had some trouble once over a halter, and, both being good hatters, there was bad blood between them.

Maitre Hauchecorne was seized with a sort of shame to be seen thus by his enemy, picking a bit of string out of the dirt. He concealed his find quickly under his blouse, then in his trousers pocket; then he pretended to be still looking on the ground for something, and he went toward the market, his head forward, bent double by his rheumatic pains.

He was soon lost in the noisy and slowly moving crowd, busy with inextricable bargains. Peasants looked over the cows, went away, and came back, perplexed, always in fear of being cheated, not daring to decide, watching the seller's eye, ever trying to find the man's trick and the animal's defect.

The women, having placed their great baskets at their feet, had taken out the poultry, which now lay upon the ground tied together by the feet, with terrified eyes and scarlet combs.

They heard offers, held to their prices with impassive face, or perhaps, suddenly deciding on some proposed reduction, shouted to the customer who was slowly going away: "All right, Maitre Anthime, you can have it for that."

Then little by little the square cleared, and, the Angelus tolling noon, those who lived too far away repaired to the village taverns.

At Jourdain's, the large dining-room was crowded with people, the big courtyard full of vehicles of all kinds, yellow with dirt, mended and patched, raising their shafts to the sky like two arms, or perhaps with their noses in the ground and their backs in the air.

Close up to the diners, the immense fireplace, filled with bright flames, cast a lively heat on the backs of nearest patrons. Three spits were turning, loaded with chickens, pigeons and legs of mutton; and an appetizing odour of roast beef and gravy dripping over the nicely browned skin rose from the hearth, increased the jovialness and made everybody's mouth water. All the aristocracy of the plow ate at Maitre Jourdains.

The dishes were passed and emptied, as were the jugs of yellow cider. Everyone talked of his affairs, his purchases and sales.

Suddenly the rattle of a drum sounded in the yard. Everybody except a few indifferent ones, ran to the door or the windows, their mouths still full and napkins in their hands.

After the town crier had finished his drum call, he read out in a jerky voice:

"It is hereby made known that there was lost this morning, on the road to Beuzeville, between nine and ten o'clock, a black leather pocketbook containing five hundred francs and some business papers. The finder is requested to return same with all haste to the mayor's office or to Maitre Houlbriq, of Manneville. A reward of twenty francs will be paid."

Then the man went away. Once more, at a distance, was heard the dull beating of the drum and the voice, growing fainter.

Then they all began to talk of the event, discussing what chances Maitre Houlbriq had of finding his pocketbook. They were finishing their coffee when the chief of gendarmes appeared at the door, and inquired:

"Is Maitre Hauchecorne, of Breauté, here?"

Maitre Hauchecorne, seated at the other end of the table, replied: "Here I am."

And the officer said: "Maitre Hauchecorne, will you have the goodness to accompany me to the mayor's office? The mayor would like to speak to you."

The peasant, surprised and disturbed, swallowed his tiny glass of brandy in one gulp, rose, and, even more bent than in the morning, for the first steps after each rest were particularly difficult, set out, repeating: "Here I am; here I am."

Seated in an easy chair, the mayor awaited him. He was also the notary of the place, a stout, serious man, given to pompous phrases.

"Maitre Hauchecorne," said he, "you were seen this morning to pick up, on the road to Beuzeville, the pocketbook lost by Maitre Houlbriq, of Manneville."

The countryman, astounded, looked at the mayor, already terrified by this suspicion resting on him, without knowing why.

"Me? Me? Me pick up the pocket-book?"

"Yes, you."

"Word of honour, I know nothing about it."

"But you were seen."

"I was seen—me? Who says he saw me?"

"Monsieur Malandain, the harness maker."

Then the old man recalled the morning's incident, understood, and reddening with anger, cried out: "Ah, he saw me, that scoundrel; he saw me pick up this string, here—look, Mr. Mayor—" and rummaging in his pocket, he drew out the piece of string.

But the mayor, incredulous, shook his head.

"You will not make me believe, Maitre Hauchecorne, that Monsieur Malandain, who is a man of standing
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LIVE FOR TODAY
A Way of Life
By E. B. Rice

"What each day needs, that shall thou ask.
Each day will set its proper task."

These words may be made one of the most helpful of all the maxims concerning human life and activity, yet there are very few persons who will try to live up to this rule of life. What needless misery could be spared many of us, if we would follow the injunction. "Let each day set its proper task."

Many persons agonise over what may be, much more than any circumstances in their lives would justify their doing. Their fears for the future are usually out of all proportion to any known basis for such fears.

Marcus Aurelius tried to show the futility of turning backward and re-living the past, as well as the folly of trying to peer into the future and anticipate what is to be. He said, "Do not disturb thyself by trying to view thy life as a whole, for neither the past nor the future claims thee, but only the present." It might be well for all of us if we took a little time to check up our mental habits and face the fact squarely as to how much time we are spending "re-living and talking about the past, and anticipating the future."

There is very good reason for not living too much in the past, even if all our memories are happy ones; and for not fixing our attention too much on the future, even though our expectations of the future are bright and joyous. The reason is psychological. It lessens our power for dealing with the present. The more time we spend in thinking about the past and talking about the past, the less time we have to use for the tasks of the present. And what is true of time is also true of energy, since mind, in the last analysis, is energy, and useless mental activity burns up energy that might be better used by devoting it to the work at hand.

The same thing may be said about constantly dwelling on plans for the future. We lessen our power for concentrated effort when we dream too much about our plans for the future or entertain fears for what the future may bring.

Some have argued that we should not plan the future at all, but take life as it comes. The teaching of the greatest minds on this subject seems clear. It is that we should devote the major portion of our attention to the task at hand, realising that our life plan or pattern will unfold itself and bring each forward step in logical sequence when we are giving our best efforts to living in the present.

Many persons know what it is to be so haunted by the past that they feel like crying out as one writer did, "Oh, God! Could I close my mind and clasp it with a clasp."

Shut off the past! So easy to say, so hard to do. The truth is, the past haunts us like a shadow. To disre-gard it is not easy, but by diligent effort we can come to some degree, at least, of "letting the dead past bury its dead." No thinking person will say this is easy, but surely most of us can learn to so master our mental machinery that the past will not absorb us to the extent of marring the present. The petty annoyances, the real or fancied hurts, the trivial mistakes, the disappointments, the sorrows and the joys of the past, we can learn to put out of mind so we can turn our full attention to the life of today.

A certain famous man who accomplished a good deal in his rather short life was asked for the secret of his accomplishments. He answered that it was due to his habit of living his life in "daylight compartments." A way of life that he had carefully cultivated through the years, and into which he was led by his contact in early manhood with the sentence by Carlyle that says, "Our main business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand."

All who are familiar with ocean-going vessels know that they are constructed with water-tight compartments. A signal may be sounded, and instantly all over the ship the water-tight compartments will be closed. This is said to be one of the chief factors in ocean travel, as this kind of construction saves the ship if rammed below the water-line. Should the water-tight compartments fail to work, fail to close at a given signal, then the ship is doomed.

We are all bound on a longer voyage than that of any ocean liner, and we can make our voyage safer and much more successful if we train ourselves to live in "day-light compartments." If we can learn to control the machinery of our minds so that we will be able to touch a mental button that will automatically shut off the past, the dead yesterdays, then touch another button that will draw the curtain over the tomorrows, we will be safe—safe for the work of today.

I am not saying that we should try to blot out our memories of the past, nor am I saying that we should have no plans for the future. The way of life I am talking about is one that does not let either the past or the future claim us too much. It is a way of life that enables us to make a success of today and by living each day right the future takes care of itself.

Poets as well as philosophers have tried to give us this idea of living one day at a time:

"With every rising of the sun
Think of your life as just begun.
The past has cancelled and buried deep
All yesterdays. There let them sleep.
Concern yourself with but Today,
Grasp it and teach it to obey.
Your will and plan. Since Time began
Today has been the friend of man."

In this period of unusual stress and strain, hurry and tension, there is a great need for the cultivation of a way of life that gives us more poise and more power for accomplishment.

The failure to cultivate the power of peaceful concentration is the greatest single cause of mental breakdown.

Continued on page 23
THE NEW ARMY

The Australian Regular Army, recognising the additional need for scientific, technical, trade and specialist qualifications amongst its members, is offering increased educational opportunities for both its officers and other ranks. In pursuance of this policy, selected members will undertake courses at universities, technical colleges and similar educational establishments throughout Australia.

These courses will be undertaken at public expense and will be limited to subjects which are primarily of value to the Army and which are appropriate to the probable future employment of the student in the Army. Although not limited to any particular subjects, the main, the courses available will cover degree or diploma courses in engineering, accountancy and public administration, science, architecture, commerce and arts and courses in industrial management, electronics, physics, catering, electrical trades, meat inspection, draughtmanship and foreign languages.

Members engaged on full-time courses will not be required to perform any military duties, except during their vacation periods, when they will follow some form of employment in furtherance of the objects of their course.

Those members engaged in part-time courses, which usually will be done at evening classes or by correspondence, will perform all normal military duties.

Certain of the courses will be authorised only after a bond has been entered into by the student, who will undertake to serve in the Army for a specified period after the completion of his course. The conditions of the bond vary according to the particular course to be studied. Whilst the period of service and the penalty for its breach is only six months' subsequent service, and £26 penalty in the case of certain correspondence courses, an officer who undertakes a university course at public expense has to guarantee to serve five years in the Army in default of which he must meet a penalty of £500.

The Regular Army educational opportunities are not restricted to courses at schools and universities, as members may be attached to leading industrial organisations and to government departments, where they will further their knowledge of subjects which are peculiar to those institutions and to the Army. Already, approval has been given for the attachment of 70 officers and other ranks, who will gather knowledge which will be of considerable value to the Army and to themselves from organisations in widely separated spheres as oil companies and retail emporiums. During the term of attachment, which will vary from three days' to one year's duration, the member will continue to draw his Army pay and allowance.

Applications for War Medals should be made to either the Navy, Army or Air Medal Section, as the case may be, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, S.C.1. Medals, for civil aviation personnel are obtainable from the Director-General, Dept. of Civil Aviation, 522 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, C.1.

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LIVED TO BE 152

By William Beecham

NOT long ago it was reported from Cairo that one Sheik Rafai Rabai had celebrated his 154th birthday, and was entitled to enjoy the claim of being the oldest man in the world. According to reports, the sheik, who saw Napoleon Bonaparte in Egypt, enjoyed perfect health and still retained all of his teeth.

But whether or not there was any proof of the Sheik’s age is a matter of doubt, and scientists have recently been debunking many of the claims of extreme old age.

However, no one has attempted to doubt the authenticity of Britain’s longest-lived identity, Thomas Parr, known to posterity as Old Parr, who was born in 1483 and died in 1635, having reached the remarkable age of 152.

Old Parr thus lived in three centuries, and saw ten different sovereigns upon the throne of England.

He was born in Winnington, Shropshire; remained a bachelor until he was 80; then changed his mind and married Jane Taylor, who presented him with a son and daughter. She died after 32 years of wedded bliss, and eight years later, at the age of 120, he again ventured into matrimony, this time with one Katherine Milton, whom, it is said, “he got with child,” and for which, as they were unwedded at the time, he paid penance by standing in a sheet before the congregation at the parish church.

In his 152nd year he was taken to London by Thomas, Earl of Arundel, and Charles I, to whom he was presented, said: “You have lived longer than any other men, but what have you done more than any other men?” To which Old Parr replied, “I did penance when I was 120 years old.”

When he arrived in London, Old Parr’s faculties were fairly good, for although a current rhyme said of him:

His teeth all gone (but one), his sight bereft,
His sinews shrunk, his blood most chill and cold...

it went on—

But that his hearing’s quick, his stomach good,
He’ll feed well, sleep well, well digest his food.
He will speak heartily, laugh and be merry;
Drinke ale, and now and then a cup of cherry.

What more could one ask—at 152?

But the London air apparently dis-

agreed with the young fellow from Winnington, and on November 15, 1635, he died. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Zago Agha, the Turk who travelled with Bertram Mills’ Circus in England in the late 1920’s, claimed to be 156, but of that there is considerable doubt. It appears that he obtained a passport from gullible Turkish Government officials, and as this stated his birth date as 1774, he was able to claim that it was correct, a matter which was quite to the liking of astute showmen. He was a talkative old man, but before long the public of both England and America agreed with the young fellow from Winnington.

In Yugoslavia, a woman, named Stanijka Bakić, claims to be 155, but her age brings her little satisfaction. All her seven children are dead and she says she has but one wish—to die. Her opinion of modern women is poor. “When I was a girl I used to milk one hundred goats a day,” she says, “but now the modern girls can only milk about twenty.”

From Morocco comes the claim of Si Labib Ben Maati, who claims to be 146. A gluton for punishment, he is said to have been married fourteen times and to have fathered thirty-four children, twelve of whom are still living, the eldest being 90. For many years he was an evangelist, wandering from village to village preaching.

The British Empire has a citizen who claims to be 130. He lives in a village in Baroda State, India.

“ Aunt Lizzie” Devers, who had in her time nine husbands, died not long ago in Sapuld, Oklahoma, U.S.A., at the age of 115. She took a plane ride a few years before her death, and when interviewed said that she did not believe in divorce—she had outlived all her husbands.

A Zulu woman, Annie Tohabula, of Maritzburg, Natal, recently celebrated her 113th birthday, which is fairly good going. Her recipe for long life is “early rising, plenty of hard work, love and beer.”

A London newspaper recently carried an advertisement: “Man, aged 106, active and of youthful appearance, highly educated linguist, needs employment,” but whether this was a misprint, a hoax or a fake it is impossible to ascertain.

However, it has been proven, during an English enquiry, that many people do live for more than a century. Mrs. Ann Foorder, who died in 1917, was 110 years and 64 days old; Mrs. Margaret Neve, who died in 1903, was within 44 days of her 111th birthday; and the Hon. Katherine Plunkett died in 1932 only 38 days short of 112.

Continued on page 20
The officer was attending a parade of troops and, turning to his aide, barked out:

"Look here! What's the reason for parading these big men in front of the smaller ones?"

Aide: "Oh, that's the fault of the sergeant-major. He used to run a fruit shop."

If your wife is away on a vacation and you want her to come home in a hurry, just send her a copy of the local paper with one item clipped out!

She was a lone widow, and was spending her last days on earth. The mild young curate at her bedside remarked the end was very near.

"Yes," she remarked, "it is very comforting to think that I shall soon be folded in Belzebub's bosom."

"My good sister, your mean Abraham's bosom," said the minister.

"Ah, well," she said, "it doesn't matter. After 20 years of widowhood, I'm not particular as to what the gentleman's name may be."

The business man was interviewing an applicant for a job.

"How old are you?" he asked.

"Forty," was the reply.

"How long did you work at your last job?"

"Fifty years," said the applicant.

"Good heavens! How on earth could you work fifty years at a job if you're only forty now?"

"Overtime," explained the applicant, calmly.

Mabel Jullup was a lady with taste. She bought a lovely vase at an auction and put it on her table. It was Ming, but it made the time-payment furniture look very cheap. She was sad, so she sold the time-payment furniture and bought "period"; that made her whole house look cheap. So she sold the house and took an exclusive apartment in town. But the apartment was so exclusive it made Mr. Jullup look cheap. Naturally she got a divorce, and married a Mr. Preston Potter. But here she was stymied. Mr. Preston Potter made her look cheap.

Minister: "Really, you should wait more than four months after your husband's death before marrying again."

Widow: "Yes, but don't you forget he was paralysed for eight months."

A story circulating in Naval and shipping circles concerns a Malta incident in which the commander-in-chief is said to have missed his footing on the admiral's barge and fallen into Valetta Harbour.

From a neighbouring ship came the signal: "To C-in-C-in-C. . . ."

Sweet Young Thing: "Little boy, I need a dozen eggs from the store. Do you suppose you could go for me?"

Little Boy: "No, but I heard my pa say he could."

How many policemen's feet does it take to make a Scotland Yard?

Two privates had just enjoyed a large fruit cake from home, when one began to groan, doubling himself up and straightening out again. "What's the matter, Joe?" asked his cobber.

The sufferer groaned: "That cake I ate. I think Ma forgot to shell the nuts in it."

His cobber looked surprised. "Lordy," he said, "and can you crack 'em by just bending?"

A man seeking a birthday present for his wife entered a store. The assistant asked if he could be of any help. "Well," he said, "What can I get for my wife?"

"Well, sir, how much are you asking for her?"

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TERMS AND TRADE-INS
MR. E. ROBINSON is rightly proud of the fact that he was one of the foundation members of the Kojonup sub-branch, and vividly remembers the initial meeting on August 28, 1919. He recently extended birthday greetings to the sub-branch on its 30th birthday.

* Bill Wells, Editor of The Listening Post, and well known under the nom de plume of William Beecham as a writer of articles on Anglo-Australian trade relations for nearly 25 years, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London.

* Dick Collins, of the Press sub-branch, and well known as a valued contributor to these pages, recently suffered a nasty fall as a result of which he was on the inactive list for some days.

* Mr. T. Smart, of the Katanning sub-branch, recently became a proud papa. Congratulations are in order.

* Barney Keeley sends us a copy of his latest effort, The Kensington Kit-Bag, an eight-page little publication which is the official organ of his sub-branch. The magazine contains a variety of news, is particularly well printed and has secured, it would seem, an excellent backing in the form of local advertising.

* Mr. A. R. Field, secretary of the Glen Forrest-Darlington sub-branch, informs us that sub-branch meetings are now on the second Friday in each month.

* Mr. E. J. Costello, of the City of Perth sub-branch, who serves as Pen-
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MIGRATION SPONSORSHIP SCHEME. — The Federal Secretary recently forwarded a letter from Mr. A. G. Keys, one of the League migration representatives now in England, which says: “Our D.P. scheme must not only be maintained but, if possible, increased. We must take advantage of the better types of Europeans who want to migrate to Australia. One thing of which we are certain (after visiting Germany) is that any D.P. accepted at the Processing Centre for transit to Australia has to be A1 in every respect. Where any doubt exists, no person can possibly get past.”

TELEPHONE INSTALLATION. — At the August meeting of the Federal Executive a resolution (No. 102) was passed, “That this executive views with concern the acute shortage of telephonic equipment and lack of switchboard space for the installation of new telephones, especially to ex-service applicants who are rehabilitating themselves in civil life.” To this the Postmaster-General replies: “The department is faced with huge arrears of works... Every possible effort is being made to overcome these... and the sum of £42,000,000 has been allocated for implementing a comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation of the postal and telecommunication facilities throughout the Commonwealth. A record number of 65,417 subscribers’ lines was added to the telephone system during the 12 months to June 30, 1949, compared with 62,288 lines in the year preceding the outbreak of war... A system has been adopted under which priority is allotted to applications for telephone services according to the extent to which the facilities are required in the interests of the community generally, and applications from ex-service personnel for business purposes have been accorded a high priority.”

BENEFITS: INTERIM FORCES. — Resolution No. 94 at the August meeting of the Federal Executive was: “That Cabinet decision No. 1241, relating to benefits available to ex-members of the Interim Forces be rescinded and that the Re-establishment and Employment Act be amended to enable ex-servicemen to qualify for training benefits under the provisions of the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme, who, being eligible for training as a result of their first enlistment, are by reason of a second enlistment in the services ineligible for such training as a result of the first enlistment having not expired prior to the second enlistment.” This has brought from the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction the following reply: “The conditions governing eligibility to apply for training... were approved by Cabinet... A further period of service commenced after June 30, 1947, does not confer eligibility for training, but the serving member’s re-enlistment does, not render him ineligible for training under his previously acquired eligibility or diminish it in any way... Conditions of his further enlistment may prevent the devotion of the time necessary to avail himself of this benefit but his eligibility previously acquired to apply within the allotted time is not affected.”

MERGING OF BOOK AND EQUIPMENT ALLOWANCE. — Resolution No. 93 at the last meeting of the Federal Executive was: “That in connection with the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme this executive requests the Commonwealth Government to ensure that the book allowance of £10 and the equipment allowance of £20 should be merged into £30 for books and equipment.” The Minister for Post-War Reconstruction replies: “... The allowances are kept under constant review and... I am convinced that the existing provisions are adequate, and that they satisfactorily meet requirements in practically all cases for essential books and equipment.”

U.K. PENSION CLAIMS. — The British Minister of Pensions announces that applications for a review of cases by special review tribunals cannot be accepted after November 30. Special review procedure applies only to persons whose claims arose out of World War II and whose appeals were disallowed by pensions appeal tribunals before August 1, 1946. Applicants should write direct to the Ministry of Pensions, Norcross, Blackpool, Lancashire, England.

CONSTITUTION OVERHAUL. — The Federal Executive has decided to have the federal constitution of the League overhauled in the light of action desired in dealing with Communist members.
Congress this year was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor (Sir James Mitchell) at Anzac House on Tuesday, September 27. Some 250 delegates were present, and guests included the Minister for Mines (Mr. Hubert Parker), who represented the Premier, the Warden of the State War Memorial (Mr. A. H. Panton), the Treasurer of the State War Memorial Appeal (Mr. J. Watson) and the Service chiefs (Capt. Howden, R.A.N., Major-General Whitelaw and Wing-Commander Ford).

Prior to this, a Land Conference and a Mining Conference had been held, and details of these will be published later.

Readers will recognise that it is quite impossible to deal with any aspect of congress in anything like a complete manner. Here we attempt to give merely an over-all picture of congress, concentrating on the highlights.

In the absence of the State President (Mr. W. J. Hunt, M.B.E.), who was overseas, the Acting-President (Mr. T. Sten, M.A.) read a message from Mr. Hunt in which he said: "The League's objectives may be divided into two parts. These are matters of policy which concern the community as a whole, such as Immigration, Universal Military Training, our State War Memorial, our North-West policy, etc. Side by side... are questions as they concern our members more particularly, and I instance Repatriation, Rehabilitation, Faversham, the Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Fund, Amelioration and relief work generally, the housing of ex-service men, Membership, etc.

"I desire to record the appreciation of the League to the women's auxiliaries for their contribution to objectives of the League. We owe them a deep debt of gratitude for the efforts they have made towards the League's work.

"... I pay tribute to the work of the sub-branches and, particularly, the sub-branch officials... I must also record my deep appreciation of the work of members of the State Executive, whose duties are heavy and very exacting... To the State Secretary (Mr. John Chappell) and his staff we should express our gratitude for their part in the work of the League."

Mr. Sten, in his report, said: "In reviewing the work of the League over the past twelve months, I imagine that we might describe it as a year of hard going and consistent effort without any marked measure of spectacular results. The problems of Land Settlement, Housing, Trade Training and Preference remain major problems for the future; to the normally smooth working of Repatriation has been added the problem of inadequate Pensions... but on the positive side there is the note of success in migration.

"Acting Provisional Unpaid Lance-Corporal Hodgkins."

"On the all-important question of Housing, the matters of materials and labour remain as obstructive as ever. Slowness in Land Settlement appears to be still due to the dual factors of slowness of acquisition of blocks and the difficulties of dual control. In the case of Rehabilitation, Training and Preference difficulties seem to be innumerable as our views conflict with an exceedingly firm government policy and with powerful opposing vested interests. However, we must never say die, even if the rather miserable period granted for the operation of so-called preference is rapidly running out.

"We are still attempting to meet the greatly enhanced costs of running the League at pre-inflation rates of subscription. Sooner or later, I am afraid, members must face up to still another increase in the cost of membership.

"... It is interesting to note that, despite the efforts of a couple of years ago, congress still remains a large central body with an agenda as large as ever. I don't think we would have it otherwise. When congress ceases to bring to Anzac House our stalwarts from the goldfields and the country, congress will be very dull.

"Shall we attempt to sum up for the future?" "We must press forward for the strongest possible defence system for Australia.

"There must be ways and means of finding both farms and quicker administration for the settling of the 1,069 applicants for land under W.S.L.S.

"The greatest possible cooperation is needed with existing authorities and the greatest possible pressure should be exerted in the matter of housing.

"We must pursue further means of making men proud of our badge.

"Communism is a great problem, and public apathy must be fought.

"The matter of preference for ex-service men should never be given up.

"The League still has a great purpose."

His Excellency the Governor traced his early association with the League, dealt with today's necessity for everyone to work, and officially opened congress. He then presented trophies won by sub-branches for the best all-round League activities during the year.

The Newdegate Cup, for sub-branches in the metropolitan area, was won by South Perth. The Colonel Collett Cup, for country sub-branches only, was won by Bridgetown. The Mary Cornell Trophy (all sub-branches) was won by Gosnells.

Another presentation was that of the W.A. Debating Shield, won by Press.

First Day

On Wednesday, September 28, con-
Congress assembled at 10 a.m., after delegates had placed a wreath upon the State War Memorial.

Some discussion took place regarding the date of holding State Congress in future years, and a motion was carried "That, in view of the closeness of congress date at present to the Royal Show Week, and the consequent difficulty of getting delegates to attend, the dates of congress should be altered to the third week in July, and the incoming State Executive is hereby authorised and instructed to implement this decision and to amend any other relative rule in the W.A. Branch rules as provided for under rule No. 37."

On a motion "That at least 50 per cent. of the State Executive be comprised of members from the 1939-45 war," it was pointed out by F. Chaney (Mt. Lawley) that such discrimination of "old versus young" was bad policy, and that young League members had a great deal for which to be thankful to the men of the 1914-18 war, who had provided them with many rights "on a silver plate." The motion was lost.

The ballot for State President resulted in an outright majority, on the first count, for the present State President, Mr. W. J-Hunt, M.B.E., Messrs. T. Sten, M.A., and O. E. Davies were re-elected as State Vice-Presidents.

Second Day

The chairman of the Land Committee presented a report of the Land Conference. [Sixty - seven sub-branches were represented at this, and over 50 motions were dealt with— the conference going into a second day.] Congress empowered the State Executive and the Land Committee to elect three ex-farmer members resident in the metropolitan area on that committee, these men to have full voting powers. The number of members appointed by the State Executive shall now not exceed four, one of whom shall be chairman.


The motion eventually put before delegates was "That Anzac Day be observed in the future in the same manner as it has been in the past." This was carried, being agreed to by a large majority, and the result came in for hearty applause.

Speakers on the matter of eligibility included Dr. Cook, Messrs. A. Douglas, T. A. Hartrey, W. Armstrong, T. Edmondson, F. Chaney and S. Watt. A motion "That all who served continually for six months and were honourably discharged be admitted to League membership" was overwhelmingly defeated.

Messrs. Craig, Leslie and Mansbridge were re-elected as Trustees.

In regard to Communism, it was resolved "That this congress believes in the civil liberties of the individual, for which its members fought, and it further believes that the practical application of Communist doctrines can lead only to the destruction of such civil liberties. It therefore asserts that the Communist aims and methods are inimical to our accepted way of life and represent a direct threat to the ordered running of society as we know it. This congress urges that the dissemination of disloyal Communist teachings or seditious principles be declared illegal by Act of Parliament subject to strict penalties."

Results of the ballot for the State Executive were: F. Chaney, F. J. Stahl, W. S. Lonnie, R. I. Greenham, R. J. Stoddart, J. E. P. Herlihy, T. S. Edmondson, F. W. Bateson, C. W. Mitchell, C. E. Cook, D. M. Benson, W. H. Stanbury, C. G. Ferguson, E. S. Watt, W. James, Miss M. Meares, A. C. N. Olden and B. Keeley. Miss Meares and Mr. Keeley were the only new members, and Miss Meares has the honour of being the first woman elected to this body.


Of nineteen motions on Pensions and Repatriation, one was withdrawn, and two lapsed. The remaining sixteen were carried.

Third Day

Congress resolved "That in view of the failure to raise an adequate Defence Force under the voluntary training scheme, congress requests the Federal Executive to arrange a deputation to the Prime Minister to press upon him the urgent necessity for re-introducing compulsory service training."

It also reaffirmed its support of a vigorous migration policy, with high priority for persons of British nationality and adequate security by screening of all migrants of other races.

It was resolved that a questionnaire be sent to leaders of political parties prior to any election, asking "Are you in favour of the strict implementation of the policy of preference to returned soldiers; the granting of rises in all war pensions commensurable with the greatly increased cost of living; the banning of Communism; and compulsory military training?"

Mr. A. Yeates was honoured in his absence when congress decided to award him a special Certificate of Service and to forward him a letter of thanks for his 30 years of service to the League. These 30 years included nine years as State President.
This Is Official

Continued from page 3

branch, £3; Bindoon sub-branch, £1/1/-. Red Cross Society, usual monthly tobacco ration and quantity of underclothing; C. S. Fletcher, parcel of magazines. The women's auxiliary of the Brookton-Palmyra sub-branch has decided to adopt Faversham as its particular "baby." The number of inmates is now 30.

Victoria Park Memorial

Mr. Chaney spoke at some length regarding the Victoria Park War Memorial. "The Victoria Park sub-branch asked the Perth City Council to rename the park containing the war memorial 'Stan Gurney Park,' in memory of the only V.C. winner from this district. That, I believe, was in 1946, but the sub-branch has so far received no reply. The City Council now wants the sub-branch to pay half the cost of the repairs to the memorial—some £400. When I see a picture of the Lord Mayor entertaining Italian opera stars with champagne—I think it stinks!" It was resolved that the matter be taken up by the State War Memorial Committee.

Other reports included Anzac House and Anzac Club (Mr. Ferguson), Finance (Mr. Herlihy), The Listening Post (Mr. Sten), Aged Sailors and Soldiers (Mr. Yates), Membership (Mr. Chaney) and the R.S.L. Hostel (Mr. Watt).

Another meeting was held on September 21, highlights being:

Re-Establishment

Mr. Stanbury presented this report, a feature of which was the following notice of motion for State Congress:

"That this League is of the opinion that preference in employment is the just right of all ex-service men and women; that the difficulties of re-establishment into civil life will continue, in many cases, for some years; that, in numerous cases, increasing effects of war-caused disabilities will necessitate changes in employment from time to time; and that for these reasons no time limit should be placed on the application of preference as provided for in division 2 of part ii of the Re-Establishment and Employ-

Housing

This report, presented by Mr. Davies, dealt with a statement by Mr. J. C. Crawford, Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This showed that apart from 1,000 houses being imported by the State Government, no major importation of pre-cut or prefabricated houses has yet been undertaken, although the admission of 2,000 such homes, duty free, has been approved by the Minister for Trade and Customs. It was also reported that the Prime Minister is not favourably disposed to reducing the interest rate on War Service Homes, and the Minister for Works and Housing is not prepared to reduce the present fees for the preparation of mortgages, contracts and architects' certifications, etc.

Faversham

This report, presented by Mr. Sten, showed that the following donations had been received: Returned Sisters sub-branch, £5/5/-; Darlington Range sub-branch, case of apples; Mukinbudin sub-branch, £16/8/9; plus parcels of books from Waroona-Hamel sub-branch and Messrs. J. Gilliard and W. Scott.

Other reports included Repatriation (Mr. Stahl) reported elsewhere in this issue. Management (Mr. Sten); Anzac Club and Anzac House (Mr. Ferguson), Corps of Commissionaires (Mr. Yates), Trustees (Mr. Craig) and R.S.L. Hostel (Mr. Watt).

Federal Land Conference

A report on the Federal Land Conference, held in Melbourne on September 14, was presented by the West Australian delegate, Mr. Davies. This stressed that the conference proved the necessity for these conferences being held more frequently in the interests of ex-servicemen. "It appears to be essential that such conferences be held regularly." Fourteen motions out of 16 presented by W.A. were carried; one was withdrawn; and one has to be recast. Mr. Davies added that great assistance was given to him by the Victorian Soldier Settlement Commissioners. [The full report is available at Anzac House.]

A Piece of String

Continued from page 7

in this community, mistook this cord for a pocketbook.

The peasant, furious, lifted his hand, spat at one side to attest his honour, repeating: "It is, nevertheless, God's own truth, Mr. Mayor. I repeat it, on my soul and my salvation."

The mayor resumed: "After picking up the object, you went on looking a long while in the mud to see if any piece of money had fallen out."

By this time the old man was choking with rage and fear.

"How anyone can tell—how anyone can tell—such lies to take away an honest man's reputation! How can anyone—"

But his protests were vain, nobody believed him. He was confronted with Monsieur Malandain, who affirmed his statement to the police. The two men abused each other for an hour. At his own request, Maitre Hauchecorne was searched, and nothing was found on him.

Finally, the mayor, much perplexed, discharged him with the warning that he would consult the public prosecutor about further proceedings.

The news spread. As he left the mayor's office the old man was surrounded and questioned with serious or bantering curiosity. He began to tell the story of the string. No one believed him. They laughed at him.

He went along, stopping his friends, beginning endlessly his statement and his protestations, showing his pockets turned inside out, to prove that he had nothing. They said: "Go on, you old fox."

He grew angry at not being believed, did not know what to do, and always he kept repeating himself.

Night came. He had to return home. He set out with three neighbours to whom he pointed out the place where he had picked up the bit of string; and all the way home he talked of nothing else.

Next day he made the rounds in the village of Breauté, in order to tell it to everybody. He only met with incredulity. By night time, he was ill.

The next day, about one o'clock in the afternoon, Marius Paumelle, a hired man in the employ of Maitre Breton, husbandman of Ymauville, re-

Continued on page 20
A Piece of String

Continued from page 18

turned the pocketbook and its contents to Maitre Houlbreque, of Manneville. This man claimed he had found the object in the road; but not knowing how to read, had carried it home and given it to his employer.

The news spread through the neighbourhood. Maitre Hauchecorne was informed. He immediately started on his rounds and began to recount his story, now completed by the happy climax. He was in triumph.

"What hurt me worst," he said, "was not so much the thing itself, as the lying. There is nothing more awful than to be accused of lying."

He talked of his adventure all day long; he told it on the highway to people who were passing by; in the wine-shop to people who were drinking, and to persons coming out of church the following Sunday. He even stopped strangers to tell them about it. He was calm now, and yet something disturbed him without his knowing exactly why. People had the air of joking while they listened. They did not seem convinced. He felt that remarks were being made behind his back.

On Tuesday of the next week he went to the market at Goderville, urged solely by the necessity of discussing the case. Malandain, standing at his door, began to laugh on seeing him pass. Why?

He approached a farmer from Criquebot, who did not let him finish, and giving him a thump in the stomach said to his face: "You old fox." Then he turned his back on him.

Maitre Hauchecorne was confused; why was he called an old fox?

When he was seated at a table in Jourdain's tavern, he commenced to explain the affair. A horse dealer called to him:

"Come, come, old sharper, that's an old trick; I know all about your piece of string!"

Hauchecorne stammered: "But the pocketbook was found."

The other man replied: "Shut up, papa, there is one that finds, and there is one that reports. Isn't that true?"

The peasant stood choking. He understood. They accused him of having had the pocketbook returned by a confederate. He tried to protest. Everybody began to laugh.

He could not finish his dinner and went away, in the midst of jeers. He went home choking with anger and confusion, the more dejected because he knew that he, with his Norman cunning, was capable of doing what they had accused him of, and even boasting of it as a clever trick. His innocence now seemed to him impossible to prove, because his cunning was so well known. And he was stricken to the heart by the injustice of the suspicion.

Then he began to recount the adventure again, prolonging his history every day, adding new reasons, more solemn oaths, his mind given up to the story of the string. He was believed less as his defence grew more complicated.

"Those are liars' reasons," they said behind his back.

He felt it, and it preyed upon him. He continued to wear himself out with useless effort; he wasted away before their very eyes.

The wags now made him tell about the string to amuse them, as they make a soldier tell about his battles. His mind, touched to the depth, began to weaken. Late in December he took to his bed.

He died in the first days of January, and in the delirium of his death agony he kept declaring his innocence, repeating over and over: "A piece of string, a piece of string—look—here it is, Mr. Mayor."

Lived to be 152

Continued from page 11

All, however, are mere infants to one Arephius whom, we are told, lived to the age of 1,025. What a boon he must have been to the tax-gatherers!

MIGRATION

Anthony Connor, who is leaving the British Navy after 20 years service, is anxious to emigrate to Western Australia. He wants to learn farming or, alternatively, will work as a rigger. He is 36 years of age, single, a total abstainer and non-smoker, and has worked his way from the ranks to Commissioned Boatswain. Anyone willing to nominate him can contact him at Wardroom Mess, H.M.S. Dalmypile, c/o F.M.O., Malta.
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The Leigh (Lancashire) Town Council sprays every private garbage tin and every rubbish tip with scent once a week, and has bought six new pine-scented dust-carts. In keeping with this atmosphere it has changed the name of the dustmen to "health attendants."

The great reservoir at Assuan, Egypt, has a capacity of 4,039,000 acre feet, but the Hoover-Boulder reservoir at Lake Mead (U.S.A.) has an acre-feet capacity of 32,359,000.

Those of you who, of late, like to think you know something about the opera, will be interested to know that Willard Rhodes, of the Department of Music, Columbia University, has listed the operas—all 750 of them. We challenge you to name half.

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A Way of Life
Continued from page 9
according to the best medical authorities, and both physicians and psychologists tell us that a life of hurry, worry and tension leads only to the pitfall of nervous, mental and physical bankruptcy.

If we earnestly try to practice the philosophy of living one day at a time, "letting each day set its proper task," without too much concern over what has been or what is to be, we shall be able to free ourselves of a great deal of physical and mental tension. We shall not only be more efficient, but we shall also have more peace than is possible otherwise, for one of the surest ways of knowing peace is to train ourselves to look neither forward nor backward too much.

Like all worthwhile things this way of life cannot be easily acquired. It is a working philosophy that can only be mastered through unremitting effort over a period of years, but once mastered to even a small degree, this philosophy of living — this way of life — brings rewards beyond one's power to estimate. We come to understand the joy of living expressed in these words:

"Today well lived makes Every yesterday a dream of happiness, And every tomorrow a vision of hope." — The Sample Case.

From the Editor's Note Book
Continued from page 4

By helping the Editor you help yourself and your sub-branch. Sub-branch notes, articles, short stories — anything which tends to make THE LISTENING POST an interesting paper — are welcomed. We cannot offer payment, for we are running on the proverbial shoe-string (try and buy a magazine of any kind for the couple of coppers you pay for this), but we do seek your co-operation.

Figures up to August 17 disclosed that full-time duty enlistments for the Australian Regular Army totalled 15,038, and for the Citizen Military Forces, 16,056.

Confidently, ...
Because of his record
WE RECOMMEND
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IMAGINATION
Some of the things that kept us sane seem very foolish now. I have seen ten grown men, miles at sea in the Indian Ocean, driving an imaginary tram down St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, with suitable sound effects. In the Bay of Bengal a stoker sat on the engine-room railings and pedalled his bicycle as he "sold" Daily Telegraphs. Signalman "Tex," declaring that he was no ordinary cowboy who rode a horse, mounted his zebra from the mess table when he went on watch. He later started the crazy Giraffe Club, and the Camel Corps and Bengal Lancers were just being formed in opposition to the Mahouts' Association when the "old man" caught six silly sailors riding brooms round the deck, and what he said cannot be printed.

More subtle was the bloke at Rabaul who cut a tobacco-tin full of grass and took it into his tent. Silk-worms, I thought. But he followed it with a tin of water. After a week of this morning-routine I gave way to burning curiosity. "For my horse," he explained. "What colour?" "White. Come in and I'll show you." He did. Goodness knows where he had won it, but the bottle tied to the leg of his stretcher bore the label "White Horse Whisky."

BOB CHAMBERS, Perth.

SIRENS IN THE NIGHT

During the war, an elderly suburban housewife was awakened about 2 a.m. by an air-raid siren wailing through the night. She roused her protesting husband and daughter and, after hastily filling the bath with water and turning off mains according to instructions, they betook themselves to their chilly trench shelter at the bottom of the yard. Here they sat and shivered, waiting for the sound of falling bombs or the all-clear. Not a sound, however. But about 3.30 a.m. they heard a milk cart clattering along in the distance. Disgruntled and half-frozen they made their way back to bed.

Later the husband enquired of his neighbour if he had heard the air-raid warning in the early hours.

"It was no air-raid warning you heard," replied the neighbour, "but a couple of cars racing each other. Back from a late party, I reckon. Woke both me and the missus. They darn well ought to be arrested for making a racket like that in the middle of the night."

The half-frozen husband heartily agreed.

— H. BLAKE
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UNABRIDGED HISTORY

Ex-servicemen are noted for the tales they tell in off moments; tales of life at sea, in foxholes and in the air. The Listening Post wants these tales for publication, and offers a prize of 10/6 for the best published each month. Tales can be dramatic or humorous; our only stipulation is that they do not exceed 350 words (the shorter the better). Address your entries to The Editor, "The Listening Post," Anzac House, Perth. The Editor's decision on all entries will be final.

OPERATION STOP LEAK

Only now, at long last, may the veil of secrecy be lifted, and even so let there be something of decorum and discretion, for these things should be spoken of not lightly.

It was in the darker days, before the Nipponese developed pronounced traits of humanity and loving-kindness, that a certain sergeant, of infantry, together with a half-platoon of a platoon from a previous platoon, took over the duties of security guard at Leighton, near the port of Fremantle, W.A. Having tossed to decide who should be the first lucky cow to go on leave, the guard (after prolonged discussion as to whether sentries were really necessary) decided to call it a day and turned in.

Came the dawn and, after a decent interval, the Orderly Officer. The sentry, as a result of previous experience, nipped out his bumber, opened the gate with a clang loud enough to give the boys the office, and the guard, realising the inevitable, left their poker game on Smithy's bed to join a committee of welcome in front of the guard room.

The Orderly Officer, a zealot type, surveyed the assembled soldiers and made a swift mental count from right to left, followed by a more thorough check from left to right, and got, surprisingly, the same answer. At least:

"Sergeant, how many men are there supposed to be on this guard?"

"Sir, there is myself, two corporals, twelve men and," he added bitterly, "the cook."

"In that case there appears to be a slight—er—discrepancy," the officer pointed out apologetically, "for I can count only, seven souls in all."

"Three sentries on duty, one corporal and three other ranks on leave," the sergeant explained patiently, "and," he added bitterly, "the cook inside."

"That still leaves one short, I'm afraid."

It was then the light of understanding dawned upon the sergeant. "Oh, yes, that's right, I sent one man on an errand to Fremantle to get a washer for the kitchen tap. The tap," he added, "leaks."

"The proper course would have been to report the matter to me, sergeant, and I would have taken action. No need for you to spend your own money—"

"Tuppence," murmured the sergeant.

"—on what is, strictly speaking, a matter for D.A.D.O.S. All right, sergeant, dismiss the guard."

The sergeant, turning to obey, found his senior's wishes had been anticipated. The guard, veterans all, were already back on Smithy's bed.

Back at Battalion H.Q., the Orderly Officer gazed blankly at a large sheet of foolscap which was headed "Orderly Officer's Report." It had been a singularly uneventful day. Really nothing to write home about, yet one had to fill up the damned thing somehow. Thoughtfully he unscrewed the cap of his fountain pen.

Said the sergeant: "You wouldn't read about it!" He looked darkly into his glass and muttered an aside regarding the ancestry of all orderly officers. Then sliding our empty schooners along to the expectant steward, he went on:

"Three days after we fitted the new washer on that tap a three-ton truck bowled up to the guard room about ten in the morning. Besides the driver there was a sergeant from the Ordnance and his offi-cer, a bald-headed gent, with a no. Being more or less fatigued and after the long trip from Midland, they accepted a couple of mugs of tea and a plate of rock cakes the cook had dug up from his place for the boys' supper. After about an hour the sergeant decided it was time for action, so he led "Baldy" to the scene of operations and settled himself down in my chair with my newspaper. An accommodating sort of bloke, that Ordnance sergeant. Cool, too. When the plumber interrupted his studies to tell him he'd forgotten to bring the tool kit along, he never turned a hair. He borrowed a spanner from the driver.

"Anyway, we've got plenty of washers," he told me happily. 'I made sure of them.' He had, too. Nearly a kero. tin full.

"I never would have believed that any one man could have made such an elaborate job of just fitting a washer to a tap as that bloke did. It was well on dinner time when he'd finished, so they stayed for that, too. They left finally about three o'clock, as they wanted to be back at their own camp so the driver could get away on leave. Before they went I had to sign a document in triplicate that looked like the deeds of the Commonwealth Bank. It turned out to be a receipt for the washer.

"I noticed the boys seemed pretty quiet after the visitors left. I found out afterwards that they'd invited the driver to the poker game to pass the time, and he'd cleaned 'em out of every razzoo.

"As for that cook—he always was a no-hoper. He woke me up in the middle of the night."

"What's up?" I asked. 'Have the Japs come?"

"Not as far as I know," he said. 'It's that tap again, sergeant. 'It's leakin' like a ruddy sieve!'"

* This story earns 10/6 for C. D. Edwards, Mundijong.

CLOSE COMBAT

Somewhere in Borneo, Henry and a collier, posted on a narrow track on a razor-backed ridge and armed with a Vickers machine-gun and the necessary gear, were told that a rifle platoon was being posted on the flanks. Late afternoon came on, and not having seen or heard anyone, the couple decided to hide their gear in the bush and with gun and tripod follow the pad back, one carrying the tripod and the other the gun. Suddenly a Jap officer stepped out from the bush with drawn sword. He was about to carve up the tripod-carrier, but he had other ideas, and swung the tripod off his shoulder, aiming to hit the officer's face. But the tripod fell short, hit the Jap, on the knee, bringing him down. In falling, he dropped his sword which slid towards the young Digger who, in a flash, grabbed it.
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I think of death as some delightful journey
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ANDREW, J. W., Subiaco sub-branch, late R.A.N.
BAIRNSDRE, R., Southern Cross sub-branch, late 3rd Pioneers.
BALDING, C., Subiaco sub-branch.
BERRY, H. T., Rockingham and Safety Bay sub-branches, late R.F.C.
CARR, J. B., Subiaco sub-branch, late R.F.C.
CORLETT, F. J., Belmont sub-branch, late 16th Bn.
DUFF, J., Gloucester Park sub-branch.
GANDY, A. H., Subiaco sub-branch.
GORDON, A. J., City of Perth sub-branch, late 11th Bn.
MANTON, E. H., South Perth sub-branch.
WANDLESS, R., Fremantle City sub-branch, late 51st Bn.

We regret to report the death of Mr. D. C. Combs, son of Mr. G. P. Combs, manager of Faversham House.

**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD CIRCULAR, 1949/26.**—The Public Service Board announces that further consideration has been given to credit of higher duties service for officers returning from war service, and the following factors are now to be taken into account: (1) The officer must have been superceded during his absence on war service by a junior officer or temporary employee. (2) For the officer to receive the benefit of the circular it must be reasonable to expect him to have occupied the higher position in respect of which credit is sought (having regard to the principles of regulation 116) if he had not been rendered unavailable to act because of his absence on war service. Positions tentatively classified may be regarded as higher positions for the purpose of this circular. And where the procedure set out is followed and only a slight element of doubt exists as to whether an officer would have acted in a higher position, the benefit of the doubt in each case should be extended to the officer.

**THESE DEEDS WILL LIVE FOREVER**

5: THE MAN WITH THE DONKEY

Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick was a man whose bravery at Gallipoli will live in the minds of Australians for many a year.

Known to many as "The Man with the Donkey," and to his comrades as Scottie or Murphy, his heroism has become almost a legend.

In private life, Kirkpatrick was a ship's fireman of Melbourne, but he was English by birth, having first seen the light of day at Tyne Dock, South Shields, on July 6, 1892. He was a member of the 3rd Field Ambulance.

On the night of April 25, 1915, he took possession of a donkey—afterwards known as "Duffy" and thereafter each day and at least half of every night Kirkpatrick worked continuously between the head of Monash Valley and the beach, his donkey carrying a brassard upon its forehead and a wounded man upon its back. So successful were his efforts at securing the wounded that the authorities eventually allowed him to carry on as a completely separate unit, and he had to report to headquarters only once a day.

He escaped death so many times that he became completely fatalistic, and neither the activities of enemy snipers nor heavy shrapnel stopped his work.

On May 19, while carrying two wounded men on "Duffy," he was hit through the heart. So died a courageous and kindly man. But perhaps we might well think that to live in hearts one leaves behind is not to die.

His donkey, beloved of the Indian Mule Drivers, was taken from Gallipoli during the evacuation.

A photograph of Kirkpatrick and "Duffy" on one of their errands of mercy hangs in Anzac House.

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD**

Every morning at 10.30, ever since 1660, the mounting of the Sovereign's Guard has taken place in London. In 1939 the full-dress uniforms were put away in favour of khaki battledress, but this summer (1949) they have been restored and the Changing of the Guard in all its glory now takes place as before. When the King is in London the Guard is mounted at Buckingham Palace; when he is out of town it is mounted from the Colour Court of St. James' Palace, both perfect settings for the red coats and black bearskins of the Guards.

The Changing of the Guard is a unique and stirring ceremony that visitors to London are always anxious to see.

The crowd watching the historic ceremony often consists of a couple of thousand people, who press against the railings of the Palace courtyard, crowding the steps of the Victoria Memorial that faces it and stand along the kerb. Americans, Europeans, British subjects from every part of the Commonwealth, as well as people from all over the United Kingdom, are there, the most junior members of the crowd perched high on their fathers' shoulders.

As the new Guard, preceded by its regimental band, comes swinging into the courtyard, hundreds of cameras click into action. Pictures of the Guards marching with the precision for which they are famous, a precision which seems as though their legs are controlled by a master switch and could not possibly be motivated by separate men, are not the only ones taken. It is almost a matter of routine for visitors to stand at the side of a Palace policeman or an impassive guardsman outside his sentry box, whilst another member of the party takes a pictorial record of the occasion.

The ceremony lasts half an hour and at its close the crowds melt away, each one of them unforgettable impressed by the beauty and permanence of English tradition.

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything else."—Bernard Shaw.
WAR LEADERS TELL

Compared with the rich literary style of Mr. Winston Churchill's Memoirs, General Eisenhower's account of his Allied command in World War II—"Crusade in Europe"—is the story of a plain soldier. Lacking the cheerful, vivid phrasing of the statesman-author with half a century of political life behind him, Eisenhower has limited his work to personal experiences and autobiography rather than history.

He makes no attempt to treat of the grand strategy of the two hemispheres. Primarily, he is an American writing for American consumption. This is only to be expected. About two-thirds of the fighting troops under his command in Europe came from the United States and in the closing stages of the war they numbered 3,000,000.

He had the highest regard for Mr. Churchill, despite occasional differences of opinion on details of strategy, not the least of which was the time and place for the opening of the second European front. Of the British Prime Minister he writes: "An inspirational leader, he seemed to typify Britain's courage and perseverance in defeat and its conservatism in success. He was a man of extraordinarily strong convictions and a master in argument and debate.

"He could become intensely oratorical even in discussion with a single person, but at the same time his intensity of purpose made his delivery seem natural and appropriate. He used humour and pathos with equal facility and drew on everything from the Greek classics to Donald Duck for quotation, cliche and forceful slang to support his position.

"If he accepted a decision unwillingly, he would return again and again to the attack in an effort to have his own way up to the very moment of execution. But once action was started he had a facility for forgetting everything in his desire to get ahead and invariably tried to provide British support in a greater degree than promised. He was a great war leader and a great man."

The General does not mind acknowledging his own errors of judgment, of which one instance was the abortive plan to seize the Cherbourg Peninsula in 1943. There was also a sharp difference of opinion with Mr. Churchill over "Anvil-Dragoon," the subsidiary invasion of the South of France.

Churchill argued that this second invasion hardly affected the issue in the north and that better use could have been made of the divisions that were diverted. The General had his way. It was in his supreme tact in collaboration with the British that General Eisenhower was most valuable. He was the essential link in Allied unity.—T. H. Bolton. Crusade in Europe, by General Eisenhower

BEHIND THE NAZI FRONT

By John McCutcheon Raleigh [George G. Harrap & Co. Ltd.]

Here is another book by an American newspaperman. It deals with the opening phases of World War II, being mainly confined to the Polish picture. The so-called attempted assassination of Hitler at the Munich beer hall led the writer to make a hurried trip to the scene, whereupon he was arrested as a suspect. One is apt to think that much more could have been made of this story. In comparison with many other books on the Nazis, this seems to be a trifle weak, but those who wish to make a thorough study of Germany during the war days will no doubt find it has some interesting spots. [Our copy from the Literary Institute.]

WAR BEGINS AT HOME

By Mass Observation [Chatto & Windus]

This book, compiled by a number of trained observers much on the lines of a Gallup Poll, deals with civilian morale in England during the first year of World War II. When one recalls the magnificent stand made by these people during the Battle of Britain, one feels that this early book is, in a way, a trifle unfair, for many of the people interviewed in those days of the "phony war" do not show to the best of advantage. But it is all a part of history—and in this case, mainly the history of the common men and women. Some of the pictures it paints are not pretty. The ignorance, for instance [remember, it was in the days before bombs had fallen] of the method of dealing with an incendiary bomb. Questioned upon this matter, people had made such replies as "Lay on it," "Leave it to the warden," "Flip a coat over it and throw into a sewer," "Sit back and hold tight," "Leave it where it is and run," "Keep the thin places of your house patched up," and "Put on your gas mask." Alas, these folk were soon to know much better. The book deals in some detail with the public reaction to evacuation, to wartime shopping and to the black-out, and it gives us some painful reminders of the mentality of the times when it quotes two newspaper headlines. One, in the Sunday Express of December 10, 1939, was: "Red Army Boyce Burst. Bombs Fail to Explode. Tanks Old and Thinly Armed. Soldiers Machine-gunned into Obeving Orders." The other, in the Evening Standard, of November 17, 1940, was "Nazis Cracking, Says Paris." The Volume is an interesting commentary upon the times. [Our copy from the Literary Institute.]

LABOUR, LIFE AND POVERTY

By F. Swoig [Victor Gollancz Ltd.]

Here is another book of facts and figures, but one which is more interesting and readable than the average book of its kind. As Lord Beveridge says in his pref ace: "This book must be commended heartily to all who believe that the proper study of mankind is man." And as B. Szebhohm Rowntree adds in his foreword: "He has succeeded in making this book as fascinating and as interesting as a good film. But even more interesting and valuable than the report on the interviews which he had are his comments on the different subjects with which they deal." Such subjects as Housekeeping and Pocket Money, Public Houses, Dog-racing, Smoking, Amusements — Demand and Supply, Personal Happiness and Unhappiness, Attitude towards Work, Saving, Old-age Pensioners and the Poverty Line make the book one which, being concerned with the everyday things which are vital to every one of us, is a volume which should by no means be missed. A readable book, and a fascinating range of subjects. [Our copy from the Literary Institute.]
Sub-Branch Activities

It is the aim of "The Listening Post" to make its columns of wide interest to members in all parts of the State, and the Editor welcomes reports from all sub-branches. But in order to make as broad a coverage as possible, secretaries and publicity officers are asked to confine their accounts to the activities of the sub-branch to which they belong. All names of persons and places should be typed or written in CAPITAL LETTERS, and copy should be in the Editor’s hands by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

BASSENDEN

Last month the sub-branch held a very successful social evening in the R.S.L. Hall. Members of the Djugars and the Ex-Service Legion were guests. The evening was a challenging tournament, consisting of darts and table tennis, and the evening was a great success. We congratulate the members for their efforts.

CORNELLS

The above sub-branch held its monthly meeting on Friday, the 9th, most of the business dealt with being items for Congress. It was agreed to invite the President of the Australian Republican League, Mr. H. G. Lewis, to attend the meeting.

KALGOORLIE

At the last executive meeting of the sub-branch, the president (Mr. Leo Bracegirdle) and Mr. Ron Weller were in attendance on behalf of the Boulder sub-branch to discuss the vital question of anti-Communism. The result of the deliberations was that the two sub-branches are to combine their activities in this matter, and other matters of importance to the general public.

BOYANUP

At the monthly meeting of the sub-branch on Friday night, our newly appointed and capable chapel officer, Mr. A. C. Morrissey, was present. Representatives of this sub-branch were appointed to assist at the public house in aid of Memorial Park, and to assist in the war widows pensions and housing problems, etc. It was agreed to invite the President of the Australian Republican League, Mr. H. G. Lewis, to attend the meeting.

PREMARTLE CITY

A rally to the anti-Communist rally, a very animated debate took place at our general meeting, and as to our participation in the parade and meeting at the Capital Theatre. Oppositionists brought the old bogie.

“non-political” principle of the League to the fore. The question was asked: What do you define the Communist Party as a political party? It is amazing how divided the members are on this question. If this matter is not properly understood, the League is bound to be, for the very basis of our constitution is diametrically opposed to this pernicious organisation. We pledged to destroy the very principles that we went through to help them, particularly those who are Imperial ex-service men. We explain to them that they will find an H.S.L. branch any place they are going to go in Australia. Our financial position is very buoyant, and we can look back with considerable amount of pride on our past year’s work, under our able president, Alec. H. Brooks.

GORDON

The above sub-branch held its monthly meeting on Friday, the 9th, most of the business dealt with being items for Congress. It was agreed to invite the President of the Australian Republican League, Mr. H. G. Lewis, to attend the meeting.

The August meeting was opened at 8 p.m. by the president, Mr. Len Bowling. There were 23 members present. From a total of 16 members, the attendance was not very encouraging. In fact there is a bad show. A donation was collected for the Kalinga Rifle Club, to be presented at their annual dinner. All our financial members are to be circulated and asked for subscriptions, and we have far too many financial members. A motion was passed that the head teachers would be asked to assist in educating the children to respect and honour our National Anthem and flag. A period of time given each day at the schools will assist in stamping out the disreputable disrespect shown by children in speaking the National Anthem and flag, so often seen at the Kalinga pictures. Perhaps the picture as an exercise for our pupils. As to our participation in this respect. We were all very pleased to see a few new faces at our meeting. Diggers won’t be asked to assist until the full meeting next month. Each member brings one to five members will be good.

KATANNING

At the last executive meeting of the sub-branch, the president (Mr. Leo Bracegirdle) and Mr. Ron Weller were in attendance on behalf of the Boulder sub-branch to discuss the vital question of anti-Communism. The result of the deliberations was that the two sub-branches are to combine their activities in this matter, and other matters of importance to the general public. Another result of this goodwill visit will be much closer cooperation in all things between the Boulder and Kalgoorlie sub-branches. Your president (Mr. J. R. Hylton) spoke very wisely at this meeting, when he stated that in his opinion the most effective method of neutralising the subversive elements of the public is to disseminate the truth in their respective organisations, and this we must do in the "quack" way of which the same lady’s answer is as long as life, for which which so many of our pals sacrificed their lives. And special thanks are due to the ladies for the structural alterations to be effected at the Institute have been received from the State Housing Commission, the Kalgoorlie Municipal Council and the Public Health Department and we expect to call for tenders for the work in the very near future. To augment the sub-branch fund, another fireworks display is to be held on the Golden Mile Trotting Ground in November. Last month’s display, whilst providing an enjoyable evening for our patrons, was not an outstanding success because of the considerable flag between events on the programme. To prevent a recurrence of this the sub-branch has gone to greater expense to provide a non-stop programme this year and with the sub-branch film projector in operation, patrons can be assured of something out of the ordinary.
KOJUMP

At the last sub-branch meeting held on Friday, August 26, Mr. J. E. Rosson was chosen by acclamation as the new president for the occasion of its 35th birthday. Mr. Robinson was present when the Kojump sub-branch held its first meeting in 1919. The first elected president was the late Mr. J. G. Finlay and his secretary, Mr. J. R. O'Farrell. We are pleased to note that the latter gentleman now resides. Mr. J. L. Palmer, the present president, responded on behalf of the sub-branch members to the address from the Kojump sub-branch committee. He extended thanks to the latter sub-branch members for their assistance and cooperation, and to the president for the splendid, cordial cocurrence. It was quite a night.

MANJUMP

Two objects were on the agenda of the meeting. Mrs. Jones tendered their resignations from the trusteeship of the sub-branch, to take effect at the end of the current year. Both members have acted in the capacity of trustee for an unbroken period of 30 years.

MAYLANDS

On September 1 we had the usual appreciable muster. The committee's recommendations for a new clubroom fund were in accordance, after a very logical speech by our Arthur Helton. Bill Chamblen was observed to beat the little man senseless. Bill's September 15 saw a small gathering, although some of us were away. A 5 cent ticket was issued and the thanks are due to Tom Law, for keeping the party going. We have had some very interesting discussions on our cabin and piano, Vic Methven and others have been in some of our meetings, but as he was very busy we do not see much of him. Mr. Bisley kindly invited us to his home later in the evening. We will forgive him. Miss Clever was not allowed to play the piano. We will give her praise, and it is well merited. The evening finished with the usual social activities.

MEEKATHARRA

The sub-branch still continues in a healthy state. The sub-branch meeting was not quite up to previous standards, so make an effort, fellow members, and roll up. Our first resignation was announced. Mr. Joe Newmann has resigned to look after the work at the Port office. Joe Collins will move the motion to accept it. We have had our last meeting. The sub-branch members have been very hard. The treasurer accepted the hospitality of the sub-branch committee and the sub-branch committee has embraced a visit to the centre and this means the piano will be taken and a night of good fun will be had. The committee wants to give a boost of the ability of their crew, so Manjump members are anxious to see what upper deckies have in store for their visit.

SOUTH PERTH

We regret to report that another of our members, E. H. Manton, has answered the final roll. Mr. Manton has been one of those who contributed his help to the building of a new sub-branch and the building now stands. Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow and family. The sub-branch proposes collecting names of all our members to be sent to the Secretary by Mrs. Brown. This will be the last day. We have been asked to assist with our meeting at the Community Centre on Sunday, 5th September. We are asked to send in a name of a lady to donate a trophy to the workers for the best attendance. The trophy is to be donated by our new sub-branch member, Mrs. Brown. The trophy will be presented at the meeting.

MELVILLE

The President, Mr. Joe Newman, opened the September meeting with the usual formalities, and minutes, correspondence and accounts were dealt with. The sub-committee performed ladies' auxiliary for paper and envelopes was granted. The building sub-committee reported that work is progressing and the sub-committee have cultivated the shrubs which are in splendid condition. It was decided to erect two new lavatories and install a stove in the clubroom. The social sub-committee reported that £24 13/9 profit was made by the sub-committee on the occasion of the opening of the sub-branch, with a new member, Mr. Smith, who was welcomed by the president and, under the heading of general matters, was made aware of the fact that the committee, through and delegates instructed how to vote. Games, refreshments, etc., concluded a very fine night.

MEREDIN

As it is some time now since we published a report in "The Listening Post," we give here a resume of recent events seems indicated. Firstly, officially, the sub-branch meets on Friday night, to discuss the president's resigns and rule meetings effectively. While the mantle of secretary has fallen upon Miss Turner after the resignation announced, and Fred Carter holding the money, the recent committee meeting was expressed a desire to elect a suitable alternative to the president of the two world wars and the sub-branch secretary. The meeting was well attended, the road board conversed a suitable meeting to discuss the proposals and it is now intended to erect a shelter surrounded by rose gardens on the site of the former committee. An innovation is the holding of quarterly sessions, when members' wives, sweethearts and friends are entertained. It is understood that two sub-branch meetings have been very successful. At the latter, opportunity was taken to welcome some new Australians, who have brought with them a splendid display of excellent singing. At the recent meeting the sub-branch is expected to be present. The sub-branch is the last of the series of annual Anzac Day arrangements, and (d) that the military training is being introduced, and (e) that there will be no widening of eligibility to the R.S.L. A plea was made at the meeting to have a small talk at monthly meetings, as, recently, attendances have been below par.

RETURNED SISTERS

At our last meeting in the clubrooms at Anzac House, on the 1st September, quite a number of delegates attended. It was reported that the built-in wardrobe for the Sister Watts' Memorial Room at the Eleanor Hotel was not quite up to expectations. Representatives for State Congress were selected, and the future observance of Anzac Day discussed. Miss Clifton and Miss Connolly reported that they proposed the召开 of the colours. Day celebrations, and Miss Clifton laid a wreath on our behalf. It was decided to denote £5/5/- from the sub-branch fund to the Federation House appeal. All members were asked to assist with, at work, produce, cakes or sweets for the Federation's fare. To help in the grounds of the Sisters' Quarters at the November 11th, proceeds of which are to go to the War Nurses' Memorial Hall. All your typing, on the 1st November, Mrs. Brown advised to go on a cup time, Mr. Brown has a note to give the members.

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TRENDS

The trends of the times: Unofficial notice posted on a Perth bus: "Be polite to the Staff; They Are Harder to Get Than Passengers."
WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

22nd ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

The 22nd Annual State Conference of the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliaries was officially opened by Mr. T. Sten, acting-State President of the Federation, on Tuesday, September 20, in Anzac House, Mr. Stockmal, Pty. Ltd., with Mr. W. J. Hunt, who is abroad attending the Empire Exhibition.

An apology for absence was received from Lady Mitchell, who was prevented from attending by acute duties in connection with the visit of Governor-General McKell to Western Australia. Lady Mitchell expressed her regret at being unable to be present and sent her wishes for a happy conference.

In declaring conference open, Mr. Sten spoke in most appreciative terms of the work of the women’s auxiliaries. He took as his most instructive address on the work and activities of the State Executive, which information would be so valuable to country delegates to take back to their auxiliaries. He also read a letter from the State President (Mr. Hunt) expressing his appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mrs. McKinnon in 15 years as State President of the auxiliaries, and also thanked the auxiliaries for their valuable work in ministering to the needs of the soldiers’ clubs in hospitals and homes throughout the State.

Mr. Sten congratulated Mrs. Stockmal, the State President-Elect, and wished her every success in her new office.

The afternoon session was an inspiring one, covering all phases of work.

The Hon. State Secretary’s report of the year’s activities included a description of the various sales held in various States, and the women’s auxiliaries have always been most appreciative of the work of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Armstrong, who held evenings to “feel that the occasional ‘get-together’ of the women’s auxiliaries, especially those in the country areas, will be greatly increased towards keeping both organisations together than do the inter-district board meetings, which will be soon taking their attires out of the
drawer in anticipation of a resumption of play, and we are looking really good, thanks to the rest they have had, plus the energy expended on raising ticket sales by some of the State members. It is understood that the season will open with a production of musical comedy, and we are looking forward to the works of the Swanton’s School State still attracts the loyal support of players from the district and, in fact, from Cootes also.

Members of the sub-branch, by their attendance and help, are giving needed encouragement to the auxiliary in this arrangement and we hope to see an increase in the number of players attending the recent expositions. The committee gives out at R.S.L. meetings. The sympathy of all members goes out to our most recently-joined member, Mr. G. Smith, in the recent sad loss of his daughter. Members were pleased to hear that Mr. C. Day had improved, to such an extent that he may soon be leaving Hollywood. We look forward to his return. Many help acts that Mr. Day has carried out in the interests of the auxiliary have always been appreciated.

VICTORIA PARK

Meetings held on August 26 and September 9 were well attended, presided over by Mrs. Ames (president). We are pleased to report that we won the metropolitan cup for our exhibits at the recent Auxiliaries’ Arts & Crafts Exhibition, held at the Perth Town Hall. Trophies were won for all sections, including crocheting, flowers, cookery and the arts and crafts. One member (Mrs. Coates) won 40 place cards and several others won trophies. Our 21st birthday party held at the Memorial Hall, Ballard Street, on August 14 was a huge success. The hall was packed and looked gay with flowers on all tables. A hill-billy concert party, led by Mr. Brown (of SPF), provided excellent entertainment. During the surprise interval, the auxiliary was gratified with a birthday cake from Mr. Sojan, and the key of the door by Mr. Wally Tömling. Our 30th birthday party, held by our president (Mrs. Ames) and iced by Mrs. Bailey. Lucky prizes were won by ticket No. 25 (Mrs. Jersey Morse) and No. 4 Green (Mirror donated by Mr. and Mrs. Morris). Arrangements were made for the event with a basin of flowers held by Mr. and Mrs. Morris, and a social together, and the secretary, G. Mos. arranged for the event to be held by Mr. and Mrs. Morris, who held out in fee t, from 4 pm to 6 pm, in the State School hall, and some of the Auxiliary’s work, which was displayed in the hall, was sold.

The following kindred organizations were represented by visitors: The Fullers’ Permanent Incapacitated Association, Partially Blinded Association, Women Widows’ Craft Club, Ex-Service Women’s Friendly Union of Soldiers’ Wives, War Nurses’ Association, Legacy Auxiliary, Red Cross Transport, R.A.A.F. Association, Ex-Imperial Women’s Auxiliaries, and Country Women’s Association.

Presentation of Cups

Cups for most outstanding work during the year were presented as follows:

WILSON CUP (Country Auxiliaries), won by Gowanangurup, with 10 members, second year in succession. Runners-up: Geraldton and Bunbury. Gowanangurup also won the country cup in the recent exhibition. The cup was presented to the Gowanangurup representative by Mrs. M. Wilson, Foundation President of the Federation.

HOPPERTON CUP (Metropolitan Auxiliaries), won by Claremont for the second year in succession. Claremont was represented by Mr. Sten. Runners-up: Rd. Hawthorn and Fremantle tied for second place; Suburbs third.

MCKINLAY SHIELD (for sports competition), won once again by Nedlands. Presented to president, ex-heads auxiliary by Mrs. Stenett, of Adelaide.

The number of delegates attending conference was 133.

During the afternoon, Mrs. McKinlay, the retiring State President, declared Mrs. V. Stockmal the new State President, and Mrs. Brown the newly-elected State Secretary.

Country Vice-Presidents were: Mrs. Hargrave, Manjimup, and Mrs. Rowe, Gowanangurup.

(Addresses of details and reports will be published in our next issue.)

NEWLANDS

On Sunday, September 18, we entertained about 100 guests from Sunset, Lemnos and Edward Millen Homes. The Broadway Theatre, Newlands, kindly lent us their theatre after-noon, after which we retired to the club-rooms for high tea and at social evening. Mrs. Randall, Sir Herbert Keeney, Mrs. McKinlay and the R.S.L. Branch President, all warmly greeted our friends and, to the surprise, all of the three homes only reached. Some very good friends of our auxiliary entertained with songs, recitations and music. The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing, all present thoroughly enjoying the evening. Mrs. Duffield (daughter of Mr. W. Duffield, secretary of Newlands sub-branch) was married on Saturday October 15, and is going to live in New South Wales. We will miss her from our auxiliary, and wish her and her husband every happiness. A larger fare for an humble sale is to be held in the R.S.L. Rooms on October 22. There will be sale of handcraft, house and chocolate wheels. We entertained about 130 delegates to the State Conference, held in the A.R.M. on September 14. After a very successful exhibition, contestants of leading players in the McKinlay games, the evening was devoted to dancing, and a very excellent floor show, followed by a buffet supper. We were pleased to have so many delegates with us and so have the opportunity of knowing our sister auxiliaries. Our president, Mrs. McTavish, and the branch secretary, Mrs. McKinlay greeted our guests very warmly.

SWANBOURNE

We are looking forward to a resumption of combined sports nights in conjunction with the auxiliary, in which we shall get a good deal of pleasure out of the McKinlay Shield Competition. As always, we shall do our best to win. We feel that the occasional "get-together" of the organisations is necessary, and will greatly help towards keeping both organisations together than do the inter-district board meetings. Members will be soon taking their attires out of the

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Let me teach you how to write saleable articles and short stories.

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"LEG PULL"

Aussies are famous for their prowess in the art of leg pulling, but it is doubtful if they have ever managed a success equal to that executed by some airmen on a well-to-do Canadian family. It took four of them to pull it off, but it made it all the more effective.

As had been done for hundreds of other visiting airmen, a party was arranged in their honour, and when the hostess opened her bulky visitors' book they questioned what it was for.

The lady patiently explained: "It's so we can keep a record of all the people we've entertained—a bank of honour. Surely you must have them in Australia?"

"Well, not exactly a book," feigned the ring-leader. "We usually cut our initials on the furniture. I suppose it is the same custom?"

The hostess was nervous. "Oh! But we are not so quaint in Canada. That would never do here."

She took no chances. The airmen were never left entirely to their own resources, and they fancy their hosts made many furtive examinations of the grand piano and other pieces of furniture during the evening.

"EX."
“VINCO” MARINE ENGINES

We have much pleasure in advising the arrival of further shipments of the well-known “Vinco” Marine Engines.

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MATTRESSES
Box side, kapok B & W., 2ft. 6in., 90/9; 3ft., £5/10/2; 4ft. 6in., £8/19/6.  Box side, dyed wool, 2ft. 6in., 65/9; 3ft., 77/8; 4ft. 6in., £6/2/6.  Roll Edge, dyed wool, 2ft. 6in., £5/13/-; 3ft., £7; 4ft. 6in., £9/4/6. Roll Edge, kapok, No. 2, 2ft. 6in., £7/11/7; 3ft., £8/13/-; 4ft. 6in., £12/3/4.

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4ft. x 2ft. wool flock, 27/4; dyed wool, 37/6; kapok, 50/-; 4ft. 6in. x 2ft. 6in., wool flock, 33/4; dyed wool, 47/7; kapok, 59/6.

HIGH CHAIR
Turned Jarrah High Chair, with turnover tray, 21/11. Other styles, enamelled, 50/6 and 63/-; Low Chairs, similar to illust. of high chair, with tray, 22/8, or with stick, 18/6; enamelled style, 40/6.

MATTRESSES
of Quality and Appearance at BAIRD'S

BOAN'S
AIR-CONDITIONED
BARBER SHOP

When you need a haircut, call at Boans Barber Shop, lower ground floor, Murray Street end, and enjoy the extra pleasure that Boans modern equipment adds to the business of your good grooming. You will find a shampoo a good summer refresher.

Busy men appreciate the fact that they can make appointments for the skilled attention of Mr. Gordon Dewar and his assistants at Boans Barber Shop, which opens daily at 9.5 a.m. Standard prices rule throughout.

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